

# Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish  
Church Magazine

March 2020



## ***Portobello and Joppa Parish Church***

**Worship takes place each Sunday at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church  
with two services – one at 9.30am and one at 11am  
(10.30am in July and August)**

## ***From the editor***

Since our magazine is now photocopied and can reproduce photographs reasonably well, I've been extracting photos from some of our contributors this month and thought that I should show a good example by featuring one of myself. So I tried taking a selfie. This was not an encouraging experience. After various attempts which showed me with my eyes half shut or looking deeply alarmed (and why is the top of my head so flat?) I've come to the conclusion that I'm not the right generation for this. I think one is supposed to look up and pout. And be young. So here's a portrait drawn by a granddaughter. Perfectly recognisable.



In his letter, Stewart thinks about vulnerability and inhabiting other people's stories. You can also read a moving article by Linda about a woman called Joyce who experienced mental health problems but has achieved many things despite these. Michelle tells us about the Breakfast Club 2.0 retreat (now, *they're* the selfie generation) and asks for volunteers for summer Holiday Club. Michael reports on our finances and there are some thank-yous for gifts from the congregation. You're invited to the Drama Group's presentation of "Carousel" – still some tickets left at time of printing – and to the Brownie Coffee morning, as well as to help with Cutting Edge Theatre's Edinburgh Passion.

There's news about our Lent opening of the sanctuary as a quiet space and a report (and invitation) from the Book Group, who've been reading a book by Matthew Kneale - the son of Judith Kerr (*The Tiger Who Came To Tea*) and Nigel Kneale, who wrote *Quatermass* (who remembers that?). And also a few words from my dad.

And there are the usual features, including advice from George not to eat hellebores. Ok, George. We won't.

**Pam**



## ***From the minister***

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

‘For the first time, I began to see that allowing others to take care of you is a moment of taking the risk of trust in the kindness of another. I realised how rarely I had done that kind of thing, having always been largely self-sufficient and almost never feeling that I needed help.’

Thus writes Richard Frazer, the minister at Greyfriar’s Kirk, in the prologue to his book ‘Travels with a Stick’. It is his insightful and honest description of walking the Camino de Santiago. 1500km with nothing but a backpack, walking shoes, a stick and hope.

Early in the pilgrimage his relatively new shoes combine disastrously with unrealistic expectations and a competitive attitude. He walks too far too quickly too soon. And his feet ache and blisters rise and his ankles hurt and his soul is bruised. At one of the hostels a kind stranger treats his feet, advises two days of rest and encourages him to experience the Camino differently.

Richard thanks this saint profusely and humbly, and, in so doing, the stranger shares with him some of his own challenges.

When we set off on a journey with little, we so often are thrown into the arms of the unexpected and embraced kindly by strangers.

If we set off with suitcases and electronics and detailed plans, we protect ourselves from the unexpected. We might as well stay at home.

1 March is the first Sunday of Lent. Thus begins that time of the Christian year when we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. In our pilgrimage over these Sundays we will encounter many people: Nicodemus, the leader of the synagogue who approaches Jesus at night; the Samaritan woman, that consummate outsider who understands who Jesus is and brings an entire village to him; a blind man who sees accurately and whose faith is tenacious; and Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus, who recognise the importance of Jesus - Mary’s kneeling and wistful comments exude great hope and faith.

I recently read about a charity called Narrative 4. It aims to increase our understanding of people with different backgrounds, beliefs and worldviews. Rich New Yorkers gather with poor New Yorkers; teens from the Bronx share

stories with teens from Appalachia; youth in Limerick talk face to face with older people in Limerick. Not only do they listen to each others' stories, they are then asked to repeat them using 'I'. The rich teen from the Bronx begins a story with 'I was born in a rickety, drafty wooden hut in Kentucky with no running water, no inside toilet and no money.' They inhabit another's story from the inside.

Before Christmas, I borrowed a phrase from Glenn Innes, the minister at Portobello Baptist: inhabit the story. Perhaps this Lent, we could take that one step further. Inhabit the story of Nicodemus, inhabit the story of the Samaritan woman, inhabit the story of the blind man, inhabit the story of Martha and Mary. But more: retell it, using 'I'. 'I was born blind. I was an outcast. No friends, no food, no love. Condemned to beg, condemned to a living hell. If 'living' was what you called it.' Live in it. Feel what they feel, think what they think, experience what they experienced.

They were all vulnerable in some way. Jesus himself was vulnerable in so many ways. Yet on this journey miracles happened, eyes were opened, faith was gained and healing was found. And, was anybody more vulnerable than the one who said, 'Thy will be done'?

Nothing is better than a rest at the end of a long day or the end of a long journey.

And at the end of this journey? Let's wait for the April/Easter edition.

**Stewart**



## ***Breakfast Club 2.0 retreat 2020***

From 31 January to 2 February, three S5s from Breakfast Club and two recent BC alumni went away for a BC 2.0 retreat to Loch Tay at

Craggan Outdoor Centre, the Boys' Brigade Retreat Centre. This is a quiet weekend away for our oldest Breakfast Clubbers and recent BC alumni to take time away from school, family, social media and life back home to spend time together in Bible study, having faith chats, sharing meals and having reflective quiet space to think through the future and where they are in their walk with God.

Lourens and Michelle accompanied them on this weekend away and led the faith discussions, finishing up the youth Alpha Series and then beginning a new film discussion series from Frances Chan. Jamie led us in some fantastic team cup games and crafts. David drove us all up to Loch Tay and joined us for the faith talks and games. We also enjoyed the company of Mishia and Sophia over the weekend and had a fantastic lasagne dinner prepared by Mishia as well.

On the way to Loch Tay, we stopped for chips and then arrived around 9pm, so the first night was really just about settling in. We spent some time thinking about our lives and our walk with God through doing some collage art work.

Sunrise met us with spectacular views from the retreat centre. Craggan is a real gem and a blessing to spend time there. We are incredibly thankful to the Boys' Brigade for renting us this space for the weekend. Everyone took turns helping in the kitchen and then we sat around a big table all together to share our meals and conversation together. On Saturday afternoon, there was space for everyone to go off on their own for 20 minutes of silence. The



young people took to the shores of the Loch and the grounds of Craggan for this silent space, even though the weather was less than ideal for sitting outdoors with a mixture of rain and snow. In the afternoon, we ventured into Killin for a scavenger hunt around town.

On Sunday morning, we closed our time together with worship led by Lourens, thinking about when Jesus calmed the storm and thinking more about our walk with Jesus and reaching out to him in the storms in our lives. Michelle shared a Godly Play story and wondering session as part of the worship as we explored this Bible passage more. As we worked with the materials and the storm raged around the disciples, a windy snow storm swirled outside of the windows on the Loch. It was quite moving to think on this Bible story with the views of Loch Tay behind us.



This weekend was a time of connection and conversation, whereby the young people and adults learned from each other and were mutually blessed by our time together. It was also a re-launch of the Young Adults Group which will pick up again, meeting one Saturday night a month at the manse for pizza and discussion.

The retreat was fully funded by the donation given to Breakfast Club from the home baking/jam stall fundraising efforts led by Katie and Carol. All of the Breakfast Clubbers and leaders who took part wish to say their sincere thanks for this retreat. It was a real blessing!

**Michelle**

## ***Blessed are the poor (or broken) in spirit...***

In her book *Struggles to Love the Spirituality of the Beatitudes* (Rev) Kathy Galloway begins by sharing the story of a woman simply known as Joyce.



Joyce was a frequent visitor to the Iona Community, where Kathy was a member, and also Editor of the community magazine *The Coracle*. Joyce was invited to write her story for publication in the magazine. Her story was one of brokenness: struggles with depression, divorce, being a lone parent to two teenage sons living in a run down area of Edinburgh. Joyce was wholly dependent on State benefits to make ends meet, buying clothes and furniture from second hand shops. In the article Joyce shared the highs and the lows of her lived experience. She also shared that it was from these struggles she made a profound discovery: *that the deeper the pain carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.*

Recently I visited Liberton Kirk, where the sermon given was on John the Baptist.

Addressing the children, the minister, John Young, spoke of John the Baptist's clothing and the food he ate. He asked if any of the children would like to eat a meal of locusts... to which they all shouted a unanimous: *Yuk... no way!*

He then read part of a letter from a missionary friend of his, working in a part of the world where plagues of locusts are still common place.

In the letter his missionary friend described how, when the locusts descend, causing such destruction and clearing vast fields of crops in minutes, the villagers run out and collect the locusts by the basketful. His friend went on to explain that the locusts provide a rich source of food for the villagers, tasting said his friend *"like fried oysters"*!

He then asked the children if they had ever tasted wild honey. He said: *Wild honey is SO delicious that the taste will blow your palate!*



Addressing the whole congregation in summing up, he said: *God does not leave anyone out in the wilderness... without giving them gifts.*

Joyce had spent many years in her own *wilderness*, attempting to cope with poor mental health: indeed her article in *The Coracle* began with the revelation that she had attempted to take her own life, describing it as: *an outward cry for help... .*

In describing Joyce, Kathy Galloway draws great attention to her clothing, which was always black but layered with brightly coloured accessories and trimmings of all descriptions. She wore bedazzling, big, bold jewellery, all of which accentuated the free spirit evolving within her. Abandoned were the Laura Ashley dresses of yesteryear.

Joyce describes herself not as someone who is poverty-stricken but as someone with an aptitude and an artistic flare for taking other people's cast-offs, whether it be clothes or furniture, and giving them a new lease of life. Joyce sees her life like a glass half full: not half empty. To reach these dizzy heights she has harnessed the deep pain of surviving the trenches of breakdowns in health and relationship – carrying, not denying the weight of her own passion journey.

Henri Nouwen, I'm sure, would describe Joyce as *a wounded healer*. For rather than turn her back to pain, and become bitter and mired in something so deep she would find no escape from, Joyce sought to use her time and creative/artistic talents helping others. She did this within the walls of Saughton Prison. Here she would invite prisoners to sit for her, and she would draw and paint them, as well as teaching German.

Born out of her own struggles with depression, Joyce had inherited a wealth of compassion for others.

Professor Paul Gilbert, author of the *Compassionate Mind*, writes: *Compassion can be defined in many ways, but its essence is a basic kindness, with a deep awareness of the suffering of oneself and of other living things, coupled with the wish and effort to relieve it.*

As I come full circle in this writing, reflecting too on the compassionate mind of Jesus... it has come as a surprise to find that having been thus far inspired by her story and the images of Joyce in my head. I have now discovered even more...

Hanging in the National Portrait Gallery of Scotland, as mentioned in Kathy Galloway's book, are two portraits of the Very Rev George Fielden MacLeod, Baron MacLeod of Fuinary, Founder of the Iona Community 1895-1991 and there beneath the work is the artist's name: Joyce.

Joyce, it transpires, is a much loved Scottish artist, who was awarded an MBE in 2004 for services to the arts. I have to be honest and say I have never heard her name... but I do resonate with some of her earlier journey when she was known to me as simply Joyce!

We all experience brokenness on some level and to some degree, and some more than others. In the midst of such brokenness it is too far reaching to imagine a kingdom greater than the one we find ourselves already existing in.

Could Mary Magdalene, have ever conceived that she would one day become an *Apostle to the Apostles*, while delirious of mind, before her encounter with Jesus?

If you would like to watch an interview with Joyce Gunn Cairns then please click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYJoieDvKNc>

**Linda**

PORTOBELLO & JOPPA PARISH CHURCH DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS

# RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S **CAROUSEL**

ARTWORK BY TOMMIE TRAVERS



**Music by  
RICHARD RODGERS**

**Book & Lyrics by  
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

**BASED ON FERENC MOLNAR'S PLAY "LILIOM"  
AS ADAPTED BY BENJAMIN F. GLAZER  
ORIGINAL DANCES BY AGNES DE MILLE**

**WED 11<sup>TH</sup> - SAT 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020, 7.30<sup>PM</sup>  
PORTOBELLO & JOPPA PARISH CHURCH**

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## ***Portobello Holiday Club 2020 – Wonder Zone***

This summer, our Portobello Holiday Club is running for the sixth year with six area churches working together, using the Wonder Zone curriculum. From the 13th to the 17th of July from 9am to 12:30pm, our halls at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church and at St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church will be full of children and volunteers. We will be welcoming in school-aged children each morning of the week to take part in arts and crafts, games, music, science, gardening, baking, Bible study, worship, snack and many surprises throughout the week. There will also be a crèche available for volunteers' children younger than primary school. We hope your family will join us!

Registration will open at the start of March. Holiday Club books up fast so contact Michelle to get registrations forms from 1 March. The cost is £2 per day per child.

We are also recruiting volunteers to help with all aspects of the club. If you can give a full week in July to this ministry, or even if you can only give a day or two, we'd love your help. We're looking for help with gardening, games, arts and crafts, baking, music, science, AV technology, snacks, crèche care, administration, small group leaders, small group helpers and much more.

There will be a gathering morning for the full team on a Saturday in May or June and a further team meeting in July on the 12<sup>th</sup>. All volunteers will need to complete an application form for Michelle and sort their PVG record application with Carol. New volunteers also need to get one reference, plus a minster reference.

If you are interested in helping with our ecumenical holiday club or if you know any secondary students who might be interested in volunteering as Junior Helpers then please speak with Michelle on any Sunday after church. We would love to have as many helpers as possible as the more volunteers we have, the more families we can welcome to take part. Thanks!



## ***Brownie coffee morning – Saturday 21 March 10-12***

The 116<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Tuesday pack) are having a Coffee Morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 10am to 12 noon in the Church Halls. Tickets will be £3 each.

The Brownies have been doing a project on the environment and endangered animals and would like to raise funds for the animals harmed in the recent Australian Wildfires so the funds will go to the World Wildlife Fund.

We will have a baking stall and if anyone would like to donate cakes etc this would be very warmly welcomed.

Please come along and support the Brownies in this worthwhile cause.  
Thank you

**Helen,** Brownie Leader, 116th Brownies



**116<sup>th</sup> Brownies (Tuesday Group)**

**Coffee Morning**

**Saturday 21st March 10am – 12pm**

**Portobello & Joppa Church Halls,  
Brunstane Road North**



**In aid of the World Wildlife Fund Australia  
Wildfire Appeal**

**£3 each**

## Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

### Summary of The General Fund for 2019

#### **Congregational Fund**

Expenditure on the normal day to day running of the Church

The Congregational Fund is also funded by interest from the legacies received invested with The Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

<b>Actual To 31 Dec 2018</b>		<b>Actual To 31 Dec 2019</b>	<b>Budget To 31 Dec 2019</b>
£		£	£
	<b>Congregational Income</b>		
148,747	Congregational Offerings	143,255	140,750
27,157	Income Tax Recovered	25,955	24,000
5,933	Contributions from Congregational Organisations	4,755	3,000
13,597	Contributions for Use of Church Premises	13,507	17,500
7,821	Income From Investments	7,979	8,000
31,043	Drawdown from General Trustees	31,657	28,000
<u>3,670</u>	Other Ordinary Income	<u>3,648</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>237,968</u></b>	<b>Total Congregational Income</b>	<b><u>230,756</u></b>	<b><u>221,250</u></b>
	<b>Congregational Expenditure</b>		
52,005	Staffing Costs	53,157	52,950
4,211	Christian Education and Outreach	3,234	5,500
2,203	Communication	2,562	4,000
30,903	Buildings - Heating, Lighting, Insurance and Council Tax	30,181	36,500
<u>4,99</u>	Administration	<u>4,756</u>	<u>6,750</u>
<b><u>94,31</u></b>	<b>Total Congregational Expenditure</b>	<b><u>93,890</u></b>	<b><u>105,700</u></b>
143,650	<b>Net Congregational Income</b>	136,866	115,550
<u>115,712</u>	<b>Ministry and Mission Plus Presbytery Dues</b>	<u>123,402</u>	<u>123,007</u>
<b>27,938</b>	<b>Net surplus (deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>13,464</b>	<b>(7,457)</b>
0	Legacy Received	3,000	0
0	Legacy Invested With Investors Trust	(2,990)	0
12,516	Year End Non Cash Adjustments	(10,500)	0
0	Legacy Adjustment	0	0
90,405	Congregational Fund Reserves at 1 January	130,859	130,859
<b><u>130,859</u></b>	<b>Congregational Fund Reserve Carried Forward</b>	<b><u>133,833</u></b>	<b><u>123,402</u></b>



### **Fabric Fund**

Expenditure on keeping the buildings in a suitable state of repair

Funded by specific contributions from the Congregation and income from Fundraising.

Fundraising is, in general, to meet the cost of specific items.

The Fabric Fund is also funded by interest from the legacies received invested with

The Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

<b>Actual To 31 Dec <u>2018</u> £</b>		<b>Actual To 31 Dec <u>2019</u> £</b>	<b>Budget To 31 Dec <u>2019</u> £</b>
	<b>Fabric Fund Income</b>		
30,345	Contributions Towards The Fabric Fund	30,313	28,000
0	Drawdown From General Trustees	0	25,000
<u>2,197</u>	Fundraising	<u>2,372</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>32,542</b>	<b>Total Fabric Fund Income</b>	<b>32,685</b>	<b>53,000</b>
	<b>Fabric Fund Expenditure</b>		
<u>19,213</u>	Building Repair Costs	<u>21,166</u>	<u>87,500</u>
<b>13,329</b>	<b>Net Income (Expenditure) to be Funded</b>	<b>11,519</b>	<b>(34,500)</b>
118,072	<b>Fabric Fund Balance at 1 January</b>	131,401	131,401
0	Legacy Invested In Church of Scotland Investors Trust	0	0
0	Year End Non Cash Adjustments	0	0
<b><u>131,401</u></b>	<b>Fabric Fund Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b><u>142,920</u></b>	<b><u>96,901</u></b>
	<b>Turnover for Charities Act</b>		
	Congregational Fund	233,756	221,250
	Fabric Fund	32,685	53,000
		<u>266,441</u>	<u>274,250</u>
	<b>Drawdown from General Trustees</b>	31,657	53,000

# A Call to Prayer



Cardinal J H Newman said, “Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but that it shall never have a beginning.” If you let fear take over your life, you’ll never fully live. The truth is that many of our fears are totally unfounded. Haven’t you found that to be so? Studies show that 95% of what we fear is baseless, and the rest are things that we must learn to live with. Perhaps the best approach is to adopt the attitude of the writer Gertrude Stein, who said, “Considering how dangerous everything is, nothing is really frightening.”

Humanly speaking, there are no guarantees in life. We look to many things to protect us: insurance policies, burglar alarms, aspirin, umbrellas, GPS systems and airbags. But the truth is that life is dangerous, damaging to your health, and will eventually kill you. So you might as well live to the fullest.

There are two things that are ever-present with us in life: fear and faith. And every day you live, you choose one or the other. Jeremiah said, “Through the Lord’s mercies, we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.”

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ST6 4JF*

## ***Gardening with George - More plant lore from George, horticulturist and star of the small screen.***

With the passing of Shrove Tuesday, when we are all expected to use up the last of our tasty titbits from the fridge and larder, we now enter the period of Lent and the lead up to Easter and Good Friday. How quickly the year revolves and moves on. Not long ago we celebrated Christmas.



Many Lent Lilies, or Lenten Lilies as they are sometimes known, are flowering in the garden at the moment. These are woodland plants native to Eastern Europe, with the main populations found in the Balkan region. There are white flowered forms, reds, pinks, double flowered varieties – indeed, one to suit all tastes.

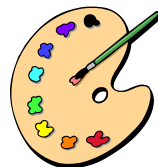
However - refrain from ingesting them as they contain a poisonous element.

The earliest of these Hellebores is the white one known as the 'Christmas Rose', which will often be found in full bloom at Christmas, the purity of the flower perhaps echoing that of The Christ Child. In spite of its common name, the Christmas Rose is not related to that garden favourite, the rose. Instead Hellebores are related to buttercups and clematis in the plant family Ranunculaceae.

The Lent Lilies make excellent garden plants. They grow well in most typical garden soils and enjoy light shade. They are perennial plants and regrow every year; and to see them at their best it is often recommended that the old foliage is removed in late winter just as the new growth is starting to emerge. Beautiful though the flowers are, their full splendour is difficult to appreciate as they all hang their heads ( is this in anticipation of the loss of Christ at Easter??). The best way to appreciate their form and beauty is to cut a few, bring them inside and float them in a shallow dish, or leave them outside but place an old mirror tile underneath the growing plant so that when you pass by in the garden you can catch their reflected beauty.

**George**

## ***Youth Art Club***



From Tuesday, 17 March, there will be a drop-in art space available for secondary school students. We will meet in the Baird Hall from 4:30-6pm. Some art materials will be provided if needed, but young people are also encouraged to bring their own sketchbooks or current projects. Some snacks will be provided as well.

This will be a space to get together with other young artists and work on your projects or share ideas with each other. We have some guest leaders joining us from the Thursday morning Art Group, who will be able to share their knowledge and experience as well to encourage the youth in their art work. It will be quite a relaxed space. If you know anyone who might be interested or you would like more information, please contact Michelle.

## ***Thank you***

Dear Portobello and Joppa Church,

SAMH has been campaigning on children's and young people's mental health for a number of years, and thanks to the support of people like you, we are now able to take action by launching new initiatives. "Connect" is one of these programmes, and aims to help young people with the often difficult transition from primary to secondary school. We have a dedicated SAMH worker in two primary schools and hope to roll this out to many more schools in the future.

Projects like this would not happen without supporters like you, so it is with huge thanks that we received your generous donation of £1,029.34 from your Christmas service. We can't thank you enough.

Warm regards,

**Cindy**, Community Fundraiser, Scottish Association for Mental Health

# THE EDINBURGH PASSION

## "LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

Do you want to see churches across the city open their doors, welcoming the city in?

Cutting Edge Theatre is producing a large scale community wide project, telling the Easter story in "real time" over the Easter weekend. It aims to be 63 continuous hours of artistic expression of the story. We need your help! Here are some ways you can be involved:

**1.** Sign up to be one of the places of worship that opens their door for an hour of silence on the Saturday 6pm. April 11<sup>th</sup>. We are encouraging churches simply to open their doors so that people can come in and just quietly sit without worrying if they will have to do anything. It's not a service. You could put on tea/coffee. Could be for people who have been bereaved or simply for those who just want 5 minutes peace. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER - 28<sup>th</sup>**

**February.**

**2.** We need people to be part of the community cast - no experience needed. Just turn up to rehearsals which are every Thursday evening, 7pm at Edinburgh Elim Church, 18 Morningside Road. EH10 4DB. **We desperately need people for this.**

**3.** We need volunteers to help steward at different events. People can sign up/express interest by emailing [hello@edinburghpassion.com](mailto:hello@edinburghpassion.com)

**4.** There will be a number of informal walks:

- the walk to the cross on the Friday [venue to be confirmed]
- the walk to Easter Road Stadium on the Sunday

These cannot be city wide walks so we are simply encouraging groups and churches to walk to these venues.

**5. VOLUNTEERS** - We will need all the help we can get! People can volunteer to be part of the co-ordinating team which works on the logistics, fundraising, practical help.

**6. PRAY** - We really need your prayers. It is getting increasingly challenging to be able to tell the Christian story publicly. We want this to be an amazing event that is for EVERYONE!

The website is [www.edinburghpassion.com](http://www.edinburghpassion.com)

If you need more information, contact Suzanne through  
[hello@edinburghpassion.com](mailto:hello@edinburghpassion.com)

## ***Quiet space in PJPC***

The sanctuary will be open one evening a week during Lent, from Ash Wednesday till the Wednesday of Holy Week. This will be similar to the Quiet Space we provided during Advent but to reflect the change of season there will be fewer candles and the addition of some daffodils. There will be silence or quiet piano music. The lights will be dimmed but over the weeks we will see the evenings becoming lighter, as we head to the joy of Easter. We tried to keep to the same day of each week but this proved to be impossible, due to a variety of reasons. But we hope that many of you will take the opportunity to sit in a refreshing peace, albeit on some slightly random dates!

6pm to 7.30pm, come and go as you please on:

Wednesday 26th Feb.

Wednesday 4th March

Tuesday 10th March

Monday 16th March

Monday 23rd March

Monday 30th March

Wednesday 8th April







## ***Book group – report on English Passengers by Matthew Kneale***

The book group meets in the Ormelie at 7.30pm on a Sunday, and our next meeting is Sunday, March 29.

Everyone is welcome. All our recent books have been suggested by different people so we have a great variety to tempt you.

Our most recent choice was **“English Passengers” by Matthew Kneale**. This is a somewhat complicated novel which takes some time to establish the ‘back stories’ of all the complex characters. The book was enjoyed by some, while others found it a difficult and confusing read. To some, the main character in the book is the sailing ship Sincerity, a wreck of a vessel when first found but soon transformed into a twin-skinned vessel specially adapted for smuggling contraband to and from the continent. With a captain and crew from the Isle of Man, there were stories of superstition and taboos with words never to be used, especially on board ship. The English Passengers were an unlikely band of fellows whose interests ranged from the natural sciences and medical matters, religion and the search for The Garden of Eden, all brought together by fate. Their main driving force at the outset was the vicar and his belief that through the phenomenon of Divine Refrigeration the Garden of Eden was to be found in Tasmania. The majority of the book covers their exploits on their journey with the ship laden with contraband crammed inside its false hull.

One of the other more disturbing themes running through the book is the mistreatment and abuse of the aboriginal populations: herded on to a small island off the shore of Tasmania, force fed religion and European food, ravaged by western diseases and forced to wear clothes, and also hunted and killed for sport. There are some harrowing tales of what happened when white supremacy met native populations.

There were some flashes of humour throughout the book - the vicar’s demands for a pulpit on board ship, the episode with the wombat and Peevay’s description of the false skins worn by the white folks. Peevay’s narrative covers the horrible treatment of the native population. The author has made skilful use of different language forms when dealing with the various characters.

This is a complex book which takes some determination to complete, and for some, the best of the narratives were found from the middle of the book onwards. The author was masterful in the way he drew all the web threads together.

It certainly stimulated much discussion about Trump, Glasgow v Edinburgh, white supremacy, current politics, tribalism, confirmation bias and the use of head measurements to indicate criminality.

With a firm basis in fact, this is an interesting book, although not all of the group completed it. However, if you read it to the end, it has an interesting climax.

Our next read for the end of March is **“Miss Garnet’s Angel” by Salley Vickers**, described as “a many-layered novel whose deeper themes of love, death and the growth of the human spirit defy the usual categories”.

After that, for the end of May, we will read **“Song of Solomon” by Toni Morrison**, a renowned American writer who died recently. It’s about the Black experience in America, described as “a spellbinding tale superbly written.”

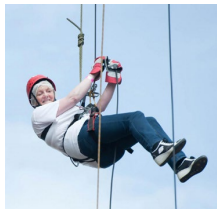
And for the end of July we will read **“The Second Sleep” by Robert Harris**. Set in 1468 on Exmoor, this seems to be a ‘whodunnit’ with a difference.

**George**

## **CrossReach events 2020**

Are you looking for something exciting and adventurous to do this year? CrossReach has events taking place throughout 2020, where you can have fun whilst supporting its work across Scotland.

For more information: [www.crossreach.org.uk/events](http://www.crossreach.org.uk/events)



### ***Forth Bridge abseil***

Join CrossReach CEO, Viv Dickenson, in abseiling down the Forth Bridge on 10 May 2020. To sign up, please use the link below and select CrossReach:

<https://www.rcsqsales.org.uk/register>

### ***Zip Wire Challenge, Aviemore***

Zip through the trees over a stunning gorge in Aviemore. Dates available: 2 May 2020 and 5 September 2020. For more information:

[events@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:events@crossreach.org.uk)

### ***Scottish Half and 10k 2020***

The Scottish Half Marathon + 10K is the ultimate running experience, with stunning views of East Lothian's Golf Coast. For more information on how you can participate, please

contact: [events@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:events@crossreach.org.uk)

## **COMPETITION**

Design a CrossReach Christmas Card for 2020

**Open to all ages**

**Closes:** Tuesday 31st March 2020



### ***Christmas Card Competition 2020 - Now Open***

Design a CrossReach Christmas card for 2020. The winning design will be printed and sold through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection catalogue and website.

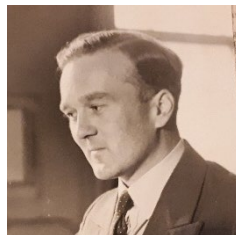
Open to all ages.

Competition closes: Tuesday 31 March 2020

For full details visit: [bit.ly/CrossReachCCComp20](http://bit.ly/CrossReachCCComp20)

## ***A voice from the past***

While going through family archives recently, I found the text of a talk given by my father, Jim Smith, to the St Philip's Guild (or Woman's Guild, as it was then) on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1982. I found it quite interesting and thought that – since I have a page of the magazine to fill – some others might, too.



For example, these paragraphs: prescient – we did have another fire! - but (as it turned out) a bit pessimistic about the insurance:

*St Philip's church is a beautiful building. Most of you will know that it was built by the Free Church congregation of Portobello when their former place of worship along in Regent Street was destroyed by fire in 1874. Their former church was insured for just £2,000; you don't get much for £2,000 these days, and even in 1874, that kind of money could never have built a church like ours. I wonder if you have ever wondered what we would do if our church were burnt down? Would we be prepared to set about raising the money to rebuild it? I would guess that today that sum might be close to half a million pounds, of which we might get 20% from insurance compensation. Well, in 1874 the congregation, only about half as many in numbers as we are now, decided to set up a Building Fund; and in a very real sense, it is to that gallant band that we owe our parish church building.*

*We know quite a lot about them. The minister was a Mr Ireland and the Session Clerk a Mr Fullarton Baird; they rallied the congregation and within a few months the Building Fund reached nearly £6,000, enough to make a start on the new church. The architect was Mr John Honeyman; the building took three years to design and build and was opened for worship in October 1877. The cost had been about £10,250 and the congregation was left with a debt of over £3,000. In present-day values this might have sounded like £150,000 would to us today. Within a further 6 years, the church was paid for.*

(It goes without saying that I would be delighted to receive articles about the history of St James' or Portobello Old.)

**Pam**

## Brain teaser



St David, or, in Welsh, Dewi Sant, lived around 500-589 and was Bishop of Mynyw – now known as St Davids. He was the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, king of Ceredigion.

He was canonised in 1123 and is often depicted with a dove. He was reputed to consume only leeks and water (hence the leek being a symbol of Wales). So, an early vegan, then. And of course, he's the patron saint of Wales and his day is March 1<sup>st</sup>, which is said to be the day of his death.

Here's a puzzle. The answers start with the letters of SAINT DAVID'S DAY.

- S "Remember the S - - - - - day and keep it holy."  
A "Praise to the Lord, the A - - - - - , the King of Creation."  
I Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, I - - - - , Jeremiah.  
N Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, N - - - - .  
T "All T - - - - - bright and beautiful."
- D D - - - - - , Joshua, Judges, Ruth.  
A "A - - - - - from the realms of glory."  
V Genesis, V - - - - 1: In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.  
I I - - - - was the son of Abraham.  
D "And forgive us our D - - - - , as we forgive our D - - - - -."  
S S - - - - was Isaac's mother.
- D "Love came D - - - at Christmas."  
A The disciples were also called A - - - - - .  
Y "And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep Y - - - hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God."

**Alison**

## Getting to know you – Nicholas. Nicky has been



coming to PJPC all his life – he's now 8 and a half. He likes all forms of transport, as well as traffic lights, road signs, Brio, playing on his computer, polar bears and reading. He volunteered to do this interview and so his granny, the editor, was only too delighted to accept his offer. Other volunteers would also be very welcome.



### **Q. What do you remember about church when you were smaller?**

*A. I remember being in the crèche with all the toys. There were two big garages and a play-mat with level crossings, roads and railways. Those were my favourites!*

### **Q. What's an early childhood memory?**

*A. The day we moved house. Nanny came up [from England] to help us. We put all the toys into the front room of our new house and Louby and I weren't allowed to go into the rest of the house while the removal men were still bringing all the furniture in. When we were allowed out, we ran up and down and up and down the corridor! Our old house didn't have one.*

### **Q. What job do you think you might like when you're grown up?**

*A. An Edinburgh tram driver!*

### **Q. What are you reading at the moment?**

*A. "Me and Mr P", a story about a polar bear that comes and helps children in need.*

### **Q. What would be your ideal holiday?**

*A. Ladram Bay in Devon – I like to go to the splash pad there! [A play area with jets of water that splash you.] I love to go on the Seton Tramway, go to Pecorama to see the model trains and throw stones into the water at the beach in Beer village – I like that there's a stream running all down the village street! I also like to ride on the Sidmouth Hopper minibus, play crazy golf and eat ice cream.*



**Q. What is your most prized possession?**

*A. Polee, my polar bear. He's all cuddly!*

**Q. What do you look forward to when you get up on a Saturday?**

*A. Making stop-motion films and relaxing by watching videos on YouTube.*



## ***Thank you***

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your kind donation of £295.05, received today. It is only through donations such as yours that we can continue supporting our beneficiaries within the Armed Forces community, reaching out to those who have served, those still serving and their families at times of crisis and need, offering vital practical advice, assistance and funding.

Kindest regards,

**Richard**, Scottish Poppy Appeal Organiser (East of Scotland)



***A minister's wife was making pancakes with her two little boys when they began to argue as to who should have the first pancake.***

***"Now, now," she said. "If Jesus were here, he'd say – 'You have the first pancake. I can wait.' "***

***The older boy turned to his brother. "Ok," he said. "You be Jesus."***

## ***LIFE AND WORK – March 2020***



**Scotland 2000-2020** The first in a two-part series looking at how Scotland has changed since the millennium

**Taking Steps of Faith** Michael Harvey, chief executive of National Weekend of Invitation, describes his journey from a difficult childhood to successful businessman to full-time Christian ministry

**The 'Ideal Model of a Parish Minister'** As a new biography is published, a reflection on the life of the Very Rev Dr Nevile Davidson and his transforming work at Glasgow Cathedral

**Changed by Africa** Reporting on a transforming trip to Zambia by a group from an Edinburgh social enterprise with a church connection

**Stepping into the Unknown** In the first of a new six-part series, the Rev Martin Johnstone considers 'life at the edge'

**Change Needs to Happen** Teenager Danielle Gray highlights some of the struggles facing young people inside and outside Church today

**Being Different** Ron Ferguson explains why the Church has a vocation to be 'a holy community of resistance'

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## ***MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES***

April 2020

May 2020

June, July & September

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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Photography by Kim Kjaerside

