

# St John's

August & September 2016

COMMUNION FOR ALL



*St John's, by the grace of the Spirit, seeks to be an open community, walking in the way of Jesus, engaging with an ever-changing world and living a faith that is timeless yet contemporary, thoughtful and compassionate.*

# St John's Ministry Team

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*The next copy date is September 11th.*

*Cover image: Mural from April 2015 on the  
**ongoing needs of refugees. 'Honour the  
immigrant' (Exodus 22 v 21).***

# From the Rector

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*Markus Dünzkofer*

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Dear friends,

Earlier this morning, I had breakfast with Imam Yahya Barry from the Central Mosque. It was the third time we met and I hope this will turn into a more regular, if informal get-together in which we share with each other of our faiths, and try to come up with ways to work together for the common good.

I mentioned in passing that I believe that fear is the greatest threat to the Gospel. Yahya stopped me and asked me what I mean.

I am quite aware that this is nothing new for many of you reading these pages. But I think it bears repeating as I believe that fear has been on our minds a lot lately. Istanbul. Orlando. The climate. Jo

Cox. Baghdad. Xenophobic attacks. These are just some of the headlines we read about. The EU-referendum has left many wondering about stability of both our continent and of this United Kingdom.

But it is not just secular politics. St **John's now is edging ever closer to hiring a** construction company to complete our development. By the time you read this, the development board will analyse the returned tenders and consider our options in this multi-million pound project. And somebody then has to make a decision how to move forward.

Furthermore, I know, I have experienced in my own life how fear can do damage and even attack my faith. I suspect that I am not alone.

Yes, fear is a great threat, if not the greatest threat to the Gospel (which is an insight I have to credit to the writings of Bishop Richard Holloway, where I first encountered it).

There are, of course, ways to trying to counteract the fear in all these three areas.

On a personal level, I know that acknowledging and facing my fear within spiritual direction, prayer and within the setting of a loving and supportive community allows me to work through it and to equip me with resilience and hope. We have just expanded our development board to include three new members (in addition to Alistair Dinnie, Adam Rennie, and myself it now consists of Lesley Morrow, Alasdair Mackenzie, and Craig Miller), who all come with profound expertise and skills. We have furthermore

set up a limited company (“**Cornerstone Development**” – CDEL), which will run the development and thus provide a certain level of liability protection. The establishment of CDEL will probably also save us a significant amount of VAT. The members of CDEL will be the members of vestry, thus creating a strong link with **St John’s**. In the tendering process, we hired a seasoned consultant, who worked with our architects and the design team to make sure the tenders are as explicit and detail-orientated as possible. And inside this issue of Cornerstone Magazine, you will find an introduction by Kerrigan Bell, our new development manager, whose job will be donor relations, communication and marketing of our development progress, outreach to high net-worth individuals, and the management of another fundraising campaign.

On the national level, we have seen a fairly swift appointment of a new Prime Minister, which will hopefully create a new sense of stability. Furthermore, the swift reactions of the First Minister, the outgoing Prime Minister, and other leaders (such as the Archbishop of Canterbury) to hate-crimes and to the threatened status of EU-citizens living in the UK, has calmed nerves and provided a sense of hope among many.

However, I do believe we cannot just rest now.

I told Yahya that I believe it is my job **as a Christian to help to grow God’s kingdom, which is a Kingdom of Justice and a Kingdom of Love. God’s merciful justice and God’s reconciling love can**

pierce any darkness.

Later this year, vestry will engage in a vision process. On 2 and 3 September we will meet to think not only about how we work as a leadership group within **St John’s, but how to be a Christian** community today and how to use our ministries, our worship, and the development as a mission tool. In this post-Christendom age, being a disciple of Christ means proactively engaging the community around us, while drawing from our most fundamental identity as a worshipping community. We cannot and will not retreat in the face of fear, but need to boldly stand up for the preservation of creation, for those who have no voice (such as refugees and for ethnic, sexual, gender and religious minorities), and for a world where might is not right. And we equally and firstly must continue to draw deeper into the divine mystery through profound and relevant worship, preaching, and the formation both for new and long-time disciples.

There is much to do. And I hope you will support us in this endeavour. And remember: Fear might be the biggest threat to the Gospel, but it will not overcome it.

Yours,

*Markus*

## Development Manager

Hello! My name is Kerrigan Bell and I **am happy to join St John’s as Development Manager** at this exciting time. I was **attracted to the church’s emphasis on**

inclusiveness, social justice, LGBT rights and concern for our environment. I really like the design for the new extension and the emerging plans for its use when it is complete. I believe it will make meaningful difference, not only to the congregation, but also to even more charities and groups, helping people to improve their lives in a variety of ways.

My role is to help facilitate the changes by informing the local and wider community about the progress that is happening, and doing some continued fundraising. Thanks to those who have already made me feel welcome. I look forward to playing an active role in the **next chapter of St John's story with you** all.



*Kerrigan Bell*

## The Anglican Consultative Council, Lusaka

God is good - all the time. This was the call and response affirmation I encountered for the first time at the ten-day Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting in Lusaka this April. As one of the many ACC first-timers this year, it's really stuck with me. Another first was being exhorted, during the opening festival Eucharist, to shake my body in praise of the Lord – a request with which I was very happy to comply.

The invitation to represent the Scottish Episcopal Church at the ACC meeting in Lusaka came completely out of the blue and I was very honoured to be

asked. Two-thirds of the way through the meeting, one of my fellow first-timers asked me how I was finding it. Put on the spot, I thought for a moment and answered 'Inspiring, bewildering and frustrating' and whilst that's still the case, it's the inspiring part that remains with me most.

We covered a huge amount of ground: the work of the Anglican Communion Office, important developments in ecumenical dialogues, discussions around human migration (which seemed the major issue delegates brought with them), violence (particularly gender-based), climate change, evangelism

and discipleship, the role of young people in the Communion all featured significantly in discussion and the list of resolutions that resulted from those discussions (pdf download) is available from the Anglican Communion website. What particularly stays with me though is the quality of the meeting, which is where the inspiration lay.

Firstly, there was fellowship and I am so grateful for many instances of personal encounter and cultural exchange that I experienced. Thirty-four out of the thirty-eight provinces of the Communion were represented and I experienced little desire to rake over past arguments or rub salt into old wounds but rather a genuine desire to find commonalities and focus on those things we held in common; in essence, to be in communion.

Secondly, I was totally unprepared for discovering what a hugely important force for positive change the Anglican Communion is across the world. Perhaps that resonated more in Africa than it might have elsewhere but when the world-wide Anglican Church talks about gender justice, about peace and reconciliation, about climate change, people listen. And when the Archbishop of Canterbury stands and re-states the opposition of the Communion's Primates to criminal sanctions for homosexuality, in a country which maintains such sanctions, that also matters. The effective way in which the Anglican Communion acts as an agent of progress and a courageous speaker of truth to power came as a big - and inspiring - surprise.

Thirdly, on a personal level, I hadn't

expected the profound sense of spiritual renewal I encountered. ACC worship provided an opportunity simply to listen to different voices, their different emphases, their different languages; to participate and engage deeply with worship. It's worth noting that in a province that doesn't yet ordain women, during ACC two of the daily Cathedral Eucharists were celebrated by women and that on the second Sunday of ACC, when we attended different churches across the greater Lusaka area, at least three of the congregations heard sermons preached by senior ordained women of the Anglican Communion.

So what do I think is the legacy of ACC 16? Well, first, I have a strong sense that post ACC, the Anglican Communion is in a better and stronger place than before. Secondly, I feel ACC has posed me a question. I'm not yet sure what that question is - let alone my response - but I'm sure part of it is finding better ways of linking St John's, the Diocese of Edinburgh and the SEC to that sense of the vital world-wide movement of which we are a part whatever challenges may arise in doing so. But mostly, thanks to my experience at ACC, I stand convinced that however pleasing or otherwise in his eyes our response to his call may be, God is good – all the time.

*Alistair Dinnie*



# Report from the Vestry: what have we been doing?



**There hasn't been anything in the magazine** about the Vestry recently. Since taking over as Vestry Secretary following the AGM in November, I have been learning a lot so I hope I can be forgiven for leaving this update on the back burner!

The members of the Vestry are listed in **“Useful Contacts”** at the back of the magazine and are a mixture of ex officio members (Rector, Associate Rector, Secretary, Treasurer & Lay Rep), Eight elected members, two who chair the Finance and Personnel Committees (Wren Hoskins-Abrahall & Romy Langeland) and one seconded member (Alistair Dinnie for the Development). Adam Rennie also attends meetings to take the minutes. Vestry meets ten times a year, usually on the last Tuesday of the month.

So far this year, we have considered a number of topics. Not surprisingly, a lot of time has been spent on the Development, looking at its complexities and implications and details are covered elsewhere in the magazine. We have also discussed: City Centre Sunday Parking Proposals (which could have had a significant effect **on St John's** – now mitigated by the

**Council's decision to introduce controls** only from 12.30pm starting, we believe, in 2018)

Scottish Churches Census (undertaken in May and which has produced some **interesting results for St John's**)

Organisational Review conducted in the second half of 2015 and the changes to the support structure that were proposed and have now largely been implemented. This included a review of all Personnel Policies Finance – Vestry receives reports quarterly on the financial position against budget and, at the meeting in June, Vestry approved the budget for the next financial year starting on 1st August. Once again, Wren and Pete have done a great job producing this complicated budget which is projecting a small surplus for the year. Fabric – regular reports are given on routine maintenance and anything affecting **both St John's itself and the Rector's and Associate Rector's houses. Grace Durham** chairs this Committee and does sterling and often unheralded work ensuring our buildings are up to scratch.

Just Festival – **Just's ideas for 2016**

As well as these significant issues, we have recently been going through a period of self examination, deciding what Vestry should really be spending its time on, how it is structured and how the whole **governance of St John's is undertaken. To** help this process, Vestry is holding an **“away day” in early September when we** will critically review how we operate and set goals on what we should achieve. Time

will also be taken to think about and discuss some of the major challenges facing the Church and how they affect St John's. **The decisions made could have** implications for our Constitution and also our Standing Orders (which document the functions of the Vestry and its committees).

One of our aims is to improve communication between the Vestry and the Congregation and we are working on plans to achieve this. If you would like any more information, please speak to any member of the Vestry or contact me at [vestry@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:vestry@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)

*Austin Reilly*

## Children in Hospital



What? Why? Children in Hospital (WWCIH) is an Edinburgh based charity helping families prepare for hospital. The charity makes videos showing children and their parents what happens in hospital procedures such as MRI, CT and breathing tests.

Marit Boot, founder of the charity, **said, 'We're very grateful for the generous support from St John's Church. With their help we could develop two new videos, one about ECG and one about nerve conduction studies.'**

Most children and their parents are anxious when they hear they need to have a procedure in hospital. Most children do

not know what will happen and how it will feel. As a parent you worry about what is **wrong with your child and you don't** always know how to support them or what to tell them about the hospital procedure.

Marit Boot founded the What? Why? Children in Hospital charity based on her own experiences. When her little girl needed to have hospital procedures to check her brain, Marit searched online and found complicated explanations and images of children with electrodes and wires attached to their head. This was very frightening.



**Marit said, 'I realised I needed to** show my 5 year old daughter in a positive way what was going to happen otherwise she would struggle to complete the procedure and could develop a fear of hospitals. We played pretend hospital with a teddy bear and this helped us both to prepare for hospital. I was very proud of **her as she did really well in hospital.'**

**The support from St John's made it** possible for us to make a video about how you can play with your child when they need to have an ECG to check their heart. **The charity showed the 'Play ECG' video** to a mum in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children Edinburgh, who replied **enthusiastically, 'This video is so creative, it** gives me ideas of how I could play with my child. The video would have really helped me to prepare my son for his visit to the **cardiology department.'**

**With the support from St John's** Church we also filmed Nerve Conduction Studies in the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. This test is used when children have muscle weakness, pain or numbness and the doctors want to see if their

nerves are working properly. This video shows 12 year old Robert having the test. At the end he looked relieved and smiled, **'The test uses electrical shocks so I was a bit worried, but it was fine.'**

Dr Iain Horrocks, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Royal Hospital for **Children Glasgow said: 'This is a fantastic** resource for families and children to have access to; it will be invaluable in preparation for the kinds of tests that we **need to do.'**

The videos made with the support **from St John's Church can be found on** YouTube and on the charity website: [www.wwcih.org.uk/play-ecg](http://www.wwcih.org.uk/play-ecg)  
[www.wwcih.org.uk/nerve-conduction](http://www.wwcih.org.uk/nerve-conduction)

Please contact the What? Why? Children in Hospital charity if you would like more information and/or would like to support any future projects:  
E-mail: [info@wwcih.org.uk](mailto:info@wwcih.org.uk)  
Telephone: 07491637413

## HIV in Scotland: an update from Waverley Care

HIV in Scotland. Probably not something **you've heard much about in recent years.** This is very surprising when you consider that the number of people living with the condition is growing.

**As Chief Executive of Scotland's HIV and Hepatitis C charity, Waverley Care, I'm** actually pleased about this increase. Why?

Because it means fewer people are dying.

In fact, hardly anyone dies of AIDS in Scotland anymore (AIDS being the name **given to someone's condition when they** are seriously ill because their HIV has been left untreated). This is down to the effectiveness of new and emerging

can now live a long healthy life with a near normal life expectancy.

**Two things I'm not pleased about,** however, are that new infections still happen every day and that their stigma continues to hinder the lives of people with HIV in Scotland, damaging their mental, physical and spiritual health.

Meeting the spiritual needs of people in Scotland living with HIV, and working closely with faith communities, have been central to our work since the charity was formed in the late 1980s. A diagnosis of HIV, and the implications of living with a long-term health condition, can have a profound impact on every aspect of many questions including questions about faith. Alongside support provided by our staff, we work closely with local churches who are able to offer ministerial pastoral support.

This is particularly the case of our African Health Project. Churches play a huge part in the lives of many Africans and, working alongside African-led churches, the project is raising awareness of HIV and testing, as well as reducing HIV stigma and overall health inequalities in African communities.

From the emergence of those first cases of HIV in the 1980s, faith communities have played an important role in HIV support both at home and overseas. Through their generosity, **compassion and solidarity, they've helped** to support practical action around the world and have responded to need with commendable speed. In Edinburgh, the city more affected in the 1980s and 90s, the

Scottish Episcopal Church was integral to the earliest responses to the epidemic and led the way in offering pastoral care and support. The Church continues to offer its support, highlighted at focal points like World AIDS Day (WAD) on 1st December each year.

**We're very grateful to St John's** which has played host to our WAD community gathering for many years, and for the support of the congregation and individuals. This support makes a valuable contribution to our efforts to challenge stigma, as well as providing a community platform to increase awareness and understanding of the continuing impact of HIV in Scotland.

**If you'd like to learn more about our** work or get involved with Waverley Care please visit [www.waverleycare.org/getinvolved](http://www.waverleycare.org/getinvolved)

Thank you for all that you do.

*Grant Sugden, Chief Executive*



# Notes from a Wild Garden

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Things move so fast in summer! The fastest movers are the swifts, of course, **though I didn't really mean them. But they** are one of my many favourites, as they scream past the house. I was thrilled to see that once again we have a nest in the crack in our eaves. I hope no enthusiast for pointing ever blocks it up. I have only seen the occupants once this month, as one shot out like a champagne cork on its way to catch insects.

What I did mean was the speed with which plants grow and come into flower. In the last month we have had the first spearwort in the pond, the first white campion and the first red campion. Yesterday (June 29th) I saw an orchid in amongst the long grass of the meadow.

This is one of the treasures that, like the swifts, have just turned up uninvited. Our meadow is nothing special. The posh way to make one is to clear the ground and sow special seed. We just stopped mowing the lawn. It is cut, like a traditional hay-meadow, in late summer. After that it gets raked and trampled and cut a bit shorter; this is supposed to mimic cattle grazing. As well as a wonderful variety of grasses we get buttercups, speedwell, cuckoo-flower, a cowslip and, as I just said, one or two orchids.

The large numbers of insects in the garden are of course directly connected with all these blooms. Often I can sit with eyes shut and hear the buzzing and humming. There are more species than I can begin to identify. Which reminds me of the main rule for wild-life gardening. Never use pesticide.

One of the really showy flowers just now is the flag iris – bright yellow. I have found that this spreads fast, with tough roots that need a saw to cut them. But it is worth the effort. Also worth the effort is the sweet briar. This has ferocious thorns and is a fast grower – a peril to cut back. But it is now covered in beautiful pink blooms, and will soon have rich red hips.

These last two are by the pond. This is now so overgrown – despite much dredging in winter – that pond-life is hard to spot. But we do have plenty of pond skaters. We also had lots of tadpoles. No doubt many were the victims of the palmate newts, but I have just made my cutest sight of the summer; a baby frog the size of a thumbnail was looking for cover in the long grass.

*George Harris*



# A Refugee's response to the sufferings of refugee migrants

Nihad al Turk, a Syrian artist born 1972, has moved to Edinburgh as a refugee.

This painting represents the tragedy that Syrian refugees are suffering on the sea, and especially the tragic death of their children. The sea in the painting is coloured red to refer to the numerous people fleeing the war and drowning during their asylum journey on "death boats." The grey sky refers to the confused reaction of the international community, which has failed to put an end to this tragedy.

The seven children who figure in this painting represent the number seven that **is found in most of the world's cultures**

and is an attempt to rouse the entire international community.

Painting: 3 x 4 metres.

Technique: acrylic on canvas.



## The Green Ginger Group

**The St John's Memorial Grove with Trees for Life** is now set up. Do visit [treesforlife.org.uk](http://treesforlife.org.uk) and see the work that this organisation does. I am delighted to **report that members of St John's have already added trees to the 46 that we donated.** If you would like to add one or more trees in memory of someone, or as a celebration, or for any other reason, the **website is very easy to use. Click on "Plant a tree", then "Find an existing grove". When you are asked "Which type of grove are you looking for?", click on "Memorial**

**grove". Then scroll down till you get to "Church of St John the Evangelist". This is our web-page and tells you a bit about it. Once you have done that you will find a button called "Add trees to this grove". Follow the instructions thereafter. You can even add a few words of dedication to your donation.**

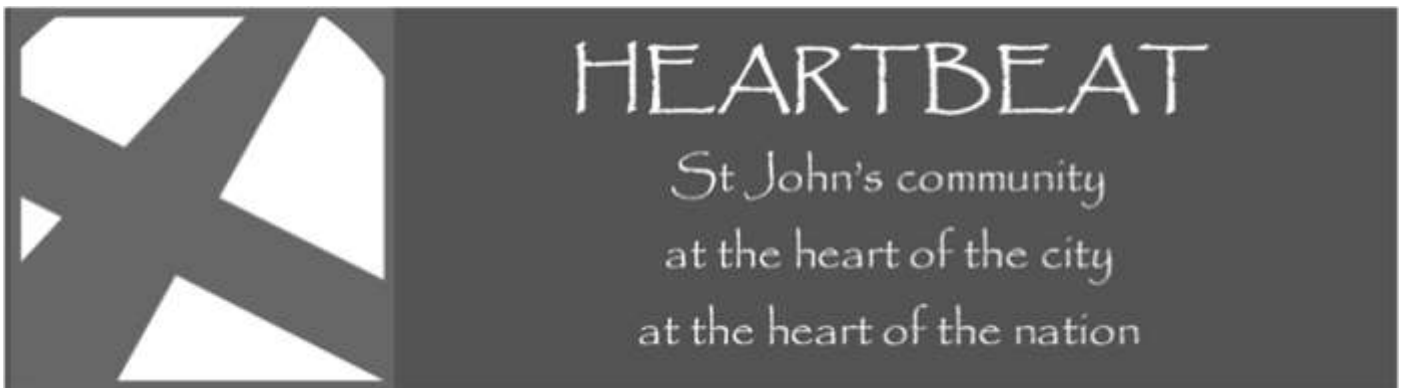
The theme for Creationtide this year **will be "Edinburgh Living Landscape".** There will be a range of events to take part in. For example the Fair will be on September 18th. All through the month

you will be asked for ideas about how we can make St John's a better home for wild nature once the Development is finished. Bird boxes are one idea, but I am sure you will come up with lots more. If you see any promising systems – insect houses, log piles or whatever – during the summer holidays, please take photos.

**Talking of photos....The wild flowers** that I sowed with the seed given out on **Mothers' Day are just coming into flower.** Please do take photos of yours, and send them to Mary Reilly. Then we can celebrate with a colourful display. If you

are clever enough to get a shot that includes a pollinating insect of the flower, so much the better.

We are looking ahead to becoming involved with other churches in giving a substantial amount of time and thought to WATER. Floods and droughts are creating a global crisis. So is pollution of the oceans. I am sure you do your best not to waste tap water, to clean out your gutters, and to avoid throwing oil down the drain. Good. But there is far more to the question than that. Watch this space.



Many congratulations to Angus Mitchell, now a **Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur** for his military service in France during

World War 2. He has a splendid new medal to add to his distinguished collection.

## Workplace Chaplains



Barbara Graham and Anne Gray have become workplace chaplains. They are shown with Tony Bryer at the service commissioning them for this valuable service. They will be working with the incoming workplace chaplain, David Hart (see Together News below for more on **Tony's retirement**).

# In Remembrance

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Five of our members have died since the last Cornerstone: Jackie Marsh, Tom Axford, Martin Dawson, Aileen Moyes and Michael Usher. We remember them with thankfulness.

## Martin Dawson

Clephane Hume writes:

Martin Dawson— **A naval officer's son**, Martin went to prep school and then on to Dartmouth College. School leaving coincided with the outbreak of war so he went into the Navy as a midshipman, aged 17 and eventually retired as Lt Commander in his late 30s. In 1946, he married Janette Gillespie, the start of 56 years together, culminating in two years when he cared for her devotedly until her death. Their daughter Elspeth was born in Southsea. They moved to Edinburgh in 1961, then Banchory, to set up a printing business in Aberdeen. On leaving the Royal Navy, Martin had trained as a cold type setter - the first in Scotland. They returned to Edinburgh in the early '70s to expand the business.

In contrast to Naval gunnery handbooks, Martin wrote three

unpublished books. Pretty esoteric works! But they epitomised his analytical approach to things. He was very particular about doing what was correct.

He was a man with a vast range of interests: music was a major one, then gardening, photography, fishing, furniture refurbishment, and more. Golf, tennis, and he enjoyed walking, often in the West Highlands and once in Nepal.

Martin was a regular attender at Matins and a member of the walking group. Our former Rector Neville Chamberlain recognised his skills as a potential secretary to our Vestry. Thorough, competent and amenable, he held the post for some years at a time which included the ordination of the first **women priests, ensuring that I had 'official' Vestry support, for which I was grateful.**

In 2009, Martin met Jean Malcolm and she became a devoted companion for the rest of his life. On one of their holidays in Argyll and the West Coast, they had resolved to take a boat trip to Staffa, to see Fingal's Cave, a long cherished ambition. The search for parking in Oban was a problem and they arrived at the pier to be confronted by the sight of the stern **of the Cal Mac ship. Martin's funeral service concluded with Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave.**



## Aileen Moyes

Aileen Moyes, a long standing member of St John's, was known to many through her career as a teacher, which culminated in her position as headmistress of Flora Stevenson's. She was a much loved aunt with a widely scattered family. A self-designated world traveller, she journeyed far and wide. When at home she was a skilled craftswoman, particularly in knitting and jewellery making - she had her own silver hallmark. She enjoyed music and was also a member of the lapidary club, several of whose members attended her funeral.

## Michael Usher

It is with deep, deep sadness that we have to announce the death of Michael Usher.

Michael was very much at the heart of this community: he served the people and mission of St John's in multiple and always highly capable ways, and added so much to the fabric of our congregation. Most recently, for example, he nourished, supported and carefully guided the development process.

He will be immensely missed, not just at St John's, but indeed in our city. Michael died after a short illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anne and all his family. May Michael rest in peace and rise in glory.

## The Annual Tea Party



Sandwiches, strawberries, cake and conversation: you might think that the summer tea party is the same each year. If you did, you would be wrong. Each has its own flavour and this May was no exception.

This year we celebrated anniversaries. Several present had had landmark birthdays in the weeks before and Noel de Jongh's poem about long life and living it made many smile, some nod their heads and one seek to emulate it. We joined Noel in singing the hippopotamus song, then happy birthday

with gusto. Ian Stevenson and Sarah Robertson cut the birthday cake to warm applause.

Above all, it was good to meet with old friends, make new acquaintances, listen to the music provided by Isobel and Noel, and simply spend time together without the rush at coffee after the service.

Our thanks go to the Social Committee, to Fiona McLuckie and To Val Lobban for the amazing birthday cake. To say a good time was had by all is an understatement. Roll on next year!

EDINBURGH City  
Centre CHURCHES  
TOGETHER

## Together News

The end of June marked a big change within Together with the retirement of our Workplace Chaplain Tony Bryer. The new initiative of a Chaplaincy five years ago, when our three churches decided that our mission in the City Centre was to all those who live and work here, has been a crucial one. Since then, on ordinary weekdays, in the rush and bustle of the business and retail world of our city, there has been a presence of the church in the midst of it. The immense good fortune of Together in being able to find Tony as our first Workplace Chaplain has projected the Chaplaincy into a role of real significance in the life of our city. There is much cause for us to be grateful to him, and his trail-blazing now means that not only the new Chaplain David Hart but a team of volunteer Workplace Chaplains (amongst whom are Anne Gray and Barbara Graham **of St. John's**) will now pick up the baton. The gratitude of a wide range of those indebted to his work assembled in St **Cuthbert's for Choral Evensong on the**

28th of June, and warm tributes were paid to him after the service. His own farewell message is found below.

### Chaplain's Farewell

**It's not often that an ordained minister** returns somewhere that he or she has worked before. Thus, when in Spring 2011, I heard about the new city centre **workplace chaplain's post here in** Edinburgh, I thought carefully and prayerfully about it, and also talked with a couple of people who knew me and the work. Then I applied – and was appointed! **Any anxieties I may have had about 'going back' were soon dispelled at my welcome service,** and then in the two department stores where I had been chaplain previously. It was like returning to be with friends who had been a very significant part of my life. That might sound like nothing had changed – but, of course, a very great deal in Edinburgh was very

different to seven years before. And the chaplaincy role was a new, bigger, more demanding one; there were more venues, I was employed by a new national body (Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland), and I would be working closely with the three Together churches who were sponsoring the role.

So I want to say a big thank you to you all in the Together churches for enabling this chaplaincy to happen, and for all the support, interest and friendship you have given to me. It has been an exciting four and three-quarter years, as the number of chaplaincies in the city has grown, as four volunteers from the Together churches have joined the team I have led here in Edinburgh, and as WPCS has grown to 13 paid staff and over 100 volunteers across Scotland. Just for the record, my chaplaincies have been with John Lewis, Harvey Nichols, St James Shopping and Multrees Walk, Boots, the Church of Scotland offices at 121 George Street, Lothian Buses and Edinburgh Trams.

Sharing regularly in worship at the three churches has been very important for me; I could not have exercised this chaplaincy in the world of work without a strong base of prayer, sacramental worship and fellowship.

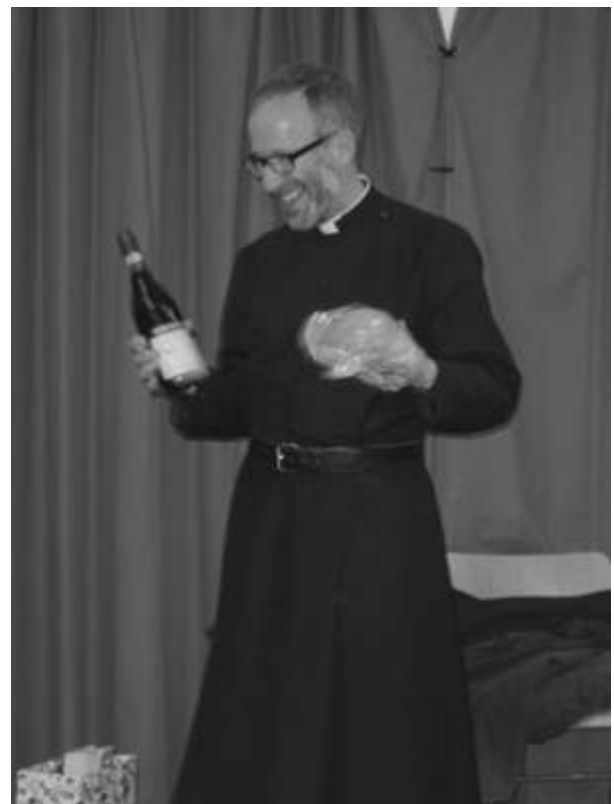
Evaluation of the effectiveness of any **ministry is never easy, and that's especially** true of chaplaincy, but it has been encouraging to introduce David, my successor, in the various workplaces, and to hear how much chaplaincy is valued by all of them.

So I step down, not only from

chaplaincy, but also from fulltime ministry after 41 years. But Sheila and I are not leaving Edinburgh, and after a three month sabbatical, I will be back on a part time **basis at St Andrew's & St George's West**, and available to the Diocese of Edinburgh on an occasional basis. So I know that I will still see many of you in the Together churches, as I enter a new stage of my life and my Christian pilgrimage.

*Tony Bryer*

P.S. I want to thank everyone in the three Together congregations for your very generous gift on my retirement, for the wonderful farewell event and for all your support, prayers and interest in my work over the last five years. It has been a great privilege to work with the churches and Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland to provide chaplaincy here in Edinburgh.



## The new Workplace Chaplain, David Hart, introduces himself:

Hello!

Some of you have met me in person. Some of you have never met me at all. Some of you, hopefully, read the introductory piece I wrote for the church magazine a couple of months ago now. But, all of you are no doubt acquainted with Tony Bryer and the work he has been doing for the last four years as chaplain to businesses in Edinburgh City centre.

In one sense as Tony hands the baton on, nothing is changing because the goal is still the same; to identify with the workforce we serve. But, in another sense everything is changing as some businesses close with the closure of the St James Centre, new managers take the reins in different organisations and fresh opportunities present themselves as new companies approach us regarding **chaplaincy. It's a living mosaic. Every week my aim is to improve someone's world by offering pastoral, practical and confidential care if they ask for it with no strings attached.**

In the book of Colossians Paul **explains how the world's teachings are**

**totally empty when compared to God's plan** and he challenges his readers to **reject shallow answers and remember "... this is the secret: Christ lives in you..." (Colossians 1: 27 NLT).** That's quite a thought isn't it? **If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, Christ lives in you - just think of the potential packed into that sentence.**

As I have thought about this truth in **the context of chaplaincy I've caught myself thinking, "This is an impossible task"** - around 4500 people across the businesses I have direct contact with. How do I influence the lives of the people I will **inevitably come across? It's impossible! - and then I remember: "Christ lives in me" and I've begun to realise that God is teaching me humility through the avenue of impossibility because he's inviting me into His life and to continue His ministry so I'm humbled by the invitation because apart from Him it's impossible.**

So if I pop into your mind at all during the week I would be grateful for your prayers.

David Hart

## Ministry to the Deaf

The uniting of mission to the Deaf **between St Andrew's and St George's West** and the Albany Street Church has raised the profile of our mission to the deaf in the city centre, and we hope this will be an important one in the future.

For some years, though, this mission has been being carried on by Sarah Kilbey in **St John's, and she writes below about what has been happening:**

# The Deaf Service at St John's Princes Street

Do you remember that programme, **“What’s my line?”** Well I was a lipreading teacher for 30 years and maybe you have never met another one! When I was priested in 1996 about 100 deaf people came to my Ordination from different lipreading classes. Afterwards, many said how much they had enjoyed it, but that **they hadn’t been in a Church for ages. It turned out it wasn’t because they didn’t believe: “My Minister doesn’t understand”, “I get left out at coffee”, “we’ve no loop system (or it’s broken)”, “I just can’t follow.”** I decided I should try and do something about that and started a service for hard of hearing and deafened people **(those who don’t sign but lipread). It’s**

very informal and everything is written down. **I use a lot of the “Wild Goose”** material. About 21 older people come, **which is remarkable as I don’t have any** means of publicising it and only one of the original 23 is still alive and able to be with us. About half have no Church connection; the rest are from different denominations. **It’s a very happy occasion** and the group is so welcoming and supportive of one another. The service is on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am, from October to June, and if **anyone would like to join us we’d love to see you!**

*Sarah Kilbey*

## Forthcoming Events

Seek the Peace of the City: Four Evenings, Four Voices

**6pm Choral Evensong at St John’s with:**

7th August: Julia Neuberger

14th August: Elizabeth Butler-Sloss

21st August: David Hope

28th August: John Hall

Just Festival

5th-28th August, various venues.

Just Festival events aim to challenge perception and celebrate differences. This **year’s theme is ‘From the Edge’ with open** dialogue across the divisions of race and religion, focussed around a core programme of 'conversation events'. The

**full programme is available at St John’s.**

Please take plenty and share them.

Lenten Retreat

St John's is planning a retreat early in Lent next year and Markus has asked me to give you some advance details about what we are hoping to do. It will be a silent retreat based on poetry and prayer and will run from Friday tea till Sunday lunch. At present we are waiting for confirmation from our retreat leader and then we can firm up the exact dates. We are looking at either 3-5th March or 10-12th March.

# Service with a Smile

**“What is wrong with telling the truth with a smile?” Desiderius Erasmus to Martin**

Dorp, May 1515

**“It would be better to throw a custard pie at a bishop than a curate.” George Orwell**

Des: Well, would you prefer the good news or the bad news first?

Dorp: **Let’s get it over with. Bad news first.**

Des: **I’m back.**

Dorp: Could any news be worse. Now the good news, to cheer me up.

Des: I am back by popular demand.

Dorp: What people? Name six.

Des: At least one person, and perhaps two, has besought the editor that my column be reinstated. This is democracy in action.

Dorp: Humph!

Des: All my readers will be pleased to hear that I have maintained contact with Canon Wishwash.

## Canon Wishwash

I have more than once in this last month **to explain the meaning of the word “Just”.**

This presents more difficulties than the Man on the Clapham Omnibus may realise.

**No less a work than “The Republic” of**

Plato famously devotes its substantial opening section to an analysis of the meaning of Justice. Edgar Wallace once

**wrote a best seller entitled “The Four Just Men”. This does not mean that they were only just men, recently evolved from some**

missing link. Rather it seems (I may have forgotten; it is many decades since I read the book) to mean that they felt entitled to kill anyone of whom they disapproved. I trust this exposition will be of value to you as you peruse the program of the Just Festival.

## Corrigenda

Oh the perils of predictive text! A recent article by Professor Gumboil on the General Synod appeared to refer to the Fathers of the Church. What he meant to

**type was “Fatheads”. However he has asked me to assure you that his reference to “loose cannons” was not misspelt.**



# Hymnody

You will be pleased to hear that a third verse has now been written for my **Dedication Festival Hymn. (Tune: "The Church's one Foundation")**

*We need another million,*

*A trifle amongst friends.*

***It's on the never-never.***

*A debt that never ends.*

*So carry on fund-raising;*

*Your loins gird for the fight.*

***We'd rather have your money***

***Than any widow's mite.***

# St John's Coffee Rota

The hall will be out of action soon, therefore coffees will be at the back of the church. Sheelagh thinks it will only need two people to manage the system there so the rota has been adjusted accordingly.

## August

7th S Brand; S Kilbey

14th M Currie; S Goode

21st A Usher; J McLeod

28th E Yeo; W Wyse

Volunteers for the serving of coffee would be very welcome, have a word with Sheelagh Brand at coffee time or by phone on 0131 339 4406.

## September

4th S Brand; J Rennie

11th M Warrack; L Darke

18th M Currie; C Legge

25th G Edgar; P Walliker



# Sunday Readings

Sunday Readings August to September 2016

Readings for all services each week are available in the *St John's Calendar and Lectionary 2015-2016* available at Cornerstone or the shop in the North Aisle for £5.

Year C	9.30am Matins	10.30am Eucharist	6.00pm Evensong
31 July Pentecost 11	Eccl 1.2-4, 2.18-23 Lk 12.13-21	Hosea 11.1-11 Col 3.1-11 Lk 12.13-21	Gen 32.22-31 Mt 14.13-21
7 August Transfiguration	Ex 24.12-18 2 Cor 4.1-6	Dan 7.9-10, 13-14 2 Pet 1.16-19 Lk 9.28-36	Ex 3.1-15 Jn 12.27-36a
14 August Mary, Mother of God	1 Sam 2.1-10 Jn 2.1-12	Rev 11.19-12.6 Gal 4.4-7 Lk 1.46-55	Zech 2.10-13 Acts 1.6-14
21 August Pentecost 14	Isa 58.9b-14 Lk 13.10-17	Jer 1.4-10 Heb 12.18-29 Lk 13.10-17	Ex 1.8-2.10 Mt 16.13-20
28 August Pentecost 15	Sirach 10.12-18 Lk 14.1,7-14	Jer 2.4-13 Heb 13.1-8, 15-16 Lk 14.1, 7-14	Ex 3.1-15 Mt 16.21-28
4 September Pentecost 16		Jer 18.1-11 Philem 1-21 Lk 14.25-33	Rom 13.8-14 Mt 18.15-20
11 September Holy Cross Day	Zech 12.8-13.1 Gal 6.11-18	Num 21.4b-9 1 Cor 1.18-24 Jn 3.13-17	Gen 3.1-15 1 Pet 3.17-22
18 September Pentecost 18	Am 8.4-7 Lk 16.1-13	Jer 8.18-9.1 1 Tim 2.1-7 Lk 16.1-13	Gen 2.4b-17 Mt 20.1-16
25 September Pentecost 19	Am 6.1a,4-7 Lk 16.19-31	Jer 32.1-3a, 6-15 1 Tim 6.6-19 Lk 16.19-31	Gen 15.1-21 Phil 2.1-13

# Useful Contacts

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<b>St John's Terrace</b>	Cornerstone Bookshop Anna Pitt	229 3776
Vergers	Ryan Dimarco, Steve McLaren	

For weddings and baptisms please make contact initially with the Church Office

# St John's

**St John's is an active city**-centre church within the Diocese of Edinburgh of the Scottish Episcopal Church, which is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. We welcome people of all denominations or none, firmly committed in faith or doubting and enquiring.

## SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

### Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Choral Matins (not on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist with activities for children
- 6.00pm Choral Evensong

### Monday

- 10.30am Service for the deaf (1<sup>st</sup> Monday only)
- 12.30pm Eucharist

### Tuesday

- 12.30pm Eucharist
- 3.30pm Silent Prayer

### Wednesday

- 11.00am Eucharist
- 12.30pm Midday Prayer

### Thursday

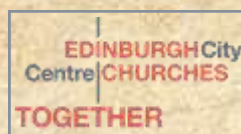
- 12:30pm Eucharist

### Friday

- 12.30pm Eucharist



/churchofstjohn



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