

# Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish  
Church Magazine

September 2021



# *Portobello and Joppa Parish Church*

## ***From the editor***

These are worrying times for the world. In our family, we've been fortunate to have a small visiting granddaughter to take our mind off things. At 3, she's just at that "Why?" stage.



"What's dat plant called?"

"It's a clematis."

"Why?"

"Umm... I don't really know."

"Why you not know?"

I've just looked it up and it's from the Ancient Greek "clématis" meaning "a climbing plant", so the answer is simpler than you might think – if a bit unspecific. If only everything in life were that straightforward.

As he often does, Stewart asks lots of questions in his letter which make us think hard about much more difficult ideas. We have news from Michael about the easing of Covid restrictions and about National Giving Day and information from David about our accounts. Jamie keeps us up-to-date with Junior Drama news, while two of our young people from Breakfast Club tell us about a climate change meeting they went to. It's always so good to hear from younger members of the congregation - very well done, girls.

Shirley shares another interesting memory from the West Bank and we find out what the musical Telfords would take to a desert island. Sandy wonders about coincidences (or *were* they?) he experienced in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral; we have (slightly old) news of the BBs' summer camp – in 1937; also wise gardening words from George and a contribution from Alison. As usual, thanks to all who take the trouble to write something for us.

**Pam**



## ***From the minister***

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

What *is* the point of the church in today's world?

Many of you will have heard my recent musings of the challenges facing the Church of Scotland these days. In Edinburgh alone we will be losing about 30 ministerial posts over the next few years.

As I write this epistle, Kabul has just fallen after a lightning quick campaign by those opposed to the government in Afghanistan. There are wildfires in California, Turkey and Greece. Heart breaking violence in our own country. And challenges abound as we begin to taste a bit more freedom. Mental and physical health concerns are prominent.

Things have always changed and there have always been challenges. Nothing new, even if recent events seem so threatening.

How do we respond?

The answer, one might suggest, is Christ. There is continuity and stability in a life of love and grace grounded in God. We respond by following his teachings and imitating his life insofar as possible. There is a lot to that.

But I wonder if we could go a bit deeper.

'What are you looking for?' As I've mentioned before (and repeated *ad nauseum!*), these are the first words uttered by Jesus in the Gospel of John. These words are formed into a question (not a command, story, parable, prayer or teaching) and they are pointed, sharp and direct.

In these times, what *are* you looking for?

Peace? Health and healing for the planet, for its inhabitants? Stability and reassurance? Healthy relationships and connections?

And, if you asked a family member or a friend, what would they say?

Acceptance? Friendship and fellowship? Understanding? Purpose and value?

So, what *is* the point of the church?

Perhaps the point of the church is simply to ask people, ‘what are you looking for?’ And then taking the time and patience and care and kindness to listen and engage openly in an in-depth dialogue.

Deep down, don’t most of us want much the same? Faith, hope and love?

Maybe the purpose of the church is simply to ask a question. But not any question: Christ’s question, a question that led 12 disciples to realms they never imagined, a question that released a worldwide movement that has brought healing and hope, a question that has and will—if you let it—change your life irrevocably. And that will help change the world.

What *are* you looking for?

**Stewart**

## ***Easing of Covid Restrictions***

As the country moves beyond level 0, in line with guidance from the Scottish Government and 121, PJPC will continue to ease the restrictions on the use of the church buildings. We will do so in a series of stages with regular checkpoints throughout August and September. A key concern will be to ensure that we continue to retain appropriate health and safety measures to mitigate risks to worshippers, staff and all users of our buildings. So over the next few weeks we

will gradually increase the capacity in the sanctuary for worship, while maintaining 1m physical distancing. Singing is now allowed but we will continue to wear a face covering while indoors. We're still working through the practicalities of being able to provide tea and coffee after a service or event but hope to do so very soon.

During this transitional period, we will continue to host Zoom services for those of you who are unable to attend in person for whatever reason.

**Michael**

## ***National Giving Day***



The national church is encouraging all congregations to collectively acknowledge the challenges that everyone has faced during the Coronavirus pandemic and to provide an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many blessings that we continue to enjoy.

This will take the format of a “National Giving Day” – to be held throughout September and October 2021 – in which individual congregations will be invited to raise funds for a specific purpose which is relevant to them.

The event will be advertised on social media and websites.

Any funds raised by congregations as part of this event will be exempt from future assessments of Ministry and Mission contributions.

PJPC intends to participate in this event - the aim of which will be to raise funds towards the installation in the PJPC Sanctuary of livestreaming connectivity. This will enable worship and other events to be enjoyed by persons who participate online as well as in person.

A Just Giving page will be set up for this initiative and will be open throughout September and October.

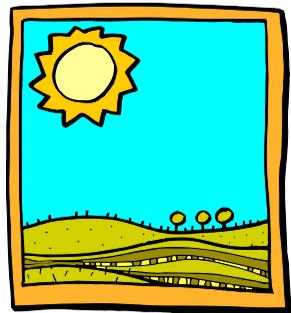
Please look out for more detail in Stewart's weekly newsletters or contact Anne at the church office.

**Michael**

## ***Breakfast Club news***

Hello, we are Mairead and Katie from Breakfast Club.

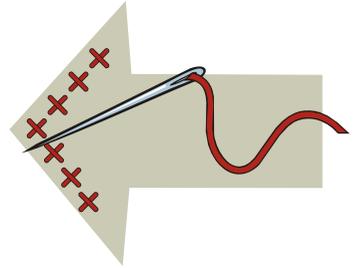
We are 12 years old and we would like to update you about a Cop 26 climate change meeting we went to on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June this summer. This meeting was about what we can do for our church community in terms of helping us reuse, recycle and contribute to our community outside of the church.



There was a wide variety of people and ages at the summit and they came from all around Scotland. Many of them had things to share about what they had done and what they plan on doing. From the meeting we have a few ideas that we would like to implement in the church and we are excited to show you all soon. We are expecting to have another meeting about Cop 26 in the next few weeks about how our church will be involved in this climate summit.

That's all for now, thank you for reading and we will hope to keep you updated.

## ***The women from Idna***



During our 2007 trip to Israel and Palestine, led by a former minister of the Scots Kirk in Jerusalem, Ian and I with 20 or so others in our group visited Idna. The village of Idna in the West Bank is the home of 50 women who, because it was so hard to find work, had formed an Embroidery Co-op. Cross-stitch is a traditional craft which has been practised by women and girls there for many hundreds of years. The embroidered panels, stitched in the women's homes, are made up into spectacle cases, purses, shopping bags and clothes by 5 women in the group's workshop. The Jerusalem Church of Scotland had helped by paying for English lessons for the leaders and had provided them with a computer and computer training.

The embroidered work can be bought in Hadeel, a Fair Trade shop at 123 George St. Hadeel aims to provide a source of income for crafts people working with social enterprises

After our visit, a lunch of chicken, nuts, rice and salads was provided by one of the Co-op organisers. She lived in a typical Palestinian house. The parents' house was on the ground floor and as is the custom, since the family's son was to be married the following June, another floor was being added on top. We sat on mattresses and cushions laid around the walls of a partly built room, with the pleasant breeze through the unglazed windows keeping us cool. Such an enjoyable visit.

**Shirley**

## ***Junior Drama Update***

Hi everyone!  
We hope you are all keeping well and are enjoying the Portobello sunshine we are having just now.



Junior Drama would just like to say “Congratulations” to Mishia, Lourens and Sophia on their new addition, Hannah, to their family.

We are currently on a wee break from Zoom just now but we hope to return as a group in early September to finish our movie, “12 Angry Pigs”. Charlotte and I also hope to have a games night on the beach with the JD young ones before returning to JD rehearsals after the September weekend if all goes well.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Take care.

I’d also like to say that it was great working with three Junior Drama young people at the Brunton Hall Theatre Production by Tommie Travers of “Matilda”.

Robbie played the amazing Miss Trunchbull - so good and so funny. Sophia and her sister Emily, also from Junior Drama, gave a fantastic performance also.

Well done to you all.

**Jamie**

## Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

### Accounts For the Period To 31 July 2021

	<u>2021(£)</u>	<u>2020(£)</u>
<b>Congregational Fund</b>		
Income	117,106	116,503
Expenditure	<u>(119,213)</u>	<u>(134,938)</u>
Net Expenditure	(2,107)	(18,435)
Drawdown From General Trustees	<u>13,181</u>	<u>16,433</u>
Income after drawdown	<u><u>11,074</u></u>	<u><u>(2,002)</u></u>
Legacies Received	<u>6,332</u>	<u>0</u>

All Legacies are invested with the Church of Scotland Investors Trust.

### **Fabric Fund**

Income	17,168	17,730
Expenditure	<u>(3,085)</u>	<u>(15,431)</u>
Net Income	14,083	2,299
Drawdown From General Trustees	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Income	<u><u>14,083</u></u>	<u><u>2,299</u></u>

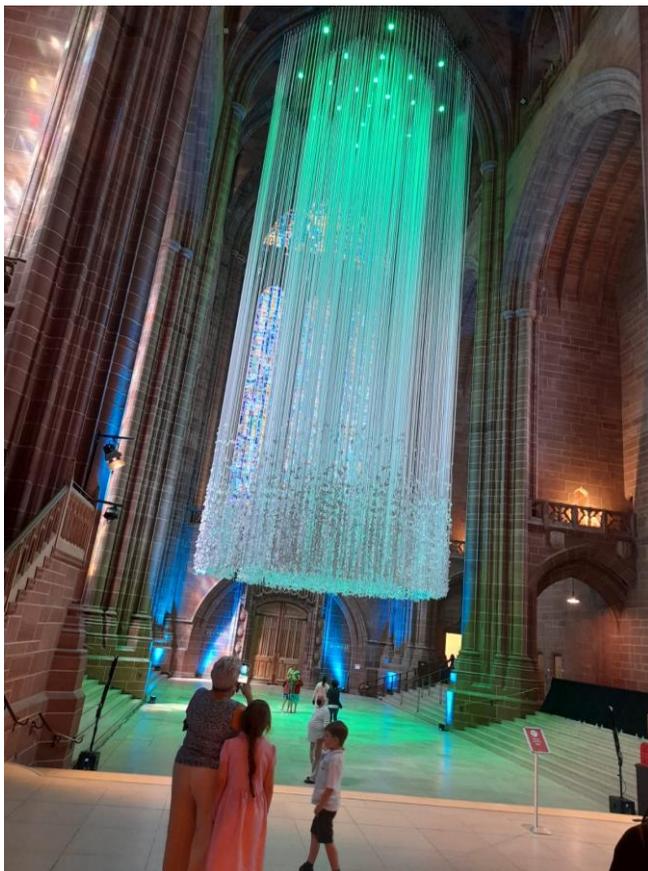
### **Ministry & Mission**

Ministry & Mission Allocation	128,812	146,482
Stipend Fund Allowance	<u>(14,374)</u>	<u>(27,475)</u>
<b>Net payable by Congregational Fund</b>	<u><u>114,438</u></u>	<u><u>119,007</u></u>

**David**  
**Treasurer**

## ***Liverpool Anglican Cathedral***

Recently my wife Susan and I visited Liverpool. No visit to Liverpool is complete without visiting the two magnificent cathedrals. Arguably the more famous is the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral completed in 1960. However, I have a preference for the magnificent Liverpool Anglican Cathedral which, although started in 1904, was not completed until 1978. They are both 20<sup>th</sup> century structures.



The Anglican cathedral is Britain's largest religious building and is, therefore, ideal for large artworks within its huge internal space. I had been before three years ago to hear the British Cathedrals Choirs singing together, a phenomenal experience. Chance had brought me back with Susan earlier than I expected.

This summer the theme of the art is the "Peace doves". It comprises more than one exhibit. The first which immediately hits the visitor on entry is a huge circle of vertical white ribbons, hanging from the very high rafters. It has a light in the centre which

changes colour over time as it shines down. On the ribbons there are attached 18.000 paper white doves, many of which carry a peace message from contributors from the Liverpool community. Standing under this looking up is a profoundly moving experience.

There are other smaller exhibits of doves around.





The other major part comprises the white outline of a dove on the floor. Nearby is a table on which there are many hundreds of buttons. Visitors are invited to select a button and place it within the dove outline on the floor. The choice of button should be in memory of a dear loved one who has passed. Although it mentions COVID, it is not exclusively a Covid memorial.

Three days before our visit, I had lost my older brother, an ex-seafarer of the Merchant Navy like myself. There, to my amazement was one brass uniform button with the MN insignia on it, shining bright in the light from the stained glass west window. I was completely moved. I could not see any other service button on the table.

My wife Susan found a brown button similar to that worn on her father's overall as he drove his bakers van in the sixties and seventies serving the small farms in the Gala Water. Another remarkable find.

Another lady came with her blue coloured button. Visibly moved, she expressed she had no religious belief but was in shock as her button meant a lot to her very obviously.

The colours from the window changed with the light, it was a very thought-provoking moment.

Of course, it was all complete coincidence! Wasn't it? Well... .

## **Sandy**

*A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. He was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"*

*He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate."*

.....

*A minister prided himself on his spontaneity. He told a friend that he could preach on any subject at a moment's notice. So the friend challenged him to do so and said he would put a piece of paper with the required subject in the pulpit just before the service. When sermon time came, the minister found the slip of paper. It said, "Indigestion".*

*Opening the Bible, the minister said, "My text today is Exodus, chapter 34: 'And Moses took the tablets and went up into the mountain.'"*

## ***Found in an old newspaper***

**From *The Edinburgh Citizen and Portobello Advertiser*, Friday July 23, 1937  
25<sup>th</sup> Company Annual Camp**

This year the Company departed from their habit of camping in the Border district. A site about four miles from Stirling on the Sauchieburn estate of Lady Ramsay-Steel-Maitland was secured, and the advance party, arriving there on the evening of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July, commenced to pitch camp.

On waking on Saturday morning it was discovered that no one had a watch in working order, but on being assured by the wag of the party that the “quarter to seven crow” had just flown past, everybody turned out and started work.

After about two hours, a passing countryman gave us the correct time – 6.50 am.

The main party, including boys of the 30<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Companies, arrived by ‘bus and found dinner awaiting them. There were 36 officers and boys in camp and everybody enjoyed roaming about the countryside.

Through the kindness of Mr Davidson, the factor of the estate, a pond at the Howieton Fish Hatchery was cleaned out and given to the Company for use as a bathing pool. The boys appreciated this very much and made good use of the pond.

Wednesday was, as usual, visitors’ day, and two bus loads of parents and friends arrived to spend the day at the camp. The Company sports were held in the afternoon with the following results.

100 Yards, 12-14 – 1, Private T Kay; 2, Private Wm Abbott

100 Yards, 14-15 – 1, Corporal Denholm; 2, Private McAlpine

100 Yards 16-17 – 1, Sergeant McAlpine; 2, Sergeant W Chalmers

Relay Race – Sergeant McAlpine, Corporal Kerr, Private Foy

220 Yards, Juniors – Private W Abbott

Quarter Mile, Seniors – Sergeant McAlpine

Wheelbarrow Race – Private Anderson, Sergeant McAlpine  
Place Kick, Juniors – Private T Greig; Seniors – Sergeant McAlpine  
Swimming, Juniors – 1, Private Grey, 2, Private Abbott; Seniors – 1 Sergeant  
Black; 2, Sergeant Fergus

The prizes were presented by Mrs Campbell and vote of thanks proposed by the  
Chaplain, Rev John E Adam.

On Thursday afternoon the Company paid visits to Stirling Castle and to the  
Wallace Monument, from which a splendid view was obtained.

Saturday arrived too soon and camp was struck with regret. All ranks benefited  
by their holiday and it is evident that a week's camp is too short; it might be  
possible in the future to extend the period.

The Company is indebted to those people who by gifts etc helped in the running  
of the camp.

*How much of this seems familiar to current BBs? Getting up far too early?  
Swimming in a fish hatchery? And does anyone remember the athletic McAlpine  
family?*





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

By the time you read this summer will be fading into autumn, the farmers will have completed most of their grain harvest, we will be looking forward to some greater personal freedoms and who knows what the 'Weather Gods' will have served up to us?

The past summer was very dry up until the middle of August, when the thunderstorms and heavy downpours started and brought some welcome moisture as they drenched the garden and allotment.

Many of my early allotment vegetables have been harvested, broad, French and runner beans have supplied the kitchen and kept the wolf from the door and – when the grandchildren have left some – we have also enjoyed garden peas. While the dry weather meant that I had to keep watering some of the crops in order to help them develop, the extra warmth and drier conditions have gifted me with one of the best crops of onions that I have ever had. As they say, “every cloud has its silver lining”. The raspberries and redcurrants have been fruitful this year and Gill has been busy converting the picked fruit into jams and jellies for the stall at Portobello Market, where they are sold in aid of Church Funds and to support the Cockle Bay Community Project in West Africa.



As we move into autumn it is time to start planning for next spring. Soon the garden centres will be stocking their shelves with spring bulbs and bedding, all set out to tempt us to buy. There is nothing like the sight of the bright blooms of spring to bring a smile to faces. Why not buy a few and plant up some tubs, pots and garden areas so that come the dull days of February and March there will be some cheerful flowers to brighten up the days?

Something worth trying in deep pots or tubs is the layered planting of bulbs. Often referred to as 'lasagne planting', it involves planting different bulbs at different depths. Using a peat-free general purpose compost, partially fill the container until the compost is about 300mm (1ft) from the top, plant a layer of miniature daffodils such as Tete a Tete and cover them with a layer of compost until only the noses of the bulbs are visible. Next, plant a layer of dwarf early tulips (I have used Pinocchio in the past) spacing the bulbs so that they sit in between the daffodil bulbs, and once again cover with a shallow layer of compost. The final layer can either be dwarf Iris or crocus or, if you wish to be adventurous, a mixture of both. Cover the last layer of bulbs with compost, making sure that you leave a good 25mm between the top of the compost and the top of the pot or tub. Cover the compost with a thin layer of gravel, water it well, sit it outside in a sheltered spot and wait for the magic to happen.

Happy pottering, stay safe and enjoy your garden, patio and pots.

**George**





## **A call to prayer**

*“The things we can’t see now will last forever.”  
2 Corinthians 4,18.*

We enjoy the *blessings* of change, but not the *process* of change. We’re creatures of habit. We form our habits and our habits form us. Then we start to see things exclusively from our own perspective. And when that happens – we stagnate. The truth is that without change there is no growth. When you have the right attitude, all experiences – positive or negative – becomes an opportunity for progress.

Trees need more than sunshine to produce fruit. Rainy seasons are productive too and are necessary for the harvest to succeed. You don’t have to *like* rain; you just have to understand its purpose and benefits.

The Bible says that every day “The Lord... makes us more and more like him... We are changed into His glorious image”. (2 Corinthians 3,18) But to become like Jesus, you must follow where he leads. One you grasp this, you’ll stop fearing and resisting the changes taking place in your life and start seeing God at work in them.

Paul says: “Even though on the outside it... looks like things are falling apart... on the inside... God is making new life... The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.”

© 2016: This devotional is produced by United Christian Broadcaster, free of charge through the generosity of our supporters. As a gift to the body of Christ, permission is given to Churches and Christian organisations to copy up to a maximum of 52 daily excerpts per year. Excerpts must acknowledge The Word for Today as the source, give the UCB address (see below) and inform that free issues of the daily devotional are available for the UK and Republic of Ireland - Westport Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4JF

## Brain-teaser



This month I'm focusing on the phrase "19,15,14,7,19 15,6 16,18,1,9,19,5" – which is how "Songs of Praise" comes out if you number the letters in alphabetical order, with a=1, b=2, etc.

See if you can work out what these well-known hymns are, from their first lines.

- a) 1,12,12 20,8,9,14,7,19 2,18,9,7,8,20 1,14,4  
2,5,1,21,20,9,6,21,12
- b) 20,8,5 12,15,18,4's 13,25 19,8,5,16,8,5,18,4
- c) 20,8,5 7,15,4 15,6 1,2,18,1,8,1,13 16,18,1,9,19,5
- d) 3,15,13,5 8,15,12,25 7,8,15,19,20 15,21,18 8,5,1,18,20,19  
9,14,19,16,9,18,5
- e) 25,15,21,18 8,1,14,4 15 7,15,4 8,1,19 7,21,9,4,5,4

- a) All things bright and beautiful
- b) The Lord's my shepherd
- c) The God of Abraham praise
- d) Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire
- e) Your hand, O God, has guided

Answers

Alison



## ***Getting to know you – Alex and Jane***

Hi, my name is Alex. I attend PJPC, and I usually help with the holiday club. I work for Bethany Christian Trust, with homeless people. I was an elder at Castlemilk church in Glasgow before I moved to Edinburgh.



I'm Jane. We've been coming to PJPC since we moved to Morton Street just after we got married. Hannah and Sam, our kids, have particularly loved the drama club at the church and have performed for a number of years in both junior and the adult drama shows.

### **Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?**

A. Alex: *As the deer pants for the water. Lovely words*

Jane: *I love that one too. We sang it at our wedding.*

### **Q. What is an early church memory?**

A. Alex: *Easter eggs*

Jane: *Being proud to be the angel that carried the star in the nativity and getting to stand there for ages with Mary and Joseph in the stable when the other angels went away!*

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

A. Alex: *Having to use the outside toilet.*

Jane: *Playing hide and seek in our street and hiding for such a long time that everyone had forgotten about me and gone home.*

### **Q. In an alternative life, what job would you have chosen?**

A. Alex: *Successful writer.*

Jane: *A newspaper journalist.*

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

A. Alex: *Troubled Blood by Robert Galbraith.*

Jane: *The Bastard of Istanbul by Elif Shafak.*

**Q. How did you find lockdown?**

A. Alex: *Quite ok to begin with.*

Jane: *Home schooling was stressful at times, and Alex had to go into hospital in January and it was very hard not being able to visit him. But there were lots of surprising upsides: spending more time as a family, getting into sea swimming at Portobello beach, working from home and getting to work more closely with my London colleagues by Zoom, leading a less hectic schedule and keeping things simpler and more local were all good.*

**Q. What are you longing to do once lockdown is completely over?**

A. Alex: *Go see live music.*

Jane: *See my sister and her kids who live in Norway, and hug my dad.*

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

A. Alex: *Wedding ring.*

Jane: *Well, what can I say to that! It is my prize possession too. But I also love my piano.*



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

A. Alex: *I am a published author.*

Jane: *I have had fewer birthdays than my daughter (who is 13) and next year Sam, my son, will have had more birthdays than me. (I am a leap year baby!).*

**Q. What luxury would you take to a desert island?**

A. Alex: *Record player and discs.*

Jane: *An accordion. And teach myself how to play it.*

**Q. What do you do to relax?**

A. Alex: *Read.*

Jane: *Read, cook, play the piano, yoga.*

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

A. Alex: *To the beginning of time.*

Jane: *I would like to go just back to the 1960s to see what all my parents, uncles and aunts were up to and what they were wearing!*

**Q. What is a favourite quotation?**

A. Alex: *Here's tae us, wha's like us?*

Jane: *Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing. (Arundhati Roy)*

**Q. What kind of music do you listen to?**

A. Alex: *Rock, reggae, soul.*

Jane: *usually whatever Alex has put on, or Hannah playing the guitar!*

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

A. Alex: *Freedom.*

Jane: *All the free time I had, and freedom from housework (apart from the odd chore).*

**Q. How would you like to be remembered?**

A. Alex: *As a nice guy.*

Jane: *I don't really care – I'll be dead!*

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

A. Alex: *Bin men.*

Jane: *Well, usually practical stuff: getting the kids to school, getting to work. But yoga on Zoom has got me up 3 times a week since the start of the pandemic too.*

**Q. What makes your heart sing?**

A. Alex: *Other people singing.*

Jane: *A crisp, blue-skied autumn morning.*



## ***LIFE AND WORK SEPTEMBER 2021***



**Cash After Coronavirus** With many facing financial stress either during or following the lockdown, Jackie Macadam finds out how the church can help.

**Honouring Frankie** Author Michaela Foster-Marsh tells of life growing up with her adopted brother, and how she founded a charity in his memory.

**Rewilding the Church** Steve Aisthorpe reflects on a timely and challenging metaphor.

**A Crucial Connection** In this month's youth column, choral scholar Jack Harris looks at the relationship between music and faith.

**Augustinian Reflections** In the continuing series celebrating 50 years of the Church of Scotland SRT, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison considers the thoughts and writing of Augustine on faith and science.

**Flexibility and Creativity** The Moderator says the Church will have to hold on to the spirit of the last few months as it faces the challenge of reform.

**'Keep Silence and Listen'** Ruth Harvey considers the importance of listening, demonstrated by the early Christians in Acts 15.

**Online** Visit [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for news and exclusive features, including Coronavirus Diaries from Church of Scotland mission partners across the world. You can also find us at [facebook.com/lifeandwork](https://www.facebook.com/lifeandwork) or on Twitter [@cofslifeandwork](https://twitter.com/cofslifeandwork)

Subscribe online from £12, or download a digital copy for £1.99; return the form in the magazine or speak to your church's Life and Work coordinator.

## ***Remembering***

25 June	Anita Kutsch of Joppa
26 July	Douglas Horn of Portobello
5 Aug	Margaret Smith of Musselburgh
7 August	Kenneth Milne of Portobello



If you or another member of the congregation have a special birthday or anniversary coming up and would like to share news of this, or if you would like to share a tribute to a member who has died, please feel free to contact the editor with your contribution.

## **Wedding**

**3 July** Calum Turner and Caroline of Portobello

## ***Magazine/Diary Deadlines***

October 2021	Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
November 2021	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
December 2021/ January 2022	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2021

***Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728***

[www.portyjoppachurch.org](http://www.portyjoppachurch.org)

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

