

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

May 2022



From the editor



Stewart asks us this month to consider the paradox of the impossible becoming possible. If you have a garden, you see this every year. I always think, in the winter, that it's impossible that a garden - an apparently dead pile of brown sticks - will burst into bloom in a few short months. And yet here, below, is our front garden giving evidence of this miraculous feat.

Michelle, despite moving house and getting no sleep during the Easter vigil, has given us lots of news of our young people in this edition of the magazine. She's also a wonder - and we're very lucky to have her. We're also lucky to have Reuben, who tells us about Muddy Church. Ava, another force of nature (like many children) has written about her fundraising for Ukraine - well done to her! You can read about the Book Group, the Recycling Group and the Christian Aid walk - if you're not up to walking the route, maybe you could sponsor others to do so.

You can also find out which member of our congregation is a member of the Edinburgh Branch of Bonnetmakers!

And there are the usual features - thanks as always to those who contribute regularly (though irregular contributions are also welcome!)

Pam





From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Are we in between the unbelievable and the impossible?

We've just celebrated Easter, the affirmation of God's everlasting love and life. We're looking ahead to Pentecost, the rejuvenation of downhearted disciples and the foundation of the church.

Between these two events, virtually impossible to imagine and understand, we are now living.

But both of them reaffirm the potential within the unbelievable and the impossible.

Someone rising from the dead? No way. Yet, here we are, 2,000 years later and still listening, following, wondering, praying, praising.

A band of disheartened, frightened, scared wanderers rejuvenated by the Spirit to lead a movement that changed history and manifested eternity? Honestly. Yet, here we are, a community of faith 2,000 years later celebrating, singing, gathering, sharing.

In the impossible and unbelievable the door opens to the miraculous.

Peace in Ukraine? Impossible. Yet, without hope, without the reminder that there is a horizon far greater than ours, we neglect the possible within the impossible.

Treating refugees and asylum seekers with dignity? Sooo naive. Yet, without a reminder that all of us are God's children and Abraham was a journeyman and the holy family were refugees and Paul was a wanderer working in foreign lands, we

might respond not with the open arms of the forgiving father but with the pinched anger of the older brother. Having escaped China at the time of Tiananmen Square, I have a small, superficial insight into the traumas incurred: humility rather than judgment and grace rather than pettiness echo God's demands that justice and mercy are more desirable than sacrifices and offerings and the singing of saccharine songs.

Leaders who shape laws made for the masses, but not for themselves? How could that be? The true leader, the shepherd of the people, is the one who walks with them, talks with them, heals them, washes their feet and gives everything for their healing, for their good, for the betterment of the community.

If Easter is unbelievable and Pentecost impossible, where does that leave us?

We see and we believe in another way, a broader time, a clearer vision and a better way. A more excellent way, Paul might say.

And by sticking with that way, by remaining faithful even in tempests of history and the swirl of inhumanity, we remain faithful to that which is faithful, we remain committed to that which has covenanted to us, we remain steadfast to that which is solid and eternal.

We can see the believable in the unbelievable, the possible in the impossible.

We can affirm the impossible because God is there too. And in living in it with God, with Christ's love, with the sustenance of the Spirit, that space between the impossible and the unbelievable becomes a holy, sacred space where the possible and believable become visible in Christ.

And thus we live. With patience. With grace. With God.

Stewart



WORSHIP



(NB: feedback is being sought regarding the Rolling Sundays. So, keep an eye out for any adjustments.)

Sun. 1 May	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sun. 8 May	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sun. 15 May	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sun. 22 May	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sat. 28 May	3.00pm	Messy Church (Main Hall)
Sun. 29 May	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sun. 5 June Pentecost	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time
Sun. 12 June	9.30am	Reflective time
	10.15am	Intergenerational time
	11.00am	Teaching time

Walk a Loop for Christian Aid!

Fancy walking in a circle?

How about doing that with
a few others?

And, supporting those
most in need?

What's not to like???



Join some intrepid (yet fun loving!) walkers on **Saturday 14 May** as a number of small groups walk a 10 mile loop round the local churches in Portobello, Craigmillar and Duddingston, and in the Willowbrae and Meadowbank patch, which is the Queen's Park.

Groups of approximately six will be **leaving PJPC between 9.30am and 10.00am** on Saturday 14 May.

From PJPC to St. Martin's (rest break!), then to Richmond Craigmillar, Duddingston Kirk (rest break!), around the Queen's Park, the area for Willowbrae and Meadowbank, St. John's, Portobello Baptist and back home to PJPC.

Interested? Here's what to do next:

Contact:

Stewart, Ella, Sheena or Elaine

by 9am on Wed. 11 May.

Let us know if there are others who are walking with you. A number of documents with important information will be provided.

You will know by the end of the day on Wed. 11 May a proposed departure time. If you would like a different departure time, that can be arranged afterwards.

Then, see you on Saturday 14 May!

Get walking!

Get fundraising!

Once you sign up, you receive:

1. Instructions for the day
2. The route
3. For fundraising, there will be a Just Giving Page, which is the easiest for donating. Sponsor forms will be given out on signing up. If you use sponsor forms and envelopes for money, then bring these on the day or to church on a Sunday between 9.30 and midday. **(Deadline 22nd May)**

LET'S MAKE OUR EFFORTS COUNT!

1.7m people in need reached by our humanitarian programmes

57k volunteers gave their time and talents during Christian Aid Week

12k churches took part in fundraising activities

Sunflowers for Ukraine



A reminder that you can still contact Andrew for a free packet of sunflowers to remind us about Ukraine. He's already sent out over 100 packets. If you like, you can also contribute to older people in Ukraine via Age International's Ukraine Humanitarian appeal.

Why Intergenerational?



As part of Rolling Church, we have been continuing a trial run of interactive/intergenerational worship on Sunday mornings from 10:15am to 10:45am. This worship is informal and welcoming to every age in our church family. It is a time to be mutually blessed by each generation in the congregation as we lead and take part in worship together.

There is a band with children, young people and adults taking part. Readings, candle lighting, prayers and welcome are also led by children, young people and adults. Our worship planning team for these services spans four generations in the church as well.

We gather with a call to worship with candles lit, sing a hymn, a prayer is said, then our reading of the day is shared. Stewart or Lourens then reflects on the Biblical text in an interactive way, often with wondering questions to get us chatting to each other. There is an interactive prayer activity and then we close with a hymn, said blessing and a sung blessing. Over the weeks trying this out, we have developed a familiar pattern to the service, but each week is still so different through the varied music shared, the interactive reflection and prayer activity which keep our worship dynamic from week to week.

Why are we doing this new service? What is the point, you might be wondering? Well, it offers up a relaxed approach to God in worship as a community of believers from every generation who are learning and growing together in faith. It offers up a more informal space for the congregation to get to know each other when we wonder together and the interactive reflections spark conversation and a desire to know more about the Biblical passage shared.

Our worship together on Sunday sets us up to continue the conversation into the week ahead – whether that is with our own families or with more of our church family. Perhaps talk more on the Biblical passage at Breakfast Club, at coffee time or at home. Maybe read the passage again in the week and reflect more on it through Bible Study. Our interactive prayers are varied as we all approach God with different worship styles – each week we vary the senses used to pray. That might inspire new ways for our continued prayer as we go out into the world.

Most importantly though, intergenerational worship brings us all together as a church family. It is a space where we come to God – where we are not only worshipping alongside each other, but different generations are leading and contributing to our worship, and each generation can learn from each other as we wonder together.

Also, in our current pattern of Rolling Church, our children's ministry happens before worship. Sunday Stars and Crèche are offered from 9:30am-10am. Then families come into worship all together and stay together in church until the end of the service. This small, yet substantial change means that the children of our

church get the unspoken lesson of welcome. They are welcome in worship from start to finish. They are treasured and encouraged to be part of the worshipping community throughout our time in church.

Some families leave after worship, and some go back down to the halls for tea/coffee. Either way, children finish their Sunday as part of the wider church community and not separated out into a smaller church hall. They end their Sundays well – as part of the full church family – where they are blessed by connection with the adults in church and the adults are equally blessed by connection with the children and young people.

This is the why – why we wanted to try intergenerational worship – to properly welcome children and young people to our church and to become a more connected church family. Are you intrigued? Do you want to come and try it with us? You would be very welcome.

The beauty of rolling church is that we can have many styles of worship on a Sunday morning. Come in for the 10:15, get a quick cup of coffee and then go back in for the 11am service for deeper reflection and a more traditional worship style. Or come in early for the 9:30 worship for a quiet reflective worship, get a cup of coffee and then come back in for the 10:15 service to finish with worship with the wider church family. All are welcome!

Michelle

Sunday Stars

With the new Rolling Church schedule, Sunday Stars now meets from 9:30am-10am in the main hall by the stage. We have all the Sunday Stars together from aged 3 to 11. During this time, we catch up with each other, then share a Bible story with wondering questions to discuss and then either have a craft or game to follow. Sometimes this is Godly Play storytelling with free art response



afterwards and sometimes we read out the Bible story and have a set activity. Donna Ballantine also visits us occasionally to do a bit of singing.

It is a fast half hour led by Sarah, Ann, Jamie, Leila, Ishbel, me and a rota of volunteer helpers. We have enjoyed seeing our Sunday Stars regularly in-person since January. We have also very much enjoyed going from Sunday Stars into worship with the Sunday Stars and their families for the 10:15am informal/intergenerational worship time. It is a joy to go into worship together from the halls and be together for the full service with our church family.

There is also a crèche available for babies and toddlers which meets in the session room during Sunday Stars and the early reflective worship time, 9:30am-10am.

Michelle

BC 2.0

BC 2.0 is our young adults' group at PJPC. Young people, aged 16-25, gather once a month for pizza and faith discussions. We are currently working our way through a 3-part video discussion series called "Peace in the Pandemic" which is hosted by Ben and Jay, the hosts of Youth Alpha.

Each month, we gather for pizza at one of our leaders' homes in Musselburgh. We catch up and then zoom in with fellow BC 2.0ers who are based at university in Leeds, Dundee and Glasgow. Through Zoom, we're able to offer a hybrid young adults' group as all four locations can watch the same film together and then discuss the discussion questions together as well. We close by praying for each other. There are also some desserts to be had during the discussion time as well for the in-person group.

It has been a fantastic way to stay in touch with our young people away at university but also to go deeper into faith discussions with our young adults based in Edinburgh. Over the summer, we're hopeful to have a social event and eventually go on retreat together again, like pre-pandemic times. If you know a young adult who would be interested in knowing more about BC 2.0, then please put them in touch with me.

Michelle

Messy Church Meets Again



On the last Saturday of the month from 3:30pm-5:30pm, our Messy Church is once more meeting in-person. As I approached the church from the bus stop on 26 March, it was such a joy to see our Messy Church banner once more hanging up outside the church to welcome people in.

Messy Church is for everyone – all ages and stages of life. You do not need to bring a child with you to attend, though children do need to bring an adult with them.

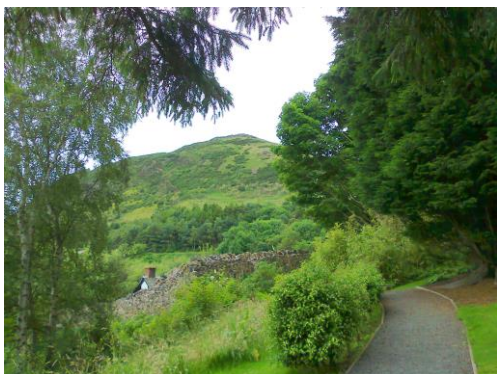
We gather in the church with a soft start activity, then have our celebration time with story, music, and prayer. After that we move to the halls for our activity time. This is a combination of craft activities and games. Then we finish with dinner together.

It is an informal church gathering that always ends with a meal and laughter around the tables. I hope you will join us sometime to worship with our messy church congregation.

Michelle

Muddy Church

I wonder where you are able to stop and feel fully present? For most of us we are so busy organising or doing things that it's hard to find that mental space, space where we can connect to who we are and what we value. To be with people rather than doing things for them. To let the soft animal of your body find its connection to nature. Perhaps even to glimpse behind it all to a bigger reality, a presence that is in all and is the shared ground of all our being.



Muddy church is our attempt to make this space. Every month we meet outside in Dr Neil's Garden at Duddingston Kirk, in the shadow of the hills and next to the loch. We are a small group with lots of young children and a few much older folk. We gather at 11am on the first Saturday of every month. If it's raining we put on coats and hats (we only cancel for lightning and high winds). We have a welcome circle and a game. We spend

time in the gardens (with some optional activities to help you explore). We then gather again for a story and a prayer. We come from a Christian tradition so these are often Bible stories related to the time of year. We finish about 12:30 - though some of us bring packed lunches and stay a bit longer.

If you want to find out more then just turn up (meet on the grass next to the café and toilets), or contact Michelle or myself.

Reuben

Why I wanted to help Ukraine



Ava recently held an after-church sale of tie-dyed items and baking, made with the help of her mum, Corinne and gran, Annette. Well done, Ava and family!

Ava says:

I wanted to help Ukraine because they have nothing - no homes, no food, no drinks, no books or toys and no medical

things and we have everything that we can imagine and more and are lucky to have what we have.

I decided to do tie-dye things because it's creative and I enjoy making them and Gran's shortbread is yummy and everyone likes it so I thought these things would raise a lot of money. We raised just over £200 in only a few hours - thank you to everyone.

Please help the people of Ukraine by giving them money for food, clothes and water and if you can, you could let them stay in your house, like I want to. War is not good for anyone. I hope it stops soon and I wish the people there love.

From Ava aged 8

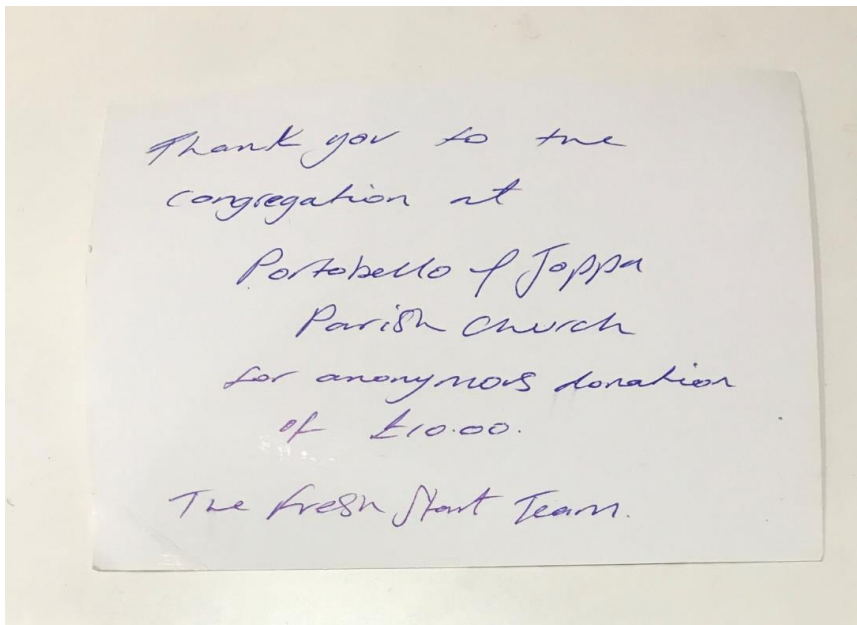
From Corinne:

Can Ava just say a huge 'Thank you ' to everyone who bought something from her Ukraine stall? It raised a whopping sum in just a few hours, which will go direct to DEC Ukraine and will help to make a real difference.

Recycling group news

Fresh Start

From Fresh Start has come a thank you for donations of very welcome goods and for the cash donation.



PJPC recycling group

Please collect, and hand in to the church, the following items for recycling:

- Used stamps and very old postcards
- Milk bottle tops
- Pens
- Soft lenses and packaging
- Blister packs
- Toothpaste tubes
- Toothbrushes

Stop press

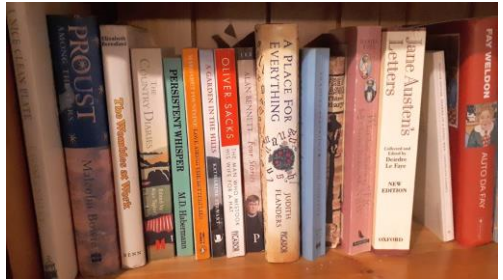
Along with contact lens materials, the Recycling Group will also recycle prescription spectacles. They go to a different place but we have that under control. Maybe you have some, tucked away somewhere????

Kay

Book group – Brave New World

by Aldous Huxley

Many book club members recalled reading *Brave New World* when they were much younger. This book was a blast from the past. While many remembered it as an exciting read when first published, now in the early 21st century many aspects of the novel were seen as quite frightening.



In some ways the book was quite prophetic and comparisons were made with some current world regimes where suppressive leaderships exercise absolute control of the message and influence mass population beliefs.

Brave New World was the vision of a world where chemical and genetic manipulation removed from most of the population the freedom of thought action and belief that we enjoy (or endure) today. Were Huxley's writings influenced by his knowledge of the Bolshevik Revolution, by the emphasis that was placed on the importance of absolute education or by what he saw in the advances that were currently being made in science?

Written within a specific time period when “things” were vastly different, the book comes over as extremely misogynistic and describes a world where all is programmed and controlled. Except - some characters still manage to convey free thought. Enter ‘The Savage’ and Linda his mother, curiosities from a different world outside life on the reservation. One is steeped in the works of Shakespeare and the other is someone never seen before in this Brave New World: an old person. The New World was unable to deal with this intrusion into its realm of ‘normality’. High morals, free thought, sound reasoning, decision-making and freedom of speech were all exhibited by the “savage” and made him an object of interest- so much so that he took what he saw as the only way out. He felt isolated following the death of his mother.

Helicopters, locked-up Bibles, eugenics, the horror of growing old and the problems with dynastic continuity all created topics of conversation for the group. A good read for many different reasons.

The next book: Isobel Allende's *Long Petal of the Sea*, for our meeting at the end of May.

Book for the end of July: Andrew Greig's *At the Loch of the Green Corrie*.

All welcome. Happy reading.

George

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

Spring, it is said, moves north at a speed equivalent to walking pace. The clocks have sprung forward and already there are bright, fresh green leaves unfurling and clothing winter's bare branches.



Most of the daffodils will have finished flowering now but will need to be left alone if they are to flower well again next spring. It is important to leave the foliage untouched until at least 6 weeks after flowering is finished. This is because as the leaves die back all the nutrients they contained are passed downwards into the new bulbs, so increasing their stored reserves and energy for next season.

Camellias will have finished flowering now too and as late spring moves into summer, the plants can be given a light prune to keep them in good shape and order. Once pruning is done, give the plants a thorough soaking and apply some sulphate of potash fertilizer to help encourage the formation of the new flower

buds for next spring. It is during summer that the buds for next year are initiated and formed. Forward planning is so important in both gardening and life.

In the cold glasshouse, many seeds of frost-tender plants have been sown - runner beans, French beans, pumpkins and courgettes. All will be grown in the comfort of the unheated glasshouse and will remain undercover until all danger of damaging frost has passed (usually the last week in May).

Seed germination is a mysterious process where dry dormant seeds, which have been inert all winter, spring into new life when they are sown into compost supplied with a suitable temperature, water and oxygen. The seed absorbs water first. Oxygen is the catalyst that converts the seed's stored food into energy. The whole process proceeds quickly or slowly, depending on the suitability of the temperature.



A bit like life and faith, really.

Wherever you garden, enjoy your plants and space. Happy Gardening.

George

Christian Aid book sale, St Andrew's and St George's West Church on 14th May and 16th- 20th May



Items for this sale can be brought to St A's and G's from Monday 2 to Wednesday 11 May (excluding Sunday 8th) from 9am – 9pm (though 9am – 5pm on Saturday 7th). These can include: books of every kind, paintings, antiques/collectables, printed ephemera, stamps and postcards, sheet music, records/CDs/DVDs, toys/games/jigsaws.

This sale has been held annually (Covid permitting) since 1973 and has raised over £1 million for Christian Aid.



A call to prayer

***The wise listen to others.
Proverbs 12, 15.***

Positioning ourselves to receive – that makes all the difference. For example, If we say to God, “I will take action on what you show me,” this will be of more benefit than just being vaguely ... inspired. Nothing dies faster than a new idea in a closed mind.

Jesus reacted strongly to the Pharisees because they refused to receive what he had to say. Many situations, properly viewed, are opportunities, but only if we position ourselves to see them that way.

Too often, our minds are locked on one track. We’re looking for red so we don’t see blue; we’re thinking “tomorrow” and God is saying “now”.

God will speak to us through people, but unless we listen, we won’t hear what He has to say. So today, let’s position ourselves to receive.

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Brain-teaser



Victoria Day is on May 23 this year (Queen Victoria's birthday was May 24) and is a holiday. Did you know that (according to Wikipedia) it's also observed in Canada and is known in the French area as La Fete de la Reine? Its other Canadian names are May Long Weekend, May Long, May Two-Four, May Run and Firecracker Day.

I've thought of a puzzle using the first letters of the words of VICTORIA DAY. I've jumbled up the answers, separating out the vowels and the consonants. Can you work them out?

V	+ RSSEE	(lots of these in the Bible)
I	+ SRLAE	(another name for Jacob; also a country)
C	+ NAI	(Abel's brother)
T	+MTHYIO	(the recipient of two New Testament letters)
O	+RPHA	(daughter-in-law of Naomi)
R	+THU	(another daughter-in-law of Naomi)
I	+SCAA	(son of Abraham)
A	+BBA	(word for father)
D	+TRNMYEUEOO	(fifth book of the Old Testament)
A	+NTHMSE	(hymns)
Y	+HWHAE	(a form of the word Jehovah)

Alison



Getting to know you – *My name is Ann and I became a member of Portobello and Joppa Parish Church shortly after I moved to Joppa in 1977.*



My daughter was born in 1979 and shortly after that Vivienne Lamb and I started thinking about starting up a Mother and Toddler Group in the Church Hall. I would go around the Toy Libraries to get toys suitable for our age groups. It was quite successful and I am sure the mums enjoyed it as much as the children.

I enrolled Marianne in the Junior Sunday School when she was 3 or 4 and around that time I started taking a class of older children in the Sunday School. (I had previously been involved in the Sunday School from the age of 16 in Fife.)

When Mr Cook became the minister I did some of his secretarial work one morning each week – typing up the Order of Service etc.

I was on the Board for a few years.

Q. What is a favourite hymn?

A. There is a green hill far away.

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. My earliest church memory was when my mother enrolled me into the Sunday School at Auchterderran Parish Church at age 3 or 4. My mother's friend, 'Auntie Jen,' would take me (if Mum couldn't with a young baby) and she always had pan drops to suck in church.

Q What's your earliest *childhood* memory?

A. I remember the day that my brother was born. The neighbours kept me occupied the whole day. I played with newborn kittens, had lunch with one neighbour and another took photos of me playing. It was a very sunny day.

However, I didn't know at the time what was going on. My mother was having problems delivering my brother and my father had to go on his bicycle around the village to find the doctor – I believe that the doctor was one of the few people in the village who owned a car in 1952. My father found him playing cards. He explained that my mother needed him immediately and he responded quickly.

My brother arrived and I was able to see him later that afternoon.

Q. What is/was your job?

A. I left school after my O Grade exams. My parents were not wealthy so I had to go to work. I had attended a girls' school and had secretarial and bookkeeping skills. I was given an interview with Fife County Council and began working with the County Treasurer's Department.

I was allowed day release classes on a Thursday and I went to evening classes in the college in Kirkcaldy, where I did Highers in English and Secretarial Studies.

Later I became the Headteacher's Secretary at Balwearie High School in Kirkcaldy.

Once I was married I worked as Secretary to the advisers in Education in Dean Education Centre in Edinburgh and then I was Administrative

Assistant to Mr Barbour, Headteacher of St Thomas of Aquin's High School for several years.

It was only after my children were born that I was able to enrol at Napier University where I did a part-time course. I graduated with an Honours Degree in Economics and Business Studies. I then enrolled at Moray House College and began teaching in 1990 at Mary Erskine School.

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. The Church Book Club are reading Isabel Allende's The Long Petal of the Sea.

Q. How did you find lockdown?

A. Lockdown didn't seem too bad to begin with as I kept busy and made lots of masks for friends and some for the doctor's surgery. I also like craft work. I did not think it would last so long.

Q. What is your most prized possession?

A. My children and grandchildren are very important to me but I think I would be totally lost if I was unable to use my sewing machine.

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

A. I did voluntary work on the Children's Panel for 12 years. Mr Finlayson was the Reporter to the Children's Panel at the time.

When I retired from teaching I did secretarial work 2 days a week at Bethany Christian Trust for about 10 years – however that stopped when Covid struck. I also had my group on the Care Van on Saturdays on a regular basis, but I felt unable to continue with that during Covid too.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. I like weaving and I have been involved with several communal tapestries which are now hanging in Drummond School, Holyrood Palace and the latest one is in Loudon's Cafe near the High Street in Edinburgh. (This tapestry came about because a Jewish lady who survived the Second World War by coming to the UK brought her 'golden threads' with her. Her relative asked us to use them.) These threads have been woven into our tapestry designs.

I am a member of the Edinburgh Branch of Bonnetmakers. I recently attended a class in Melrose where we were shown how hats were made, and I came home with a lovely hat (which hasn't been worn yet). I also do some judging of students' work at Queen Margaret University and Heriot Watt University as we encourage students by offering a monetary prize.

Q. What is a favourite quotation?

A. *"Sewing Mends the Soul".*

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. *I used to like The Beatles and the Rolling Stones but nowadays I prefer classical music. I like the music from the film 'Out of Africa' by John Barry. I enjoy listening to Finlandia by Sibelius and I like the music in Carmen by Georges Bizet*

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

A. *I loved country dancing but couldn't attempt it now.*

I also loved eating my Father's homegrown tomatoes straight from his greenhouse.

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

A. *I am often wakened by the birds chirping.*

Q. Where would you like to be right now?

A. I might like a smaller house in Joppa

Q. What makes your heart sing?

A. I like living near the sea.



Remembering

9 April Agnes Henry of Duddingston

17 April Jack Snowdon of Joppa



LIFE AND WORK MAY 2022

General Assembly 2022



- The hidden art treasures in the Assembly Hall
- Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Iain Greenshields
- ‘No Time for Turning Back’: The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, convener of the Assembly Trustees, urges the Church to continue the journey of reform
- Assembly reports and timetable

Marks of Mission Continuing the series with the Fourth Mark of Mission: to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

A Privilege and a Joy In this month’s youth column, Jamie Sutherland reflects on his experiences after being called to the Eldership at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic

United by Hope in Times of Crisis This year’s appeal for Christian Aid Week
Plus: Prayers and Aid for Ukraine

Celebrate Digital Church The Very Rev Albert Bogle says that as in-person church resumes, it is important that local congregations continue to develop their digital footprint

East Neuk Churches John R Hume reflects on the history of some of the churches around the East Neuk of Fife

God’s Test In the latest of the series on the Lord’s Prayer, David Searle considers temptation

Buy or subscribe, in print or digital, at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe, or speak to your church’s Life and Work promoter.

The General Assembly kicks off on Saturday May 21. Visit www.lifeandwork.org for daily reports during the Assembly and a free downloadable summary of the key decisions, available the following week. There will also be full coverage in the July magazine.

MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES

June/July/August 2022

September 2022

October 2022

Sunday 22nd May 2022

Sunday 21st August 2022

Sunday 18th September 2022

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

A full-page photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange and pink, with a few wispy clouds. In the distance, a small industrial facility with two tall smokestacks is visible on the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark blue with gentle ripples. On the right side, there are some small, dark, rectangular objects floating in the water.

www.portyjoppachurch.org

Photography by Kim Kjaerside