



February 2018

Issue 232

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



MODERATORIAL VISIT

SERMON: THE MYSTERY OF THE MAGI

YOUTH UPDATE

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

Dear Friends,

Candlemas (2 February)

Candlemas or Candle Mass was a service in which the priest blessed the candles for use throughout the year; candles which were to be used in church but also in the homes of the congregation. The light of candles was used to signify Christ as the Light of the World. There are some similarities with our Christingle Service.

Joseph and Mary brought their Child to the temple. Proud parents, full of love, carefully carrying this new life, they brought their Child to the temple for God's blessing. The story is myth but it mattered to the Gospel writer. Once inside the temple walls, probably in the forecourt, in the Court of the Women, Joseph, Mary and Jesus met with Simeon. Simeon had been led by the Holy Spirit to the temple; it is as if the Holy Spirit created and enveloped this encounter. 'You will not see death,' said the Spirit to Simeon, 'until you have seen the Lord's Christ.' Hence, the Nunc Dimittis, from Simeon's lips, 'Now let thy servant depart in peace, for I have seen the salvation of the Lord.' Simeon is captured by an inner peace which not even the prospect of his own death can shatter. This peace or inner



strength is the 'commodity' which the Church, at its best, offers the world.

In this moment of reflection and meditation, take yourself into that holy scene, into the presence of Joseph, Mary, the Child and Simeon. What do you see or feel? Simeon takes Jesus into his arms, holds Him and in that moment, at once, feels he can die happy, satisfied, his life completed. What does Simeon do? He looks at the Child, gazes at the Child and embraces the Child. Here is the spiritual message in this legend. The Bible is primarily a spiritual tool, there to lead us

deeper into the Divine, into a richer relationship with the Holy. Simeon looked at the Child, gazed at Jesus, and embraced Him. This passage is not history but a word-icon for us to gaze into and be drawn into.

What does it mean to look at Jesus or gaze at Christ or embrace Him? The American Episcopal priest, Barbara Brown Taylor says that there is a hunger for God, for life-giving words, even in the Church. She says that the decline of the churches is, in part, due to its failure to deal with the silence of God. It is certainly true that we can become tired of words – including sermons – and crave contact with the Ultimate Reality, the ineffable, the inexpressible. Rowan Williams says that

an orchestra in performing a symphony is working towards the fleeting silence that comes after the last note has finally evaporated: those precious silent seconds is where the meaning lies. Taylor calls on the churches to explore the richness of silence. Pope Francis calls Christians to ‘spiritual activism’. The inner peace which touched and changed Simeon came when he looked at Jesus, gazed at the Christ and embraced Him. The evidence for God is inner evidence and what we mean by God is mysterious, elusive yet penetrating.

Every blessing,

Scott

DR HYUNG SHIN PARK

At the morning service on 28 January, Dr Hyung Shin Park from Namseoul University in South Korea, here seen with our minister, Revd Scott McKenna, and our assistant minister, Revd Laurene Lafontaine, presented Mayfield Salisbury with copies of the 1882 facsimile editions of the Gospel of St Luke and the complete New Testament which were the first translations made in Korean, the language of the ordinary people of Korea. They were made by Revd Dr John Ross (1842-1915) who had strong connections with Mayfield Salisbury as he worshipped here in his latter years, was an elder here, and is buried nearby in Newington Cemetery.





On Sunday 4 March, 2018, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (2017/2018), the Right Reverend Derek Browning DMin will be the guest preacher at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. Derek will be assisted by one of his chaplains, Anne Mulligan DCS, and the Minister.

Dr Browning was born in Edinburgh in 1962. He attended North Berwick High School before going on to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he read History and graduated with Honours. He attended St Mary's College, St Andrews, where he graduated in Divinity. Dr Browning specialised in

Ecclesiastical History.

He gained his doctorate in ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary in the United States in 1997, the first Church of Scotland minister to gain that degree from Princeton.

To date, during his moderatorial year on behalf of the Church of Scotland, Derek has met His Holiness the Pope, Her Majesty the Queen and, mostly recently, King Abdullah of Jordan. Hospitality has been a central theme of Derek's year.

We look forward to welcoming him to Mayfield Salisbury Church.



December was a busy month for the youth at Mayfield Salisbury. Over the course of the Christmas season, we had three different events to take part in the celebration. On 10 December we had our Christmas Charity night where a visitor from Amnesty International came and spoke about its annual 'Write for Rights' campaign with the P6-S6 youth; the youth then spent the evening writing letters to support those wrongly accused, and to the leaders of those countries who have the power to make changes.

The following week we had a Christmas Party involving our first annual 'Great

Gingerbread Build-Off' and the showing of a Christmas film. There were some colourful and tasty houses created by the end of the night.

To cap off the season, the Christingle service brought in many families from the area to sing carols and share hot chocolate together. Thank you to all our youth that helped make and hand out Christingles at the service!

2018 holds a new and exciting schedule for Mayfield Salisbury Youth. On 14 January we launched our first official Youth Club which will run on most



Sunday evenings throughout the year from 5:30-7:30. The youth are split up into age-appropriate groups, but join together for dinner in between the activities.

Additionally, there will be a Youth Worship night on the last Sunday night of every month at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary, which will take place of our usual Sunday night Youth Club. This is open for every member of the congregation regardless of age – it's for the young and the young at heart! It will be a time of prayer, praise and reflection.

Sunday mornings for the 12-16s will also experience a change: on the first Sunday of every month at the 9:30 service, The Breakfast Club will allow the teens to expand their conversations over breakfast.

2018 is a time of transformation and growth for the youth at Mayfield Salisbury and I encourage everyone to take part in praying for our youth, as well as asking how you can be involved in our various events and programming!



Kirk Session met on 5 December 2017 when the following was discussed:

Correspondence: The Clerk had received emails from two Church members thanking us for financial support from the Spiritual Growth Fund which enabled them to attend religious retreats.

Bethany Trust: The Minister wished to record the thanks of Session to Marjory Grant for acting as Bethany Trust Coordinator over many years which proposal was approved by Session to warm applause. Tricia Stevenson has now kindly agreed to take over this role.

Business Committee: Session approved Steve Holehouse joining the Business Committee.

Research Convener: Alastair MacGilchrist had agreed to take on the role of Research Convener and this was approved by Session.

Budget 2018: The Treasurer, John Graham, spoke to his draft Budget. The budget covers spending from the Church's General Fund (which relates to our regular activities); much of what we do is paid for from Restricted Funds. The Treasurer commented that whilst the figures for income are down so too is our expenditure and the likely deficit will be around £5,000 as anticipated by the 2017 Budget. The 2018 Budget, had already been approved by the Business Committee. Offerings Income is expected to reduce slightly and

other income is expected largely to remain the same. The Ministries and Mission contribution is determined by the Church of Scotland based on three years' income so we cannot do anything about that figure. An anonymous donation has significantly helped fund the Youth Worker. The figure for Outreach and Youth has increased to £5,000 to cover the increase in activities for our young people. Other figures are expected to be similar to those for this year. The 2018 Budget shows a deficit of £9,300 but the Treasurer does not consider this to be a large deficit and comes on the back of several years of surplus. The draft Budget 2018 was approved. The Treasurer was thanked for his diligence and hard work in preparing the Budget and related papers.

New members: Session resolved to add Katharine Robertson, Wade Robertson and Annabel Toogood to the Roll and approved the admission of Daniel McQueen as a member by transfer. All four new members were welcomed to Mayfield Salisbury.

Familiarisation candidate: The Minister gave our familiarisation candidate, Revd Laurene Lafontaine, a warm welcome to the meeting. Laurene is a Minister with the Presbyterian Church in the USA and was ordained some thirty years ago. She will be an assistant minister with us probably until the end of September 2018. Laurene responded in generous terms regarding the reception she had received from the Mayfield Salisbury congregation.

Prior to Laurene's arrival at the meeting Session was pleased to endorse the decision of the Business Committee to award funds to Laurene to assist in finding suitable, affordable housing accommodation within a reasonable distance of the Church. Session wished to record its huge thanks to Valerie and Steve Holehouse for so generously accommodating Laurene since her arrival in Edinburgh. Warm thanks were also extended to Pamela Molyneaux for welcoming Hillary Leslie to live in her home for several weeks when she started working with us at the beginning of September.

Pastoral assistant: A team comprising the Minister, the Clerk, Jo Scott and Anne Mulligan is working to find a new pastoral assistant following Sheila Bryer's departure.

Commemoration of the Very Revd Bill McDonald:

A proposal had been made by the Business Committee in June to commemorate the ministry of Bill McDonald. A committee formed to consider the matter has suggested that, given that Bill was an 'ideas man', a lecture in his name be held regularly. After discussion, it was agreed that a lecture in Bill's name be held at Mayfield Salisbury initially each year commencing 2018; the Upper Hall would be renamed 'The Bill McDonald Hall'; and a board bearing Bill's name and picture would be erected recording the names of the lecturers. The Minister will discuss this decision with the McDonald family in order to obtain their approval.

Business Committee: *Level access at West*

Door: The contract to carry out the work went out to tender with a closing date of 8 December. A subgroup will review the tenders and report to the Business Committee with a view to bringing the costings to the January Session meeting for approval.

Youth worker: Hillary Leslie, had successfully passed her three-month probation period. Her work included not only school age children but also young adults – particularly those of university age (late teens/early to mid 20s). Hillary is also in communication with Rev Dr Liam Fraser, the Church of Scotland Campus Minister for Edinburgh University, with a view to informally linking Mayfield Salisbury directly to the work that he has begun at the university.

Health and Safety: Anne Robertson, Health and Safety Coordinator, reported on the recent fire drill on behalf of the Business Committee. The exit of the congregation at the last fire drill had been rather slow. The exit into the Halls' entrance area had been compromised by a large table located there for a sale. Suggestions for the next fire drill comprised: exit guidance in the Order of Service; pieces in *Grapevine* with fire drill instructions throughout the year to increase familiarisation; include evacuation procedures in regular email listing; Welcome Team members should wear name badges every week; Coffee Rota helpers should wear name badges.

Kitchen: The Church of Scotland Law Department requires that we should have a Food Coordinator and that all food handlers be trained, instructed and

supervised in food hygiene. Some of our food handlers hold an elementary food hygiene certificate but not all have had recent training. In order to fulfill our legal responsibilities Anne would welcome consultation and suggestion in order to make progress and would be pleased to hear from elders with an interest in kitchen matters via email or at a meeting to be held soon. The Business Convener agreed to look at Church licences to ensure that hall users have obligations to comply with in relation to the kitchen.

Christian Aid: CA Convener Aileen Nimmo produced a report which was circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read. The Committee had received a generous donation of £1800 from the Salisbury Fund which had matched the CA appeal for the Sierra Leone mudslide with £600; the Hurricane Irma appeal with £600; and the Rohingya refugee crisis with £600. The all-age Ceilidh had been successful with five year-olds reeling with those at least fourteen times their age! The pop-up craft stall at Sciennes Primary School Winter Fair was a great success and the CA Christmas Lunch was looked forward to. The Family Christmas card had now been issued and William Mearns was thanked for his hard work and patience in preparing it. So far, from January 2017, Mayfield Salisbury has donated £17,800 (including the Salisbury Fund donations) to CA. Ahead are the Marmalade, Jam and Jelly Sale on 18 February and CA Week 13-19 May. The congregation was thanked for its continuing support which is helping CA tackle the root causes of world poverty as well as its effects.

First Fridays Friends (FFF): Sandra Carter reported that the FFF group was now well established, with numbers ebbing and flowing. On a good week they have fifteen friends for whom they need twenty volunteers - whose commitment is commendable. William Mearns and Stewart Houston are both very helpful. The group has plans organised up to August 2018. One of the group will be 100 on Hogmanay and earlier in the year she fulfilled a lifelong ambition to ride pillion on a motorbike which she did over the Queensferry Crossing !

Presbytery Report: A report to Kirk Session by our Presbytery elder, Aileen Nimmo on recent Presbytery matters had been circulated before the meeting and was taken as read. The report mentioned in the context of World Mission that all congregations are encouraged to include a prayer for a 'Just Peace for Israel and Palestine' on Christmas Eve. Aileen intimated that she would be stepping down as Presbytery elder in May 2018.

2018 Provisional Youth Programming: A paper with this title had been circulated prior to the meeting for information. It had been prepared by Hillary Leslie and the Minister with input from her mentoring group and includes the proposed programme of events for our youth in 2018 including the Youth Club; youth worship services; social outings and events for our youth; after school club/drop-in; 'Sunday School' Breakfast club; community service and charity work; plus special events such as Holiday Bible Club.

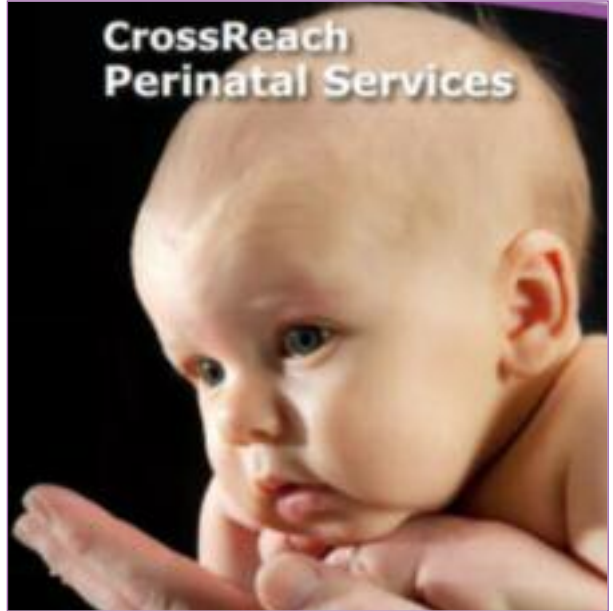
CROSSREACH PERINATAL SERVICES

As this church's CrossReach Perinatal Services fundraising group, we would like you to know that we have planned three retiral collections after one morning service each, in February, June and November 2018. Collections at Christmas will be shared with Christian Aid, like last year.

The charity is our church's home based one, while its support for Christian Aid continues for its world wide work. To help us put a face to the Perinatal Services, Joyce Linklater, who is manager of services, will visit to tell us a little more at the start of a morning service.

At the three retiral collections, which will be publicised before each Sunday, there will be blue buckets and gift aid envelopes ready for you as you leave, with our group members, who can each also say something about this Church of Scotland social work.

The three Perinatal Services in this city (others in Glasgow, Perth and Inverness), depend on professionally-trained but voluntary counsellors, and volunteers to assist each creche manager. Volunteers usually have a background of experience with children and need to be ready to attend regularly to care for the babies and toddlers. Each creche is a bright and welcoming place for the little ones, while their parent is with their counsellor. Sometimes parents, who are experiencing emotional difficulties like anxiety or



depression, may hesitate over leaving their child, and the children, too, may find it difficult to separate. Creche staff can help, and it is rewarding to see gradual progress. Little ones may also need encouragement to play creatively and to communicate. Parents, who come from all walks of life, say how much they like coming to a place like a home, where there is a warm welcome, knowledge and understanding, and quiet encouragement, a place which nurtures their return to building family life with greater confidence and acceptance.

*Ellie Blackwood,
Stewart Houston,
Wendy Mathison,
Pamela Molyneaux
Anne Mulligan.*

THE MYSTERY OF THE MAGI IMAGINATION IS VITAL FOR READING THE BIBLE.

Sunday, 9 January, 2018

Isaiah 60: 1 - 11 Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 St Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Let us pray. 'The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.' O Christ, may the Light of the Sacred radiate within us, illuminating our understanding, leading us further in the inner journey, and opening us ever more fully to Your Presence. Amen.

Whether it is the *Adoration of the Magi* by Rembrandt or Rubens or the *Journey of the Magi* by Tissot, there is something seductive, if not hypnotic, about the myth of the magi. A band of scholars, magicians, astrologers, astronomers, even kings, the wise men, perhaps three in number, embark on a journey, a long journey, in search of what? Salvation; healing for the human soul? It is a great privilege, no doubt, for a woman to carry a child in the womb and a blessing for others to place a hand on the unborn child, to feel its presence and life. Perhaps it was this touch that motivated the magi to leave home and country and travel hundreds, if not thousands, of miles. Is there a greater more important, more personal motive, than to touch the Divine and to be touched by Transcendence? The magi represent more than themselves, more than ancient astrologers: they are the face of everyone who seeks meaning and purpose in life.

Today is Epiphany Sunday. In the Spanish speaking world, Epiphany is known as *Día de los Reyes* (Three Kings' Day). In Mexico, crowds gather to taste the *Rosca de Reyes* – the Kings' bread. In other countries, a Jesus figurine is hidden in the bread. The name Bethlehem means 'House of Bread'. In some European countries, children leave their shoes out the night before to be filled with gifts, while others leave straw for the three Kings' horses. In Bulgaria, Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross in the sea and men dive in - competing to get to it first.

Epiphany (6 January) marks the day on which the Church remembers the journey of the wise men. Jewish scholars may caution us about potential anti-Jewish sentiment in the faith narrative. You may remember that I suggested that, in the Gospel of Matthew, written as it was around 80CE, some parables may not have come from the mouth of Jesus but represent the polemic between the Jesus Movement and the post-Temple Judaic tradition. The Parable of the Wedding Banquet, for example, in all its brutality does not readily read like a parable of Jesus, a nature mystic from Nazareth. Similarly, to a Jewish ear, the faith narrative of the magi may also appear anti-Jewish. In every nativity play, after the Christ-Child



The Adoration of the Magi. A tapestry by Edward Burne-Jones (1904)

is born, the shepherds arrive having heard the message from the angels. Some time afterwards, the wise men make their debut. Traditionally understood, the shepherds represent the Jewish people while the magi represent the homage paid by the Gentiles. In Christ, Jew and Gentile meet. However, if we restrict ourselves to the Gospel of Matthew, there are no shepherds. According to Matthew chapter 2, the only people to see the star, the only people to pay homage to Jesus, are the Gentiles.

Another detail challenged by Jewish scholars is the fact that, though Herod was troubled by the birth of a new king; all Jerusalem was too. The scholarly argument is that, given how much of a despot Herod was, the prospect of a new king would be a source of true rejoicing for the Jewish

people. Matthew wants us to believe that, on the whole, the Jews rejected Jesus; but however valid they may be, we cannot let the criticisms blind us to the depth and beauty of Matthew's myth.

What do we make of the star, the star which stopped over Bethlehem? Some speculate that it was a super nova, the likes of which happened in 5 or 4 BC. Others say that it was the alignment of Jupiter and Saturn in 7BC or the alignment of Venus and Saturn in 3BC. Both of these would have caused an unusual brightness. One scholar mischievously asks, 'Why would they have needed a star to guide them to Jerusalem or from Jerusalem to Bethlehem – these roads were well-travelled?' In the ancient world, stars, like the sun and moon, were believed to be living beings, living creatures, and heavenly bodies endowed



The Three Magi: Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar, from a late 6th century mosaic at the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy

with mind. Philo said, 'The stars are souls divine.'

In the fifth century text, the Arabic Gospel of the Saviour, an angel appeared to the Magi in the form of a star and led them on their journey. Angels were often depicted as bright light. In the ancient world births and deaths of great men were often augured by the appearance of a star, such as Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar. According to Josephus, a star shaped like a sword stopped over Jerusalem as a sign of the coming Jewish revolt against Roman authority. If Jesus was to be king of the Jews, one wiser than Solomon, we would expect of His birth signs in the heavens, emissaries, sages and seers visiting and a power struggle with other kings.

Within Jewish midrash, there is a story told

of a bright, shining light in the home of Moses at the time of his birth. In that moment of epiphany, Moses' sister Miriam (or Mary) recognised his importance. Like the people of Israel who were led by pillars of cloud and fire, so the Magi are led by a star to 'the promised land'. The psalmist wrote, 'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light for my path.' In Scripture, light signifies the presence and guidance of God.

The Syriac Orthodox Church, like the Coptic Church, claims to trace its origin right back to the very beginning of the Early Church. According to the Syriac Church, there were twelve magi. In a second century text called the Revelation of the Magi, they are described as an Order of Mystics; they are defined as

‘those who pray in silence.’ They came from the mythical land of Shir, the extreme eastern edge of the known world. In this text, the star is Jesus Christ Himself, who leads them to the cave in Bethlehem. Once there, the star transforms into a luminous infant. After their visit, the Magi return to Shir and tell the people that they too can experience the Presence of Christ, if they receive the food which the Christ offers.

There is a strong parallel between this second century text and the Fourth Gospel: again and again, in the Revelation of the Magi, Jesus, the star, is described as the Light of the World. More than that, they have a concept of Jesus as Logos, the Word or Wisdom of God. In chapter 13 of the Revelation, Christ says, ‘I am everywhere. I am a ray of light whose light has shone in this world from the majesty of the Father.’ In this text, Christ is said to have spoken everywhere, not just within the Jewish or Christian tradition. The early Syriac Christians had exposure to Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Hinduism, more so than perhaps any part of the Roman Empire. In their text, Christ has spoken everywhere. In chapter 24, there is a wonderful scene of the Christ-child laughing and having fun.

There are layers upon layers of meaning in these 12 verses of St Matthew’s Gospel. In this rich mythology, there is a challenge to Herod and the worship of this world. There are strands from the Old Testament and the wider culture of the ancient world. There may be things which are fantastic and unbelievable in these myths, but we

need to dig down to the truth within. For me, it is a wonderful discovery to learn that the Magi may have their origin in an Order of Mystics, people who pray in silence and who hear the voice of Christ in the many rich religious traditions of the world. Christ is the Light of the World; ‘I am everywhere’. For me, there is an intuitive logic that Christ, the Logos, is present in all people and cultures. When we go more deeply than rational doctrine, we encounter the Presence of the Sacred.

As I indicated on Christmas Day, those who come from the east are, in Greek, people of the rising. In this peculiar phrase is there a hint of the Resurrection? Are those who travel to the cradle of the Christ-Child those who live the risen life, who make the journey inward, the journey within through all its twists and turns to find Jesus? The fourth century monk and hermit, Macarius of Egypt, known as ‘The Lamp of the Desert’, tells us:

The heart is itself but a small vessel, yet dragons are there, and there are also lions; there are poisonous beasts and all the treasures of evil. There are also rough and uneven roads; there are precipices. But there too is God, the angels, the life and the Kingdom, the light and the apostles, the heavenly cities and the treasures of grace – all things are there.

The journey of the magi, their search in darkness for Mystery, is the ideal way to introduce a spiritual adventure. It means that in the story that follows there are depths within depths and what’s needed for every paragraph is imagination. Amen.

NEWS

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Officiating:
Rev. Scott McKenna



Anne Sturrock

The next Afternoon Service will take place on **Tuesday, 13 March at 2.30pm to 3.45pm** in the Upper Hall. Tea and fellowship will follow. Level access is provided via the West Mayfield entrance.

Everyone is made most welcome. Our mid-week services are especially appreciated by the less mobile in our parish community. Assistance is given on arriving and leaving and we all remain seated at our tea tables throughout the afternoon.

If you would appreciate further information or extra assistance please ask your Pastoral Visitor (PV), any Elder or Anne Sturrock.

**The following Afternoon Service is on Tuesday
15 May during Christian Aid Week.**

SCOUTS TROOP CENTENARY



alanjdickson@live.co.uk
Alan Dickson

The Troop was founded in 1920 at the United Free Church in Fountainhall Road.

When the church merged with Mayfield North in 1958, the 28th merged with the 142nd which was based at Mayfield. The centenary of the Troop will be in 2020 and plans are already being made to mark the event.

If you are a former member of the 28th, or your son was a former member, please can you get in touch so that we can keep you up to date with the plans.

FLOWERS



Jane Main
0131 667 1711

Christine Patterson
0131 662 4506

The Wreath, Christmas tree and Nativity scenes during December made a lovely transformation of the Church during Advent. Many thanks to Jinty Murray for decorating that enormous tree and to everyone who helped keep the wreath looking fresh over nearly six weeks.

Our sincere thanks and very good wishes for 2018 to arrangers, distributors and everyone in the congregation for the very generous donations to the Flower Fund.

PASTORAL CARE



Morning Prayers take place in the Sanctuary each Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 9.45. This provides an opportunity to pray in silence for those known to us who are ill or who are passing through difficult times. If you or someone known to you would like to be remembered this way in prayer, please inform Scott.

We continue, as always, to be mindful of each other's situations and needs. If you, or someone known to you, would

appreciate a pastoral visit, please inform Scott or one of the PV group co-ordinators.

Contact details for PV group co-ordinators:

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Anne Mulligan

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Maggie Ross (coordinator)

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Hilary Watkinson

Changes of address etc. should continue to be passed to the roll keeper, Hugh Somerville.

STEP FREE ACCESS TO THE CHURCH FRONT DOOR ON MAYFIELD ROAD

Following on the decision of the Kirk Session on 23 January we shall be launching an appeal in February for funds to carry out the construction of step free access to the Church front door on Mayfield Road, being one of the objectives agreed upon at our Congregational Gathering and in the subsequent Congregational Conversations.

Angus McIntyre, Session Clerk

EIFA: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Edinburgh Interfaith Association
22nd January 2018

Our human reaction to the Jewish Holocaust, may be to shy away from, or even deny, its huge significance, when, in World War Two six million Jews and other persecuted people were exterminated by the Nazi Government.

Another reaction is a contrast, as when in the City of Edinburgh and elsewhere, Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated every January, by people of different beliefs, to ensure attitudes of hatred and polarisation are challenged, and common unity promoted.

The young people of our local Gracemount High School, hosted this year's HMD evening event with dignity. They introduced the gathering to living links, people with their own or relatives' experiences, of the Holocaust in Auschwitz, and the genocides of Darfur and Rwanda. Two of the school pupils had themselves specially visited Auschwitz/Birkenau. The living reality of these horrific times were brought to us through personal stories, in songs, like *Fields of Gold* sung by a Filipina pupil, and in readings. The effect was to bring the past alive, showing that such evils threaten us in our present day, if we are not vigilant.

The lasting heavy impact on sufferers was very poignantly felt when the significant song *Ani Maamin* (*I Remember*) was sung by a young Jewish man. It was sung by those being conveyed to the death camps, and by the Jews leaving Europe by ship to the US.



The evening's speakers and singers were all young people committed to standing up for truth to overcome evil. A young genocide survivor from Darfur now runs an organisation in England for other survivors committed to give mutual support and stand up for human rights.

Iain Stewart, of EIFA, has done so much over years to engage school pupils and others in breaking any barrier to creating an open and free society in this city. He urged us to recognise and challenge toxic language, in the media, in our local communities, and between each other. Now is our time, when we must not remain neutral, but speak up when we hear or see prejudice and persecution taking place.

The young people of Gracemount High, with their Gracemount Rights-respecting Pupils' Group, are giving us the lead.

Ellie Blackwood

CHRISTIAN AID

Looking Back on 2017

The last event of the year was a joyful and eventful Christmas lunch in the Upper Hall. A large number of volunteers came together on a bright and beautiful day to hang decorations, set tables, welcome guests, pour drinks, cook and serve food, play piano, sing carols, run a quiz, and tidy up. An even larger number of guests attended for lunch and enthusiastically participated in all the activities. Next year the gravy and custard jugs will (i) have secure lids and (ii) be different colours.



The sums passed to Christian Aid from the Christmas Collections amounted to £787.20 which will at least double with Gift Aid. The sums have been used by Christian Aid in its 'Enough for Everyone' Christmas Appeal.

The sum deposited with Christian Aid for 2017 is at least £19800 and, with additional gift aid, this may just creep over £20 000.

The Christian Aid Committee continues to be amazed and grateful in equal measure for the congregation's generous support for Christian Aid. We are not the only ones. We received the following message from Phil Alcott the Regional Support Officer:-

It looks like it's been another extremely successful year of fundraising for Christian Aid at Mayfield

Salisbury Church this year. Please extend our thanks as widely as you can amongst the committee, congregation and community of the church for their continuing and truly exceptional support.

Thank you all. It is much appreciated

Looking Forward to 2018

Our first event is the **Marmalade, Jam and Jelly Sale on 18 February**. Donations of marmalade, jam and jelly can be handed in on the morning of Saturday 17 February, or to any committee member.

Christian Aid week is 13 - 19 May.
Further events to be announced!

CHRISTIAN AID PRAYER THOUGHTS

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' John 3:16

Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday this year. With sackcloth and ashes we confess our love of the earth and our lament that years of industrial pollution has been pumped into the atmosphere, bringing devastation to the lives of those least responsible for a changing chaotic climate. Hold in your mind's eye or in your hand something you love that you do not want to come to harm because of climate change.

Loving God, ashes mingle with tears as we lift our hearts to you, crying for mercy and working for change, so that the world you so love may be healed by your reconciling touch. Amen

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT ZAMBIA



Changu, my ICS partner and Andre, my host sister



The following article is adapted from a very interesting longer report by Hannah Blaikie, describing her placement in Zambia with the charity Restless Development. She was supported by the S Bierlaw Fund: please note that the committee is still looking for new applications for overseas youth travel to assist with health or education for developing country populations.

This summer I spent 3 months in Mukalashi, a community of villages which make most of their income from farming. I stayed with Albert Chisale and his incredible wife Purity, two host sisters, Costa and Andre and host brother Innocent. I was welcomed as part of the family. Albert was an influential member of the community with a passion for development and so was a very helpful and enthusiastic host.

Restless Development is a development charity which operates in 10 countries, focussing on youth empowerment. Currently half of the world is under the age of 30 and 9 out of 10 of these people live in developing countries. Restless Development uses the power and influence of young people in the drive for development and change. In Zambia they run programmes which focus on

HIV/AIDS, female empowerment and business skills. I volunteered with the ICS programme which brings together volunteers from Zambia and the UK. I was living and working with one British and 3 Zambian volunteers, teaching in the primary and junior high school and reaching out to church youth groups, to educate them in sexual health and business skills. The ethos of Restless Development is that their work should be sustainable, and we were there to impart some knowledge to the young people so that they could go on to make positive changes in their community.

We focussed on breaking down gender stereotypes and puberty with the younger years and with older classes we facilitated lessons on sexual health and money saving strategies. The most rewarding lessons were class discussions on STIs and HIV, where pupils could openly ask questions about their health and misconceptions were addressed. We interacted with the headmen of the community and used their experience and wisdom to understand the issues that were important to their community. Child marriages and teenage pregnancies were a huge problem in Mukalashi. Young people having sex early

are often unprotected from HIV and due to religious beliefs, many people do not use condoms. In Zambia the HIV prevalence rate is 14.3% in adults, and females are more likely to be HIV positive than men. With all these interlinked and sensitive issues in Mukalashi, we decided to have a Health Day for the whole community. It was a huge success, with Plan International, ZPCT, Marie Stopes and health clinic workers attending. HIV testing was provided, and Marie Stopes talked to young girls about contraception which normally does not happen in Mukalashi since abstinence is preached at school. Having experts talk about their speciality was extremely useful as they could approach the subjects in a culturally sensitive manner.

We faced many challenges. The teachers in the school were reluctant for us to teach about certain topics and we felt resistance to our presence initially. However, as we invested our time into teaching and building relationships with the pupils, the rapport with the staff improved, and by the end of our placement many of the teachers took an interest and helped hugely in organising the Health Day. We also delivered lessons to youth groups at churches, our most successful being the Seventh Day Church. We ran lessons weekly with the help of their youth group leader who was enthusiastic for us to teach about safe sex. We also attended savings groups which aimed to build entrepreneurial skills and were run by older members of the community. We realised that we needed to engage young people with something different and



Costa and Andre

exciting. So we organised a football tournament in the community, and delivered a short lesson on HIV myths before the whistle went. We found the young adults were very engaged in this discussion and we all felt it was a great success.

I learnt a lot about rural life in Zambia. There was no electricity or running water. We washed outside using a bucket shower and used an outdoor long drop toilet. The house was comfortable and it became our home. Purity, our host mum, was a very strong woman, and it was admirable how tirelessly she prepared food for her family day after day, being resourceful with money and food, never wasting and always offering what she had to neighbours and friends who might be struggling that day. Spending time with my host sisters, Andre and Costa, brought me a lot of happiness. We would listen to music, dance, go for walks, draw, I would teach them English and they would teach me Bemba in return. Becoming part of their family was my favourite part of my experience in Zambia.

Kate O'Brien

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Mrs Joan Sutherland
Mrs Flora Stewart
Mr John Stewart
Mrs Thelma Watson

DEPARTURES

Kofi and Julie Sedowofia

NEW MEMBERS

Ken and Alison Bogle

MAYFIELD MILERS UPCOMING WALKS

FEBRUARY

Wed 7	Dalkeith Country Park 10.00am at Church. No 3 or 49 Bus – easy walking on good paths	3-4mls	Morley Sewell	672 2077
Sat 17	Ferry Toll to Rosyth 9.25am at St Andrews Sq. Bus Station for X55 Destination Dunfermline	5mls	Bob McNie	667 9391
Mon 26	Haddington Town Walk 9.50am Waterloo Place for 10.04 Bus 104 Destination Haddington	3mls	Jenny McCallum	667 2888

THURSDAY CLUB SYLLABUS

February	1	Senga Andrews	<i>Travels in India</i>
	8	David Gavine	<i>The Green Man</i>
	15	Murray Chambers	<i>The Top of the Bus Part 2</i>
March	1	Kathleen Hendry	<i>Travels In Portugal</i>
	8	Catherine Booth	<i>Edinburgh Ladies of Science</i>
	15	Jean MacGilchrist	<i>The Bethany Van and Street Pastors</i>

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Feb. 4	Exodus 21,22 / Psalm 17	Feb. 18	Leviticus 10-12 / Psalm 22
Feb. 5	Exodus 23,24 / Matthew 26	Feb. 19	Leviticus 13,14 / Acts 8
Feb. 6	Exodus 25,26 / Matthew 27	Feb. 20	Leviticus 15,16 / Acts 9
Feb. 7	Exodus 27,28 / Matthew 28	Feb. 21	Leviticus 17,18 / Acts 10
Feb. 8	Exodus 29, 30 / Psalm 18	Feb. 22	Leviticus 19,20 / Psalms 23,24
Feb. 9	Exodus 31,32 / Acts 1	Feb. 23	Leviticus 21,22 / Acts 11
Feb. 10	Exodus 33,34 / Acts 2	Feb. 24	Leviticus 23,24 / Acts 12
Feb. 11	Exodus 35,36 / Psalm 19	Feb. 25	Leviticus 25,26 / Psalm 25
Feb. 12	Exodus 37,38 / Acts 3	Feb. 26	Leviticus 27 / Numbers 1 / Acts 13
Feb. 13	Exodus 39,40 / Acts 4	Feb. 27	Numbers 2,3 / Acts 14
Feb. 14	Leviticus 1-3 / Acts 5	Feb. 28	Numbers 4,5 / Acts 15
Feb. 15	Leviticus 4,5 / Psalms 20,21	March 1	Numbers 6,7 / Psalms 26,27
Feb. 16	Leviticus 6,7 / Acts 6	March 2	Numbers 8,9 / Acts 16
Feb. 17	Leviticus 8,9 / Acts 7	March 3	Numbers 10,11 / Acts 17

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Sun 4 9.30am All-Age Informal Worship (Very Revd Andrew McLellan)
10.45am Morning Service: Fifth Sunday of Epiphany (AM)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)

Tues 6 9.30am Prayers in the sanctuary

Sun 11 9.30am All-Age Informal Worship (SSM/LL)
10.45am Morning Service: Last Sunday of Epiphany (SSM/LL)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (LL)

Tues 13 9.30am Prayers in the sanctuary

Wed 14 7.30pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (SSM/LL)

Sun 18 9.30am All-Age Informal Worship (LL/SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: First Sunday of Lent (LL/SSM)
7.00pm Evening Service: Godly Play (EB)

Tues 20 9.30am Prayers in the sanctuary

Sun 25 9.30am All-Age Informal Worship (Very Revd David Arnott)
10.45am Morning Service: Second Sunday of Lent (DA)
7.00pm Evening Service: Youth Worship Night (Hillary Leslie)

Tues 27 9.30am Prayers in the sanctuary

MARCH

Sun 4 9.30am All-Age Informal Worship (Rt Revd Dr Derek Browning/SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: Third Sunday of Lent (DB/SSM)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH FUND

The congregation has a fund administered by the Kirk Session the purpose of which is to resource spiritual growth. One use of the fund is to support individuals who wish to undertake courses designed to help with personal spiritual growth, such as silent prayer, Spiritual Direction or Ignatian Spirituality. To be eligible, applicants need to explain how undertaking such a course would be beneficial to them and Mayfield Salisbury or the wider Church. You can apply for a grant from this fund by contacting the Minister (in confidence).

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of
Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Minister

Revd Scott S McKenna scottsmckenna@aol.com 0131 667 1286

Assistant Minister

Revd Laurene Lafontaine lafcreates@mac.com 0749 775 6908

Church Manager

William Mearns churchmanager@googlemail.com 0131 667 1522

Youth Worker

Hillary Leslie Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com 0745 372 2224

Organist

Kate Pearson kate.q.kate@gmail.com 0744 238 2296

Session Clerk

Angus McIntyre angusbmcintyre@gmail.com 0131 557 8458

Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

Hugh Somerville hs.somerville@btinternet.com 0131 667 9797

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0131 667 1522 or
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,
please contact the Minister, Revd
Scott McKenna, on 0131 667 1286
or scottsmckenna@aol.com

Mayfield Radio

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0131 667 7742

Grapevine Submissions

William Mearns 0131 667 1522
churchmanager@googlemail.com

WEB

Grapevine Distribution

Kirstine Baxter 0754 991 3813
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Staff Days Off

Minister: Monday (generally)
Assistant Minister: Monday
Youth Worker: Friday and Saturday
Manager: Monday PM & Friday

Social Media



www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury



[@ScottSMcKenna](https://twitter.com/ScottSMcKenna)



www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch



www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/



www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

Front cover: Christ the Saviour (Pantokrator), a 6th-century
encaustic icon from Saint Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai



Copy date for next issue: 7.00pm on **Friday 22 February**