

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

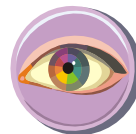
May 2019



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



I don't know whether you've come across the word "woke" – used as an adjective - as in "the woke young people of East London", which I read out of the paper to my husband the other day. It means, according to Google, "alert to injustices in society, especially racism". I'd heard this usage before and find it interesting. He didn't think much of it (he's getting old...) since there's a perfectly good way of saying this without adjusting the language.

But language has always changed. "Nice" used to mean "foolish" and then "wanton". "Naughty" used to mean that you had naught. It seems appropriate that alertness to injustice in society should have its own pithy term. (I'm not prepared to countenance *all* shifts of meaning, though, such as "literally" used just for emphasis – "I literally bent over backwards to help". We all have our limits.)

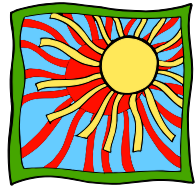
Wokeness seems particularly relevant to the "Conversations on Islam" evening on June 2, to which everyone is invited – see page 6.

You can read in this issue about our young people's Easter vigil, in which they were doubtless "woke" in every sense of the word. As usual, Michelle has contributed a lot to the magazine (as well as to our church) and she tells us about Sunday Stars, Messy Church and the success of the Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal in our church. She also asks for Sunday crèche volunteers.

The Guides have been busy too – sleeping out for Bethany and preparing for their jumble sale – do support them and also Junior Drama's presentation of "The Dracula Rock Show". We also hear about the year in the Boys' Brigade, the Book Club's latest meeting and an opportunity to take part in a walk for St Columba's. And do read about where Mary Finlay would like to go in a time machine!

Pam

From the minister



Dear Friends and neighbours,

A new day, a new dawn, a new start.

Easter Sunday has come and gone, and yet it has left vivid memories etched upon the mind.

There were almost 100 people at the Ecumenical Beach Service, where people from many different churches shared in the lighting of a paschal candle, singing, prayers and a homily. Communion followed. There were visitors stopping to take part, a couple of Springer Spaniels cheerily chasing balls and wagging tails, children toddling off to explore, and Breakfast Clubbers wearily swaying on the beach wall.

Indeed, we had many parents and carers from the 33 youth (33!!!) who took part in the Easter Vigil. It started at 10pm on Saturday night and carried through to the 7am beach service the next morning. Terrific games, quiet times, reflections, crafts. Time away from the hurly burly to think about the truly important things in life. Many thanks to Michelle B. and all the volunteers who made it happen ... and some even appeared at the Easter service that morning! As Michelle D. said, 'I'm not going to shut my eyes for the prayers ... otherwise I'll fall asleep!'

The 9.30 Easter service was well attended and we were able to revel in the wonderful decorations provided by the Breakfast Club and the Sunday Stars. In the morning light, there was a sense of freshness and possibility and wonder. The 11am service was packed and the singing was joyous, with the choir's rendition of 'The green blade riseth' adding beauty and uplift. At both services, our student attachment, Moira, contributed a thoughtful reflection on the Easter story: we are all so very human and all equal in the kingdom of God.

Whew! And, my word, was there a well earned rest by many people afterwards, for the joy and delight of Easter is the result of many people working together to express the new life of Easter.

And yet it would be remiss simply to take 'The Jerusalem Bypass.'

This was Fr. Jock Dalrymple's description of those who travel from the celebrations of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter, bypassing the sheer emotional trauma and physicality of the passion.

How fortunate we were to be able to share with other clergy in our morning prayer times: not just Fr. Jock, but Sophia Marriage from St. Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church and Rev. Glen Innes from Portobello Baptist. Different reflections on Holy Week that opened horizons for us all.

All of us would prefer a life that is free from many of the stresses and strains that cause us grief, panic, anxiety, unease, pain and despair. But that is not life: that is a fantasy.

Easter, in all of its mystery and impossibility and miracle and wonder, gains its power and its weight precisely because Holy Week is raw and challenging and physical and horrible and, frankly, so very, very real.

The Christian faith is centred and focused on the reality of life. Look at the cross. It is also centred and focused on the irrepressibility of hope and love. Look at the empty tomb.

This balance and this paradox is our journey of faith. It is where heaven and earth meet. It is the living Christ.

Happy Easter(tide),

Stewart



Conversations on Islam

After the tragic events in New Zealand, several of the clergy met with Imam Hassan Rabbani to see if there was some way that we in the faith communities of Portobello could work together to increase understanding. How important in a world where tribalism and exclusion is on the rise that we strive to build connections amongst people.

We are thus hosting an evening in which all are invited to talk with Hassan about Islam. Ask questions, make comments. Learn about our sisters and brothers with whom we share so much as children of Abraham.

Hassan is currently the first Muslim Chaplain at Heriot Watt University and for many years was involved with the Annandale Street Mosque in Leith.

Here are the details and more will follow:

Sunday 2 June 2019

Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Sanctuary

7 or 7.30pm (to be confirmed)

Please do mark this in your diary and do invite others along.



Music in care homes and hospitals

Tricia Ball and Jeremy Devlin-Thorpe are organising a concert in the church to support their provision of music in care homes, hospitals and individuals' homes.

Tricia was an enquirer at PJPC some years ago and we all benefited from her wonderful harp playing skills. She not only provides music in pastoral settings but currently helps to oversee the pastoral work at Duddingston Kirk and is

intimately involved with Duddingston's Silent Service on Wednesday mornings. Jeremy was until recently the musical co-ordinator at St. John's RC Church.

So, if you'd like to come along and support their work, please do make a note in your diary for the date below. Details of the concert will be provided in due course.

Saturday 15 June 2019

Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Sanctuary

7 or 7.30pm (to be confirmed)



GUIDE JUMBLE SALE - SATURDAY 18th MAY 2019

The Guides are once again holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 18th May 1.00 - 3.00.

We will be setting up between 9.00 and 12.00 and have a lunch break before the doors open at 1.00. At 3.00 we then dismantle everything and any suitable items left will go to charity shops where possible.

We would very much appreciate any help that we can get, so please if you feel you could help us even for a short time or if you have transport and can help taking items to the charity shops, it would be great.

Please contact either of the people noted below. Also - If you have any items you could donate to this event please also contact the under-noted.

Pat
Tricia

Boys' Brigade



The BBs are nearing the end of another successful session at Portobello and Joppa Parish church with all 3 sections enjoying many fun events over the year – in fact as I write this there are 15 boys and 6 leaders at our annual Junior Section holiday at Craggan.

As we are nearing the end of the session, I would like to thank the church for their continued support for the Boys' Brigade. We've now been part of the church for almost 131 years and so there are many young men over that period who have gone through the sections and ranks of the Boys' Brigade and hopefully become better people because of it.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders and officers in all 3 sections for their dedication and the time and effort they put in. While I wouldn't normally single out individuals, a special mention is due to Gary, who is to stand down as Officer-in-Charge of Company Section and also take a break from the BBs. Gary didn't join us as an ex-boy, which some may have seen in years gone by as the traditional way to join the BB staff, but as a parent whose sons all came through the different sections of the BB. I appreciate the support he has given me since I took over as Captain – extending his time as O-in-C to help with this transition - and the years of commitment he has given to the Company Section. He will be sorely missed.

This is probably a good time to mention that we are always on the lookout for new staff and helpers, both male and female. And as mentioned above, you don't need to have been part of the BBs before and you can join our team providing a fun and safe environment for children to grow as individuals.

Gordon

Messy Church



Messy Church has had a busy winter. In January we heard about John the Baptist. In February, we explored the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den and we braved the Baird Hall which had a bouncy, happy dog in for a visit as part of the Lion's Den that Stewart set up for people to play in. In March, we learned about Passover and we passed through the Red Sea as part of celebration time during the prayer.

It has been a great winter and we are looking forward to more Messy Fun for the whole family as we gather again this spring. On 27 April, we will celebrate Easter at Messy Church and start planting in our Messy Church allotment again. On 25 May, we will learn about the transformation of Saul to Paul on the Road to Damascus. On 29 June, we will think about time and explore how there is a time for everything.

Messy Church meets on the last Saturday of every month here at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church from 3:30pm to 6pm. We gather in the hall for games and snacks at the start before going into the church for our celebration time. This is the time when we share the Bible story of the day, share a prayer activity and sing a song together before we head out to the halls for crafts and games for all ages. Around 5:30pm we finish up with dinner and dessert.

Messy Church is an informal, relaxed atmosphere where everyone is welcome (of any faith or none). All ages are welcome, though we ask for safety that children come accompanied by an adult. However, adults don't need to have a child with them to attend. There is no cost, but we put out a free will donation bowl at the door. If you would like more information, contact Michelle.

Sunday Stars Update



This Spring Sunday Stars have been busy getting ready for Easter and also the April Communion service. Each of the Sunday Stars groups helped to create the big Easter art work hanging up on the pillars for Easter Sunday in the church. The children also worked on Easter crafts for the P1-P7 Sunday Stars to take up the promenade to Spring Gardens Care Home, to give out to the residents there for Easter gifts.

At our Spring Gardens visit, the children, some parents and volunteers gather in the common room to sing “Lord of the Dance” as they wish the residents a Happy Easter. It is a short visit, probably only for about 20 minutes or so, but it is a highlight for both the children and the residents. There is such joy when generations come together with music and crafts, where we can show care and attention for each other.

We spent the school holiday Sundays going deeper into the Easter story with Godly Play sessions, including the *Faces of Easter* story and a new Godly Play story – *Jesus in Jerusalem*.

We have also been spending time in Sunday Stars talking more about the sacrament of communion. This is in preparation to welcome in children in P1-P7 into the April communion. On 28 April, P1-P7 children will go to the main hall for another talk about communion before coming back into church during the communion hymn to either sit with their parents or with Sunday Stars volunteers to receive communion. Meanwhile, the 3-5 years olds (Moonbeams) will have a full Godly Play session in the session room with a story about communion.

The rest of the school year is full of Bible stories, Christian Aid lesson, Cupcake Sunday and preparing for Promotion Sunday. We will celebrate the full year of Sunday Stars on 23 June at our All Age Worship service for Promotion Sunday.

Michelle

Join Us For :

A Walk to Remember East Lothian



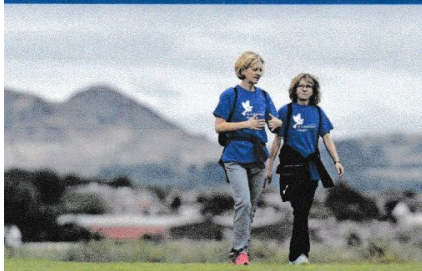
Under 8's free!

Dogs on leads welcome

22 June 2019

**Portobello to Aberlady
13.5 miles, 9am start**

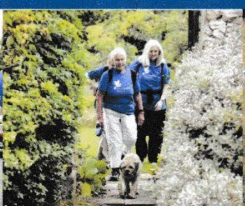
**Cockenzie to Aberlady
5.5 miles, 10:30am start**



The Big Yin winds along the coastline from Portobello to Aberlady, with the Wee Yin joining in at Cockenzie House. For more information on the route head to <https://www.everydayhero.co.uk/event/awalktoremember2019>

At the end you will be rewarded with refreshments, ice cream, cakes as well as goodie bags for children in addition to a t-shirt and medal.

To sign up email us at fund@stcolumbushospice.org.uk



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YOUR LOCAL HOSPICE IN EDINBURGH AND EAST LOTHIAN

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Book Club Report



“True Story” by Catherine Simpson

The Book Club met in the Ormelie on the evening of Sunday 7th April. There were mixed reviews for the book, “True Story” by Catherine Simpson.

The story centred on a young boy and his autism, the effects it was having in his family and the personal problems that manifest themselves when individuals immerse themselves in work or find themselves in a difficult ongoing situation.

However, some members felt it was a naïve and unconvincing portrayal of autism and wondered why young Sam’s condition had not been diagnosed earlier and why the family had not been given support from social services.

Young Sam suffers from autism, is agoraphobic and is being home schooled by his mother who, when things get tough, just leaves Sam to do his own studies online. The father is immersed in the family farm, trying desperately to make ends meet and becomes absorbed in all sorts of scatterbrained projects that he thinks are potential money making schemes.

Enter Larry, a traveller and casual mate from the pub who then becomes involved in helping Duncan (the father) to grow cannabis. Larry is able to observe the family dynamics from outside the circle and ends up having a whirlwind affair with the mother.

Is Larry a figment of the mother’s imagination? He mysteriously arrives, causes a stir and then just as mysteriously departs and all returns to normal more or less. We know, however, that nothing ever returns to the same as it was before.

Sam resorts to chatroom conversations to answer some of his burning questions and it is interesting to note the wide range of answers and spurious advice he receives.

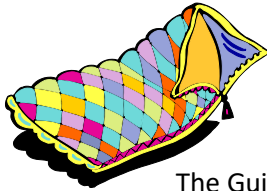
Sam's story was the most gripping part of the whole novel: his fear of outdoors, 19 pieces of pasta for dinner, 823 steps down to Jeannie's house, his obsession with maps and at the end, his failure to appreciate death and his failure to understand that coincidences happen in life and death. (Jeannie and the swan.)

We rated the book 5/10, felt it was a bit tedious and that the main characters were captured by boredom.

Our next read is "The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle" by Stuart Turton and we will meet in The Ormelie to discuss it at 19:30 on Sunday May 26th. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our read for the end of July is "Milkman" by Anna Burns.

George



The Guides – sleep-out for Bethany

The Guides from Portobello and Joppa Parish Church completed the sleep-out for Bethany Christian Trust on 8 March. They stayed in the grounds of Fettes College and raised money to support the homeless through the work of Bethany. Congratulations!

Staying Up Until Breakfast!



Every year, the Breakfast Club holds their Easter Vigil, staying up all night in church until we reach Easter Morning and join the congregation up at the beach for the 7am sunrise service.

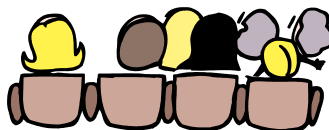
Throughout the night, the youth group took part in a variety of activities all around the church including a big art project to decorate the church for Easter morning. We played games, had faith discussions, held worship with communion at midnight, did some improv drama, prepped Easter Breakfast, baked and had a couple of other new surprises this year.

We also met up in the church every hour throughout the night to have some timeout from the high energy activities and just have ten minutes to sit with a NUA video clip and discuss the meaning of Easter. At our vigil, we finished our discussions from Breakfast Club that we have been having throughout this year through a video series called NUA, which has been produced by Scripture Union Ireland. It was an excellent way to tie up a year of interesting faith discussions based on questions in the NUA videos. NUA is Irish for new and the series reflects this by exploring questions people have about Jesus, the Bible and what it means to be Christian. It helps us explore our faith and our doubts which then perhaps gives us a new perspective through discussions with each other.

Each year the vigil marks the first welcome into youth group for the P7s from the church community. We welcomed in several new P7s at the vigil and are looking forward to welcoming more after Easter too. We also welcomed in some new older secondary students and some young adults who take part in our Breakfast Club 2.0 group. The Easter Vigil had around 30 participants with five leaders staying up throughout the night – Michelle, Jamie, Linda, Noel and Michelle. Thanks to Stewart, Moira and Lourens who started the night with us and led midnight worship. Thanks as well to Derek, April and Jane for cooking our breakfast! Thanks to all the leaders and young people for making this event such a highlight of the year.

Michelle

Brodie! the musical



‘Brodie’ – WOW!

Recently, I visited a hall in which I met a motley collection of thieves, vagabonds, ladies of the night, dodgy councillors, magistrates, lawyers and other dubious characters – what, in Joppa! Surely not?

Yes, in the PJPC hall! They all appeared, filling the stage (thanks to clever directing) in the first-rate musical ‘Brodie’, with memorable songs and singers and wonderful performances.

Though the tale is of Deacon Brodie [Willie French] the show introduces a number of cameo parts, enjoyable in themselves, and embellishes the true story of a particular period in Edinburgh’s history. These cameos included those of Mr and Mrs Creech [Kenneth and Fiona] whose portrayals left the audience in no doubt as to the difference in their characters - and needs! The ‘Partners in Crime’, Brian and Martijn, were a comic treat and Chris was a menacing and over-powering addition to the gang! I wouldn’t want to meet them down a wynd in the High Street on the darkest night – indeed on any night!

The performance was held together and was moved on briskly, but seamlessly, by ‘Effie’ [Katie] who changed scenes, kept us informed with charm and skill, AND had a good singing voice.

In a musical, the songs and singing are all important – so well done the soloists, the chorus and indeed, the musical directors, Nancy and Fiona and the band. Though slightly hard of hearing, I heard every word – sung and spoken.

If I may give a personal choice, four songs remain with me – ‘What Kind of Man’ [Brodie]; ‘I Just Want To Be With Him’ [Jeannie and Anne]; ‘If You Ever Need My Love’ [Kirstie and Brodie] and ‘Starting a New Life’ [the Chorus]. The delivery of these songs meant that either my toes were tapping or a lump came into my throat.

Congratulations, firstly to the writer and composer, Gavin and Nancy, to the Directors, Charlotte and Shona, to the hard working cast and to the technical crew who set the scenes of Old Edinburgh so skilfully! Thank you for a wonderful evening!

Douglas

Mary's Meals Backpack Collection



Thank you to everyone who contributed backpacks and backpack supplies for our recent Mary's Meals collection! On Wednesday, 10 April, the Mary's Meals van pulled into the church grounds to find 149 filled bags waiting on the church steps for collection, along with several bags of backpack supplies and some empty bags ready to be filled. Thanks to Stewart and Catherine who met the van along with me to help load it with bags. Ben, Matthew, Duncan, Eilidh and Toby (Stewart's dog) also assisted.

John, the advocate for Mary's Meals, spoke at church on Sunday, 24 March. He was thrilled with such generosity and kindness from everyone he met! Alongside the backpack collection, the congregation also contributed financially to the Double The Love fundraising campaign towards the feeding projects Mary's Meals set up in schools. £578.30 was donated to Mary's Meals and will be doubled by the UK government.

A huge thank you to the Breakfast Club and Breakfast club leaders for all your work organising this collection and sorting bags! Thanks to the Boys Brigade, Brownies, Rainbows, Guides, Drama Club, Junior Drama Group, Toddler Group, Messy Church, Sing and Sign and the congregation and many more people for your donations.

Michelle



Volunteering in crèche

The Baird Hall crèche is open every Sunday morning during the family worship service at 11am (10:30am in the summer). Volunteers arrive 15 minutes before worship to meet families dropping off babies and toddlers before worship begins. We have a volunteers' rota with our volunteers taking a turn once every 2 months (in crèche 6 Sundays a year in total). Two volunteers are in crèche each week.

There are some Sundays with no children in crèche, and so then our volunteers go into church and sit by the door ready to go to crèche if a family decides to use the space mid-way through worship. Other Sundays the crèche is quite busy. Sometimes parents stay with their babies and toddlers. When this happens, our volunteers take on a different role in this ministry. On those days, the volunteers are providing a welcoming space not just for the babies, but also the parents. It is a time of ministry to listen to the parents and get to know them too. Too often when you are a new parent at home with a wee one, getting the chance to talk to other adults can be very limited. Our crèche space is as much a ministry for the parents who come in as it is for the children who play there.

Our crèche volunteers serve in an important ministry. This space is the first big welcome to our youngest church attenders and it is also a place of pastoral care and friendship for the parents who may choose to stay in crèche with them. The volunteers are a gift to family ministry and I am so thankful for them.

We have some volunteers who have served in this ministry for many years and are now coming off the rota. We also have some volunteers who are currently on maternity leave from the crèche rota. This leaves our rota short a couple of people. I wonder if you could serve in this ministry. Would you consider joining our team? Please speak with me, Michelle, to learn more.





The Dracula Rock Show: 16th and 17th May, 2019

Tickets - £5 Adults - £3 Children

Come along and see this fantastic, funny, musical show by the young cast of Junior Drama. Come dressed as a Zombie or Vampire.

Come for a bite (lol! joke) downstairs for biscuits, tea and coffee at the end of the show and meet the little horrors - I mean children.

What's it about? The Zombies and Vampires are rumbling with discontent - you see, they want to go above ground to mingle with us humans as they are totally fed up with the dark underground. How will they be able to mingle with the humans, though? With the help of Dracula, who puts on a "Rock Show" featuring Jagged Mick and the 3 Blood Sisters, they are able to mingle with us humans at the concert because we all look weird anyway.

Also, a lot of young ladies are turning up at hospital with not much blood in their bodies. The police get the help of Shirley Holmes and Dr Mandy Watson. They also need to try and solve the crimes committed by their arch enemy Moriarty and his gang, who invent a potion which turns people the opposite of who they are. So, will the Zombies and Vampires enjoy being with us humans?

Will Holmes and Watson solve the shortage of blood in the young ladies?

Will Holmes and Watson sort out their arch enemy Moriarty?

Will you be hiding beneath the chairs?

Will you be popping down for a tea and coffee after the show or for some extra blood?

Jamie

150 years of Social Care



The loving care of CrossReach is offered to people of all ages. Our help and support is provided so people can live their lives to the full, regardless of the circumstances they find themselves facing. Our pioneering work has spanned around 150 years, during which time we have connected with, and continue to connect with, communities across Scotland. We have been at the forefront of pioneering work and services, changing many thousands of lives for the better. Today we continue to be one of the largest care providers across Scotland with our experience supporting across a wide range of services.

Support for adults. We support adults facing challenges across all walks of life, encouraging them to face the difficulties they encounter with our support.

Support for children, young people and their families. “It takes a village,” they say... . Many families look for support at some point in their lives. We recognise the impact that adverse experiences can have not just in childhood but into adulthood. We walk alongside children and their families, helping them to build their own strength and resilience.

Support for older people. Each person is unique and we work with older people and their families to offer a tailored service to meet individual needs and realise their dreams and aspirations at this stage in their life.

This is YOUR CrossReach – YOUR Social Care Council and we are here for you, here to walk with you. If have walked with us before, thank you! If you haven’t, we invite you to find out more and invite you to journey alongside us –here’s to another 150 years!

Corinne



A Call to Prayer

Comparisons

If you've lost your joy in serving the Lord, maybe it's because you're comparing yourself to others and trying to be like them. Paul said, "Do your own work well... don't compare yourself." (Galatians 6, 4.)

Paul continually dealt with critics and his response was always the same: avoid comparisons, resist exaggerations and seek only God's commendation. He refused to be distracted by criticism or compare his ministry or indulge in fruitless debates.

John Bunyan said that if his life was fruitless, it didn't matter who praised him; and if it was fruitful it didn't matter who criticised him.

Writer Anne Paterson says, "Kill the dragons of comparison. Instead of wondering when I'll attain the thing I'm working towards, I dwell on the wonderful things that God has done. Contentment is available as long as we keep our eyes on that."

Harry,
Prayer Promoter

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Brain teaser

Two puzzles for you this month!

1) First of all, how many words can you make out of the phrase BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH?

I got 43. (See below*.) Can you do better?

2) Also, how about this word puzzle?

Add one letter to each of the words in the list to give you the answer to the clue. One of these is quite hard! Write the *added* letters in the space indicated. Then read down the added letters to make the name of a New Testament character.

ETHEL	—	House of God
GATE	—	Semi-precious stone
DAGON	—	Imaginary creature
ROUBLE	—	Distress
SOLD	—	Firm
HERON	—	A mountain
PLACE	—	A royal residence
FAST	—	A splendid meal
MORNING	—	Time of sorrow
CURE	—	To wish evil upon

Alison

*reach, brake, crab, cake, thank, star, stare, stern, father, herb, rake, stone, acts, steak, baker, cats, fast, faster, feast, beast, craft, broken, bench, bean, been, force, tease, north, east, sheet, crane, seat, arab, three, teacher, tenth, Sabbath, knob

Getting to know you – Mary.

Mary has been coming to St Philip's / PJPC since 1963. Her children, Gillian and Stewart, were at Sunday school here.



Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?

A. "Amazing Grace". The words are so meaningful, with quite a feeling of safety, comfort and hope.

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. Sunday school at age 5 and the Christmas party in my new party dress.

Q. What's your earliest *childhood* memory?

A. From when I was very young, we went every Sunday afternoon to my grandfather's garden. This was in a private complex with plots available for an annual rent for anyone who wanted one. Those people got a key to enter the grounds. There were lots of flower beds and the paths had gravel. In time I could name all the flowers and plants. The name of the complex was Hutcheson's Town Gardens. It gave me a lifelong interest in gardens.

When I was 5 years old, my grandfather gave me a beautiful tricycle with chromium handlebars, chrome wheel trims, solid rubber tyres and mudguards, but I had to have wooden blocks on the pedals as I couldn't reach them to cycle it. It was my pride and joy for many years.

Q. What are you reading at the moment? Is it good? Why?

A. A book called "This is Going to Hurt" by Adam Kay, a former doctor – very funny.

Q. What would be your ideal holiday?

A. A cruise to the Greek islands.

Q. Your fairy godmother has granted you one wish. What would it be?

A. To be able to walk normally.

Q. What is your most prized possession?

A. A small, heart-shaped marcasite locket on a silver chain – a surprise present from my husband.

Q. Tell us something that not many people know about you.

A. My young brother and I lost our parents very young. Mother was 48 and had a brain tumour. Dad never kept good health and died five years later. My brother Ian was 10 and I was 18.

The next year (1958) I got married and all of us moved to Invergordon to, where my husband worked for Scottish Agricultural industries in Company House. My brother came with us and had still to finish his schooling. After three years, the company wanted my husband back in Edinburgh, so we moved to the West End for 2 years, then to Musselburgh in March 1963 when our daughter was on the way. I still live in the same house. Our daughter was born in July 1963 and christened at St Philip's in the November - my son later, in 1971.

My husband died at 37, when our son Stewart was coming up for 2 and Gillian was 9. It was hard but I just had to get on with it. I went to church every Sunday, which helped me get through the week. Many years later, I met and married my second husband, who was also widowed. He died a few years ago but we were married for 29 years.

Q. Where would you go in a time machine and why?

A. To have one day at the French Revolution and see the aristocrats in the tumbrils. I read "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens and would like to see what it was really like.



Q. What is a favourite quotation?

A. "May God hold you in the hollow of his hand."

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. I fall asleep – 40 mins. Or TV – I love a good thriller, so I also relax by reading.

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. Vocals, ballads, chorals, piano music, music to dance to.

Q. What do you miss (or *not* miss) about being a child?

A. I don't miss having to go to the dentist.



Q. What gets you up in the morning (apart from your alarm clock)?

A. The first sounds of the birds waking.

Q. What makes your heart sing?

A. Waking up to have another day, see the family.



“Oh, the comfort — the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person — having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.”

Diana Craik, novelist, 1826-1887.

Contributed by Mary W

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