

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

June to August 2016

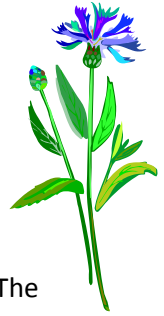


Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

Worship takes place each Sunday at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church with two services – one at 9.30am and one at 11am

From the editor

“Soundings” is being edited in rather a hurry this month because we’ve just returned from the Chelsea Flower Show. Instead of sitting in the study to put together the magazine, we’ve been wandering around in a daze of colour, admiring beautiful gardens. The show was wonderful, and spending nearly seven hours on our feet was not as exhausting as we’d expected. You don’t think so much about your feet when you’re going “Oh, look at *that!*” every few seconds.



It was hard to choose a favourite show garden, though Diarmuid Gavin’s Heath-Robinson-inspired confection with its twirling trees and levitating window boxes perhaps attracted the most attention from the onlookers. A garden with a more serious message featured doors among the flowers to draw attention to modern slavery, which often occurs behind closed doors. Its planting started with cool colours and gradually shaded into reds and oranges, perhaps to indicate the different kinds of slavery that, sadly, still exist in our supposedly civilised world.

Stewart’s letter in this edition also draws our attention to political and social issues. Then he tells us about the Biblical figures who’ll be inspiring him and Lourens (and us all) over the next months. You can read about what our BBs and Guides have been - and will be - doing, and there’s news from the Basics Bank and from Presbytery about help from churches to people in need, both here and in Nepal.

As well as our usual features, there are opportunities to act; or, if you’re very young, to toddle in aid of Barnardo’s.

Many thanks to all contributors.

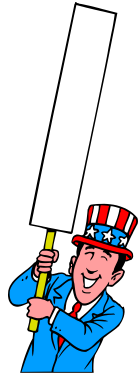
P Donaldson

From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

How about that election campaign in the US? Fascinating, eh?

And then there is our very own EU Referendum, which will take place only a few weeks after this magazine is printed, stapled and delivered. Wow!



Politics is indeed a fascinating area. Personalities, ideas, arguments, posturing: it almost seems like all of human life is there. And it affects us all.

In previous worship questionnaires and in conversations people have occasionally commented that it would be interesting to hear a bit more about my thoughts on what is happening in the world. Hmmmm. 'That about which one does not know one should not speak'. Of course I have thoughts and opinions but those which are mine, not necessarily those which can and should be articulated as a minister in the church.

What, however, can and should the (a?) Christian viewpoint be on so much that is happening these days? When political discussions can genuinely inform but also obfuscate? When statistics are utterly baffling and perhaps presented in a disingenuous manner? When personal influence and power trumps genuine concern for the common good?

I picture Jesus in the Temple, overthrowing the tables of the money changers. Mammon before God? Tradition obscuring God? A din rather than the mystery of worship? Or the observation that the New Testament would fall apart if every one of Jesus' comments regarding wealth, poverty and justice were snipped out. Or that Jesus saved his most trenchant criticisms for the religious leaders of the day.

What was the principle that grounded these criticisms? People, traditions, assumptions that prevented people from (re)establishing their relationship with God and/or denigrated their dignity as a child of God.

What vision elicited these criticisms? The Kingdom of Heaven, where the meek inherit the earth, where the outsider is the one who truly hears the voice of angels, where the Spirit works most powerfully amongst the poor, where all are humble humans before the majesty and mystery of the Creator.

The next few months will be important. It's less what I think, and perhaps less what you think, and more what Christ would think and say. Are these people truly attempting to create a society where all will flourish? Are these policies ones which Christ would condone, the same Christ who sat with sinners and outcasts and tax collectors and prostitutes, the same Christ who sat at the Passover table with the man who would betray him? Is this vision of our collective life one reminiscent of a communion table, a table of agape, or one with barriers and hurdles?

Perhaps this is only a version of the well known 'what would Jesus do?'. So be it. But, when we engage with others in love it does not mean we can't engage with our internet news, our TV's, our newspapers or our radios with a healthy dose of Christ's keen eye for all that pains God and all that builds on our common inheritance as God's children.

Stewart



Luke and David:

Our travelling companions for 2016-2017

This past year we travelled through the Gospel of John. It is a text rich in theology, symbolism, literary craft and insights into the workings of God through Christ.

We as a church have been thinking recently about hospitality. The discernment group have noted that smaller groups are important to get to know each other and deepen the faith. Hospitality is a part of that and we're hoping there will be more opportunities to meet and chat in the upcoming year.

When the Mission Resourcing Team for Presbytery came to visit recently, we mentioned this theme of hospitality. What would be a good Biblical basis? Luke-Acts was the quick response. So, Lourens and I thought that maybe we'd go with Luke first and see if that might lead into Acts further down the road.

But, remember, I did a lot of Old Testament at uni. We've not had that much lately and it is a crucial part of our tradition. What might work?

I thought about Job and Ecclesiastes: fascinating books but pretty hard going if we're hoping to create something like uplifting worship!

I then remembered reading that the story of David is the longest sustained story of one person in the Old Testament (and the Bible?). Luke is a consummate story teller too.

So, why not go with David? After all, he was such a pivotal figure in the Biblical history and memories and expectations of him inform the story of Christ.

And there we are. Two strands to follow next year. Luke and David. We all love a good story, stories tell us who we are and stories give us the material and time to pause, think and pray.

Starting at a church near you. 14 August. No tickets needed!

Stewart



Nepal “Let us build a house” project



Just before noon on Saturday 25 April, 2015 an earthquake struck Nepal. It lasted just 45 seconds but it caused devastation, changing lives forever. 45 seconds that caused over 8000 people to lose their lives and over 6 million families to lose their homes.

45 seconds is the time it would take to sing a verse of the hymn, 'Let Us Build A House'.

The World Mission Council is challenging Presbyteries and congregations to raise £500 to build a house in Nepal, as part of a three year project in partnership with the United Mission to Nepal.

Currently, the overall total for the Nepal Let Us Build A House Project stands at over £135,000, with more donations still coming in.

Edinburgh Presbytery's total to date is £17,415.65. As it was a World Mission Conveners Challenge, I send my sincere thanks to Edinburgh congregations for enabling us, as a Presbytery, to build more than one house.

J Holt
Convener of the World Mission Committee
Presbytery of Edinburgh

If you would like to find out more, go to
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/get_involved/let_us_build_a_house



Acting opportunity

Theatre Group Alba are presenting a play during the month of August.

Extras are needed who will need to learn a few lines and also a song or two.

The rehearsal dates are: July 17th 24th and 31st.
 August 7th 9th and 10th
 from 2-4pm

Performance dates: 9th to 14th, 17th to 21st and 24th to 28th August, 7.30pm to 9.30.

Contact: Charlie 01875 871279 07940498311 or Jim on 0131 661 4240.
Spread the word and make your acting debut. All ages welcome.

M Donaldson, PACT Secretary

News from CrossReach, the social work arm of the Church of Scotland

Residents of CrossReach's Cunningham House hostel for homeless people in the Cowgate have been having their sleep disturbed by late-night clubbers. Since the residents are often trying to fight drug and alcohol addiction, this has been particularly distressing. Now they have been supplied with soundproof curtains at a cost of £7000, after a magnificent fund-raising effort by the St Giles Neighbourhood Group and the problem has been solved.

Pizza boxes, cotton wool and tea lights

What do pizza boxes, cotton wool and tea lights have in common?



The answer is that they all featured in the activity programme of the 25th Edinburgh (1st Portobello) Boys' Brigade Section visit to Craggan during the Easter school holiday.

Junior

This year we returned to Edinburgh, Leith & District Battalion's outdoor centre, Craggan, on the shores of Loch Tay, Perthshire, for a 7 night stay.

The **Pizza Box** is the name given to the small 12 inch square platform at the top of the high ropes course - the boys were challenged to climb up the wood pole and see if 4 of them could balance on the pizza-box-sized platform!

Cotton wool was used as 'tinder' during a bushcraft activity - all the boys successfully lit a small, controlled fire without matches or a lighter, just a fire-steel.

Tea lights were used in paper 'prayer boats' which the boys make and set sail on Loch Tay just after sunset.

We run a varied programme of activities and on this week away we tried to offer activities which are not only enjoyable and good fun for the boys (and officers!) but challenge individuals to do something outside their comfort zone. We also did a number of activities which were about teamwork and it is interesting to see young leaders emerge within the group.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, we built shelters in the woods using only natural materials we could find, we had canoeing on the Loch, an individual 'Superboy' competition, team competitions including a tug of war, indoor games competitions, a duck race in the river, archery and swimming (at Aberfeldy swimming pool - not in the loch!)

Boys' Brigade has now finished for this session, but we start again the first week in September and are always willing to accept new members (or new volunteers, or old members visiting!)

Anchor Boys is for Primary 2&3 boys: 6.30-7.30pm on Tuesdays

Junior Section is Primary 4, 5&6 boys: 6.30-8pm on Thursdays

Company Section is for Primary 7 to S6 boys: 7.30-10pm on Fridays

J McDonald

Officer in Charge

Junior Section

25th Edinburgh Boys Brigade

www.Facebook.com/25Edinburgh

138thA Guides



The Guides have had a busy year, with four Guides completing their Baden Powell Challenge Award, the highest award they can achieve at Guides. We had a beetle drive and presentation for them on Wednesday 27th April, which was a good fun night.

We have been preparing and fundraising for our Austria 2016 trip, which takes place in July.

We haven't camped out this year but when we see the weather, we're quite glad.

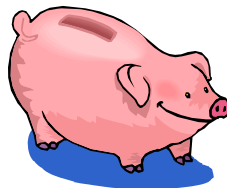
We'll finish off the term by having a barbecue - hopefully the weather will be kind to us then.

P Lee

Guider

Basics bank

My name is Zoe and I work for Edinburgh City Mission, who help the Portobello Churches Together run the Basics Bank at Wilson Memorial.



I wanted to write to thank Portobello and Joppa Parish church for their donations of money to our Basics Bank. We get wonderful donations of food, week after week, which is amazing, but the money we receive really helps as well. We know that if something is running out then we can use donations of money to buy expensive items to fill in the gaps on the shelves - often laundry powder or toiletries.

We also use money you've donated to pay for a delivery of fresh food from Cyrenians, who collect surplus food from supermarkets and sort it to be distributed to charities. It is such a blessing to be able to give out fresh food to clients and they often get a pleasant surprise when they see the fresh items.

It is such a beautiful expression of Christ's love to give food and essentials like toiletries to people who have run out and need extra support while things in their life get sorted out. Thank you for your contributions to this cause.

God bless.

More news from CrossReach

CrossReach Bluebell Perinatal Counselling provides a life-line for parents suffering from post-natal depression and anxiety. CrossReach's Bluebell runners have entered the Glasgow Women's 10-kilometre run on June 5 to raise funds for this excellent cause. Every £50 raised will fund a one-hour counselling session with crèche facilities.



116th City of Edinburgh Guides - Bellfield Street

The 116th Guide Company started in 1922 and met in what was Regent Street Church Halls. These premises then became Woolworths. With the churches going through many unions, we are now based in Bellfield Street.

Guiding has changed a lot over the years: instead of House Orderly, Laundress and Child Care badges we are now into the Environment and Computing. One thing that has not changed is enjoying the out-of-doors and this can be done in many ways but mainly at camp, acquiring skills and experiences they would not get elsewhere.

Another thing that has not changed is that we are still a girl-only organisation and this allows the girls to be themselves without having to impress the boys.

We have had many successful camps and have now been abroad quite a few times and this year we are off to Austria, where the girls will be able to take part in white-water rafting, treetop adventures, dry tobogganing, visiting the castle where *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* was filmed and going up and down the mountains in cable cars.

P Young
Guide Leader

Holiday club

Our Holiday Club takes place from 25-29 July from 9am till 12.45pm and we're looking for volunteers to help with arts and crafts, games and catering. For further information, please contact Michelle.





A call to prayer

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

“A good man ... leaves an inheritance.”

(Proverbs Ch 13 v 22)

Each life touches other lives in seen and unseen ways. We don't necessarily have to *know* somebody in order to experience the blessings of their legacy. Like walking into an empty room and catching a whiff of somebody's perfume, our influence can continue to be felt long after we're gone.

Usually we don't like to think about this because we associate legacies with dying, and we don't particularly enjoy thinking about that topic; we assume that since our legacy won't be revealed for years, we don't need to start investing now; or we feel like we've little or no control over what we leave behind anyhow.

The Bible says, “A good man ... leaves an inheritance.” So what will ours be? More important – what's it going to cost? If we just want to leave material things, that's easy. Work hard, invest wisely and build our net worth. But since the best gifts aren't always handed down in our will, why not leave something more meaningful – something that points to who we *were*?

It's one thing to measure our success by the money in our bank account, the size of our estate holdings, or the value of our stock portfolio. It's entirely another to measure it by intangibles like being a faithful, loving spouse, raising godly children, being a spiritual mentor.

All great legacies come with a price tag. To move beyond mediocrity, we must invest *every day* in the invisible accounts of those who follow us!

H McNulty,
Prayer Promoter

Barnardo's Big Toddle 2016! ***Little steps, big difference !***



The Big Toddle is the biggest and best charity event for under 5s and all the money raised helps the UK's most vulnerable children. This year's Toddle is animal-themed so your child's imagination can run wild.

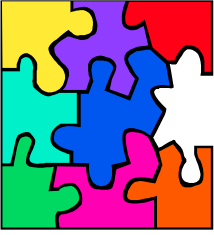
Ava (aged 2 and a bit!) and her Mummy, Corinne would like to invite any under 5s and their carer(s)/ brothers and sisters to join in our toddle after the Sunday service on **Sunday 26th June**. We will walk - 'toddle' - approx. half a mile along the prom to raise money for this worthy cause.

Venue: PJPC

Date: Sunday 26th June.

Time: 13.00 approx. – after coffee, after the Sunday Service (I suggest you should bring a packed lunch for the wee ones to eat before the toddle)

Anyone interested in participating please contact Corinne .



Brain-teaser

I've been thinking of summer – despite the weather!
Here are some anagrams of words which are commonly associated with summer time.

Only the first answer is usually written as two words – all the rest are each one word each. In case you're stuck, the answers are at the bottom of the page.

MACE RICE
DISEASE
BESTUCK
PASSED
GRAINED
WING MIMS
AXIAL TENOR
SELF ROW
DASH OILY
BARE CUBE

A Marr



ice cream, seaside, buckets, spades, reading, swimming, relaxation, flowers, holidays, barbecue.



Getting to know you...

This month's interview is with **Lilian**. Lilian was born and brought up in Glasgow and moved to Edinburgh when she married Bill. She was the eldest of 4 children, which meant she had a lot of responsibility, which goes with the job! She's always been involved in church - Sunday School including being a teacher - Bible Class - Youth Club - Guides where she was a Patrol Leader and even Company Marker when they marched to church for a monthly service. (That doesn't happen now.) In Portobello Old Parish she was Clerk to the Congregational Board for a good number of years, which also meant a big involvement. She says, "I still need church and would miss it if I was not involved."

Q What would you have done in an alternative life?

A Nothing else - I love being a wife, mother and grandmother.

Q What book would you recommend?

A "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty.

Q What's your earliest memory?

A Standing at the foot of our tenement close in Glasgow - having been put out till my sister was born upstairs.

Q What's your most prized possession?

A My grandchildren - if you can call them a possession.

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

A I may look confident - but I'm not.

Q What do you do to cheer yourself up?

A Something practical, like one of my hobbies.

Q What luxury would you take with you to a desert island?

A I would take my lipstick.

Q Where would you go in a time machine?

A Two generations into the future to see what is in store for my grandchildren.

Q Do you have a favourite quotation?

A "What's for you won't go by you."

Q What kind of music do you like?

A All kinds of piano music.

Q What do you miss about being a child?

A I miss my siblings - family is everything.

Q What gets you up in the morning?

A All the things I intend to do but somehow haven't done yet.



(Lilian and Bill recently celebrated a very big wedding anniversary – many congratulations and good wishes.)



A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Life and Work – in the June edition



“I see the BB as my ‘ministry’” Interview with Bill Stephenson, Scottish leader of the Boys’ Brigade

Freedom to S’up The spoon invented by a Church of Scotland elder, which is transforming mealtimes for people with disabilities

General Assembly 2016 Another four pages rounding up reports to the assembly

Oxford’s Secret The work of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies

A Fragile Democracy The role of a Church of Scotland partner in rebuilding peace in Sri Lanka

The Sound of Silence Hannah Mary Goodlad describes the lessons drawn from working with deaf children among the impoverished in Tanzania

The Legacy of Today’s Church of Scotland The Rev Alastair Duncan considers what the Church of tomorrow might receive from the Church of today

Somme Commemoration How an Edinburgh church will be a key part of this summer’s ceremonies marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme

Do You Hear What I Hear? A new service for the deaf and hard of hearing from a Motherwell church

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

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MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES

September	Sunday 21 st August 2016
October	Sunday 18 th September 2016
November	Sunday 23 rd October 2016

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www.portyjoppachurch.org

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

