

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine
September 2022



Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

From the editor

It's been a busy summer in our house – particularly, a busy August. We never had fewer than four visitors staying and at one point had seven – two of them under five. Of the seven, the five adults were hardly any trouble at all, but the two nearly-five-year-olds – though very cute and delighted to play with one another – made their presence felt. The visiting small boy introduced our little granddaughter (at least, *we're* blaming him) to the fun game of hiding things. For example, yesterday I found a brooch under the fluff-catcher inside our tumble drier. No one has confessed but we have our suspicions.



Still, I think they felt welcome in our house, just as we want children to feel welcome in church – as explained by Michael in his article on worship and the plans for future services. Stewart gives us his thoughts, as well as telling us about the Presbytery Plan and its impact (not least on him).

In this edition of *Soundings* you can also read about the BBs trip to Denmark and what Michelle feels about toffee and ballet. You might like to consider helping with the Toddler Group or joining the Coffee Club. Shirley tells us what can happen when you go out to buy a loaf, and George muses on soft fruit and the Book Club's latest book.

Thanks as usual to the regular faithful contributors; any articles on subjects of interest and relevance are always welcome.

Pam



From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

What does a Sunday morning mean to you?

For some, it is a chance to head off to church, gather for some time together in worship and then catch up for a chat afterwards.

For many in our community and our world these days, it's a day marked by a different rhythm and routine. Perhaps things are a bit slower and there is a chance to have a proper cup of coffee and maybe a chance to do something different with the family.

And for many, there are still tasks and responsibilities, especially for those who must work on a Sunday.

As with so much in life these days, there is a range of what people do on Sundays and a range of preferences.

Which is one reason we have been experimenting with our Sunday mornings.

Experience has suggested that, even although midweek gatherings are important in many churches, and indeed midweek worship, Sunday morning is in many respects still set aside, at least notionally, for church and worship.

So, how to create an environment and atmosphere that speaks into the needs of people?

The Rolling Cafe that has been offered has been well received. People seem to appreciate immensely the chance to sit and chat and catch up over the course of



a Sunday morning. People can wander in and out, whether after dropping their children off or perhaps preparing for the next service. Recently, a couple of people who attended the 9.30 service were only seen leaving the church at 11.30, having had a right proper natter! Sometimes it's reassuring to hear a few chords and strands of music as our musicians begin thinking about their upcoming contributions. How fortunate we are at PJPC to have so many people willing to organise, lead and volunteer. A huge thank you to all of them.

If the Rolling Cafe has been so well received, so too have some aspects of our experiment in worship times and approaches. Quiet and reflective, interactive and intergenerational, traditional, blended have all been offered over the last few months. Much has been good and yet concerns or disappointments have been expressed too.

Faith is indeed personal. But it is also social, collective and public. A private faith that doesn't manifest itself in the task and privilege of healing the world is one that perhaps could benefit from a wider horizon. A public or collective contribution to changing the world, or indeed a private determination to change the world, is so often granted perspective and wisdom when grounded on God's everlasting love.

Thus, we have tried to consider so much that is personal and collective as we have experimented.
These are important.

But, ultimately, our worship is our collective gathering to raise up songs and prayers and readings of praise, lament, weariness, joy, frustration to God and, in turn to open ourselves to the healing love of Christ.

We are all but human and in our humanity there is so much that is unique and different, and there is so much too that is unified through the workings of the Spirit of grace.

Within this magazine are some further thoughts and reflections on worship and there will be some information on our worship patterns.

Much time, effort, conversation and prayer has gone into these deliberations. Many people have been involved. Some aspects may strike you as sensible and others as perplexing.

In the midst of our attempts to respond lovingly and graciously to a world ever in flux, perhaps the key question is not 'What do I like?' or 'What has aye been done?' The key questions, it seems, are these: what is God asking of us? what will help to build up the kingdom of heaven? what form of worship and pattern of Sunday morning will draw more people—all people—into the economy of God's grace?

It's actually not about us.

It's about God and God's intent to bring healing into the world through Christ's love. And we are grateful to be a small part of God's wider and eternal endeavour.

Stewart



Presbytery Planning and the local minister

Many of you are aware that the Church of Scotland is in the midst of a nationwide effort to think through carefully the manner in which it can engage in mission. A focus on mission and the setting of priorities is crucial: the resources that once were available are no longer available. There will soon be a drastic shortfall in ordained ministers. Members of congregations are mostly older and less able to engage in activities, initiatives and mission than once they were. Numbers within most—but not all—congregations are dropping. And, even although givings have held up remarkably well, there are financial issues.

As part of this process, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian are in the midst of creating a plan that will think through the manner in which to engage in mission with 65.5 nationally funded posts. That's a 40% cut from 10 years ago. 40%. That's a lot.

Because the union here in Portobello and Joppa went relatively well, even if not always easy or straightforward, I was asked by the Presbytery to oversee the creation and the implementation of the Presbytery Plan for Edinburgh and West Lothian. So I am currently convening a team of 19 people comprised of ministers, session clerks and elders. This team have spent countless hours (actually, I've counted mine: they are vast) and have visited all 96 (96!) congregations in the presbytery in order to gauge responses to the first round of proposals. Some congregations have been pleased with the ideas set forth, seeing possibilities in working with their neighbouring congregations. Others less so.

This team are now in the midst of gathering all of this information and data in order to make the next round of proposals. And a plan needs to be agreed by 31 Dec. 2022. Not a lot of time.

So, why do I write this?

Many of you will have noticed that I have been less in evidence these last few months. Perhaps this past year.

That is an inevitability when, in essence, holding two jobs simultaneously. The hours have been long and difficult: there are few congregations that will willingly opt to work with fewer paid posts or let go of their buildings or release their cherished traditions. Conversations are delicate, emotional and fraught. Or, even if I am around, there may be a certain amount of distraction.

How grateful I am, therefore, to all of those who have pitched in. They are too numerous to name, for I am sure that I would leave someone deserving out of the list... and all of those who have helped that little bit more deserve a mention. How grateful we should all be to those who have stepped up to the plate and given of their time and talents.

For, in a sense, this is the future of the churches in Edinburgh, West Lothian and Scotland.

There will be fewer ordained ministers overseeing more congregations. There will be a need for greater self-sufficiency and utilising the gifts of all the people of God, not just those who happen to be ordained.

As I mentioned a number of times when I first began, ministers in the Church of Scotland are, in essence, simply the preaching Elders and the Moderators of Session. Otherwise, it's over to the Elders and the people in the congregation.

How wonderfully well so many in the church have pitched in.

How grateful I am, and all of us, for their gifts.

Stewart



Why we have experimented with worship – and what's next?

For the last year, we have been trying new things with our worship as we gradually returned from online worship. One of these experiments was to plan and lead a new service style – interactive/informal/intergenerational worship. This decision came because of a year and half of working with **Growing Young** and beginning to implement the principles learned in the process as well as following on from listening to our young people to hear more what they are looking for in church.

It is a challenge to strike a balance of worship whereby each generation can find some point of connection in the worship to come close to God. However, developing worship that included all children and young people throughout the full service was trialled because this substantial change meant that the children of our church got the unspoken lesson of welcome. They were treasured and encouraged to be part of the worshipping community throughout our full time in church and through this, they enriched our worship as adults with their insights and their joy. When we worship together – every generation is blessed. Some adults moved to the intergenerational worshipping time for this very reason.

As we planned across the Sunday morning for **Rolling Church**, we wondered if this full experience of being church could further nourish and encourage the faith of our congregation to sustain us from Sunday to Sunday and to drive us to bring our faith into our community more. All this further developing the key principles of Growing Young – to be *Christ Centred – sharing Jesus' Message*; to be *Good Neighbours* and *Build Warm Relationships* whereby *Empathy for each generation* could be nurtured.

Rolling Church has been trialled since January 2022. We took soundings again after Easter. The response has been mixed. There are things which are working

well, some that need more work, and some changes that have been hard when our worship and our church family are so personal.

Responding to concerns over dividing the congregation, we then tried for the summer to blend informal/interactive/intergenerational with the traditional 11am worship, offering this integrated service at 10.30am during July and August. This in turn provided great challenges for the ministry and worship teams. The informal service and traditional service styles do not mix easily. It has proven difficult to plan worship which engages all ages and worship styles every week. We are still learning how to best do this and reflecting on if it is possible as it does require everyone to be open to change and to be hospitable and welcoming to each other in worship, which is hard when our worship is so personal. As summer is rapidly ending, we are taking time now to discern next steps in worship.

The ministry and worship teams have met to review the worship options offered pre-pandemic; together with the Rolling Sunday “three services” experiment; and the most recent experience of running two services over the summer months. After much discussion, we believe going back to **three services** is the way forward, with some changes to timing to give more space in between worship for the ministry team and musicians to prepare for the next service.

The Kirk Session was due to meet on 25 August to determine the worship options and times from September through to December 2022. Please keep an eye out on what’s been agreed!

Thank you for sharing this continuing journey of discovery with us.

PJPC Worship & Growing Young Teams



Worship – please see insert for times

Sun. 4 September

Sun. 11 September

Sun. 18 September: Sacrament of Baptism at the later service

Sat. 24 September: Messy Church

Sun. 25 September

Sat. 1 October: Muddy Church at Duddingston Kirk

Sun. 2 October: Sacrament of Baptism

Sun. 9 October

Coffee club

The Coffee Club recommences on Monday 5th September in the MAIN Hall from 10am till 11.30am.

Please note the extended time to allow for extra conversation and some people to arrive slightly later!

Everyone is welcome whether young or elderly and there will be a warm welcome guaranteed along with coffee, tea and home baking.

Looking forward to seeing past members and, hopefully, some new members.

Pat Joan



Boys' Brigade at FDF Landslejr

The Company Section of the Boys' Brigade recently returned from camp in Denmark. 17 boys and 4 leaders flew to Billund on July 3rd before taking a bus to Beder, just outside the city of Aarhus, where our hosts at FDF Beder-Malling have their Group House. We spent a few days based here, taking in the sights of Aarhus including *Den Gamle By* (The Old Town), *Moesgaard Museum* and the beach at *Moesgaard Strand*.



We then travelled with FDF Beder-Malling and FDF Solbjerg to the *Landslejr* (National Camp) at Lake Julsø, with around 10,000 other participants from Denmark and 400 participants from as nearby as Kirkliston and as far away as the USA and Nepal. Our first day or two was spent building our camp from wooden logs, rope, and tarpaulins, to provide somewhere to cook, eat, relax, and sleep. The rest of our 10 days at Landslejr were all about being courageous: meeting new people, exploring new places and trying out new games and activities. We visited the water park at the camp, swam in the lake, took on the high ropes course and zip line, tried out fire breathing, and learned

and played many new games. We even ran a Highland Games – and taught a Strip the Willow, which proved to be very popular!

Each night we came together – sometimes with the local groups camping around us, and on some nights with all 10,000 camp participants – to share in music and song, sketches and shows, and worship.



At the end of our time at Landslejr we returned to Beder, and spent our last couple of days relaxing, visiting the ARoS art museum, and hosting a BBQ, before we had to fly back home on July 17th.

Next year, we plan to welcome visitors from our FDF host groups to Scotland for a joint summer camp, and hope to return to Denmark for the next Landslejr in 2026.

Angus

Officer, Company Section

Helping with the Friday Toddlers Group?

The Portobello and Joppa Toddlers' group has been meeting in the church halls during term-time for around 40 years. It has been run by a team of parents, changing leadership every couple of years as the children move on to primary school. Play sessions run on Friday mornings from 9:45am to 11:15am in the church main hall. A rota of parents and carers help with set up, tidy up and snack prep.

In addition to the parent helpers, a couple of church volunteers also volunteer twice a month in the kitchen to help with washing and putting away dishes and emptying the bins. This is done on a rota and the only commitment required is to attend regularly once a fortnight on pre-determined dates for less than an hour and only during term-time. This little bit of help is crucial to the parent volunteers as it frees them up to tidy away the toys whilst also looking after their own small children who are still in the hall.

Looking ahead to the 2022-2023 school year, the toddler group is looking for some extra people from the church to volunteer in the kitchen from the end of August to fill a gap in the rota. If sufficient people volunteer, it may be possible for the commitment to be monthly rather than fortnightly.

If you are available and you could help this valuable ministry, please contact me.

Michelle

Fifty minutes

Shirley went to buy some bread last winter and met a variety of people. She says, "Our Church's desire to become more relevant to the community reminded me about that interesting walk."



One day in the week before Christmas I left our overheated house and braved the chill of East Coast Portobello to buy bread.

During the next 50 minutes all of life was revealed. The first person I met was Frances. She told me about her 21-year-old daughter newly embarked on a drama course in Southend. In spite of Covid she loves being a student, sharing digs and meeting interesting people. A few steps further on Mahmood's wife was begging outside the mini market. She had given birth to her 7th child 4 weeks ago and crowned with a sparkly Christmas wreath was back sitting on the street again. She smiled her lovely smile and asked for Papa (Ian) and once more hoped he no longer needed me to give him injections in his tummy. I put money in her paper cup. I bought the loaf and the next stop was the cross, to inspect the Christmas Tree. Sadly most of its needles had already fallen, although Christmas was still 5 days away - a sign of our cash-strapped Council? Perhaps the Traffic Warden peering at a number plate nearby was desperately trying to help the Council to balance its books. Shortly after, I met and chatted with Isobel who was looking so much more relaxed now that her new hip didn't need the support of a walking stick. She told me about her plans for Christmas, I told her ours. We wished each other a happy time and on I went down to the sea. Running with abandon along the top of the sea wall was a 4-year-old, completely without fear even when she stumbled, jumping down then up again at the breaks in the wall

and all the while shouting backwards over her shoulder to her mother who was trying to keep up with her. I admired and marvelled at her coordination and couldn't help saying to her mother that her wee girl would do something really special one day in the future. I dropped off a couple of cards in John St. and John St. Lane and on the way home along Portobello High St., I passed a woman in floaty black clothes pushing her trolley and calling out nonsensical words and phrases. An older man walked towards me, hand in hand with a very very old lady, 100 years old? His mother probably. He smiled and I smiled. Round the corner and when I was nearly home I met a near neighbour, Gavin. His father had passed away a month or two before and he is now on his own. Because I had been out for so much longer than I had meant, I had to say to Gavin that Ian was waiting for me but that I would come to his door with a card and would hear his news in the next day or so. Home with my loaf.

And yes, I had seen perhaps not all of life, but a rich rich tapestry.

Shirley

All variety of created objects which represent order and life in the universe could happen only by the wilful reasoning of its original Creator, whom I call the 'Lord God.'

Isaac Newton

Instead of drifting along like a leaf in a river, understand who you are and how you come across to people and what kind of impact you have on the people around you and the community and the world around you, so that when you go out, you can feel you've made a positive difference.

Jane Fonda

PJPC Bookclub July 2022



Muriel Spark - *Memento Mori*

An interesting book lauded by many well-known authors for its literary excellence and its humour, it was not one that was universally enjoyed by the group.

While there was humour in the first chapters, as the book progressed it diminished. This was a book written in a different time and about a particular class of people, upper-class folks with housemaids and cooks, but all visited and haunted by phone calls announcing their eventual and inevitable death. Death came to each of the 'victims' at different times, sometimes gentle, occasionally violent, often sudden and random.

The description of the hospital ward (Nightingale Ward) was very accurate and remembered by those in the group that had nursed during that era. It was interesting also to note how, when one is in a hospital bed, one's world shrinks to the beds either side and the one opposite. The actions of the nurses are closely observed and those of the supervising Matron more so.

The characters in the book were well developed if occasionally a bit unbelievable, their behaviour often interestingly odd – such as the collection of extensive trivial data on personal emotions and behaviour by one of the characters, only for it to be lost in a fire. Is all we do and all we see as important indeed not so, and likely to be lost forever at the moment of death?

The narrative was well written but (we felt) to what purpose? The book raised lots of discussion: Heaven, hell, death and judgement.

In the end, nobody thought the book was worth recommending or one that they would buy.

Our next book for the end of September is 'At the Loch of the Green Corrie' by Andrew Greig – hopefully a much more pleasant read. For the end of November we will read John Boyne's *Ladder to the Sky*.

New members welcome – contact George Anderson or Ian Orr.

George

News from CrossReach

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

Being made redundant is no joke, but what if it led you to a career in 'wonderfully new territory'?



Robin, a stand-up comedian who is now a support worker with CrossReach learning disability service Threshold Edinburgh, has found just that.

Originally from the north of Scotland, Robin, tired of overnight Mega Bus trips to get him to gigs, saved up enough money to move to Edinburgh. Robin built on his stand-up comedy career, supporting acts such as Frankie Boyle and Kevin Bridges, and took a job in a vape shop to supplement his income. In 2019 he was offered a debut solo show at The Stand comedy club. Fast forward to March 2020, everything went to pot! The pandemic hit, the vape shop went into liquidation and Robin found himself redundant and doing comedy sets via Zoom: “The power the audience has over Zoom to mute a comedian is heartbreaking!”

Out of work, Robin applied for a variety of jobs, including positions he had no experience in. This included social care. With friends and family members who worked in the sector, Robin had always looked up to them and admired them for being ‘out there helping other people.’ When successful in applying for the position of support worker at Threshold Edinburgh, Robin said that it was: “Lovely and daunting! I didn’t really know what it meant and had nothing to gauge it against. When I started you got to shadow people and you work with people who work in groups or 2:1, which is really helpful.”

Having previously used a CrossReach service for personal matters, Robin felt that it was a ‘weird full circle’ to be applying to come and work for the organisation. He had been so impressed with his own experience of CrossReach, that he’d even put links up at the end of one of his Glasgow gigs to encourage people to donate to the ‘overly lovely’ service.

Robin describes his role as a support worker as: “A really inspirational job. All the young people that go to Threshold Edinburgh are really inspirational young adults. It’s fascinating, they have a reckless adventure for joy and there’s something really admirable about that. Every day is just enjoyable.”

Not that starting a new and exciting career doesn’t bring any challenges: “Every day is different and initially that was a completely new thing for me. At the end of my first shift it was quite daunting working with someone with really complex needs. I came home a bit shell shocked. But everyone is lovely and really helpful, and they realised I didn’t know anything.”

With a supportive team and personalised training, Robin is looking forward to doing his SVQ 3 and gaining as many qualifications as he can. “Now I just want to do what I need to do, to make whoever I am supporting’s day as fun as possible. I like going to work every day. My own selfish goal is to make someone laugh on a daily basis. If I can get someone with complex needs to laugh, especially if they’re non-verbal, it’s a glorious achievement for my day.”

Robin still keeps his hand in around the comedy circuit and will be appearing in The Stand comedy club later this year, but for now, Robin meets each new day as it comes and when asked what he would say to anyone considering a career in care: “The people you work with are the kindest people in the world. You learn what you’re good at. Just go for it, think about treating others as you would want to be treated and stay peaceful and positive! You find out quite quickly if you can do it. It’s very vocational. You’ll last an hour or stay for years. Just try it!”

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

I have always thought that this gardening lark was more an act of faith than one where the humble gardener has control. Dry, inert and apparently dead seeds are dropped into soil or compost, watered and nurtured in the hope that soon green shoots will appear. Then, lavished with love and encouraged and assisted by the ‘magic’ of photosynthesis, sweet and nutritious crops will emerge. We all need to believe!!



What a hot dry summer we have experienced in 2022. The last time temperatures were as high was back in 1976 when if my memory serves me right we also 'enjoyed' a sudden snowfall on the second of June. Perhaps my memory is wrong but I am assured that somebody out there will put me right.

Gardening has been more testing this past summer what with water shortages, low rainfall and lawns that assumed the colour of a well-fired digestive biscuit rather than a lush green. Grasses however are very resilient plants and after even extreme drought quickly recover and don their cloak of bright green with the welcome return of rain.



Not all plants have recovered as well. Some of the vegetables on my allotment 'bolted' / 'ran to seed' faster than usual. New sown lettuce seeds refused to germinate and grow until the temperatures started to drop to somewhere closer to normal. The crops of potatoes have been lighter this year because it has been so dry. However, some plants have revelled in the sunshine. French and runner beans have really enjoyed the long hot summer and have managed to produce some very good crops of flavoursome pods. So too the sweetcorn, pumpkins and squashes, sunflowers, dahlias and tomatoes.

The soft fruit harvest has been better this season because with no appreciable rainfall there have been fewer losses due to fungal moulds. In 'normal' summers, the rains invariably start just as the first fruits are ripening and a good percentage of the fruit is lost to the ubiquitous grey mould fungus.

Raspberries, blackberries, blackcurrants and redcurrants have performed well this summer and those that have not already been converted to jams and jellies fill the freezer shelves. The apple crop also appears to be up to standard once again and as I write, the variety 'Beauty of Bath' has produced its first ripe fruits. The conditions at flowering time must have been ideal for pollination.



We give thanks for our harvest of fruits, flowers, roots and shoots. There is no food we eat that does not originate from plants.

There is some work planned for the grounds and gardens over the autumn period. Many of the plants in the borders to the front and west of the Church have reached a point where they need to be brought back into a more manageable condition. Some serious pruning, plant removal and replanting is planned. Some plants will be removed, others pruned back and the occasional new one added. Time to reassess and refresh. With our continuing and gradual emergence from the restrictions of Covid and a return to 'normal service' I would hope that foliage from the newly refurbished borders will make an appearance in the floral arrangements planned for our church services as we move forward in faith.

Happy Gardening.

George

A call to prayer

*“Your faith will help me and
my faith will help you.
(Romans 1, 12)*

A family, or a group of close friends, is a support system. No single person has it all, but together people can grow, thrive and withstand the

storms of life – like trees in a forest, protecting one another. “Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head of the body. Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly, as it grows and becomes strong because of love.” (Ephesians 4, 15-16.)

Some of us have trouble with this concept – we feel we’re independent. But we all have need of at least three things – encouragement, sympathy and grace.

Encouragement – we do well if we feel that others believe in us – even Paul wrote that “Onesiphorus often cheered me up and wasn’t ashamed of me when I was put in jail”. (2 Timothy 1, 15-17.)

Sympathy – we all need to be understood – often not “fixed”, just listened to.

Grace – What motivates us to extend grace to others? God’s grace to us. Let us pray to receive it and to give it to those whom we meet.



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Getting to know you –Michelle. I have 2 children: Beki is a Special Needs teacher and lives in Lancashire, Noel is an electronic engineer with the Royal Mail and lives in Edinburgh. I have been a member at PJPC for about 6 years now, previously a member at St. Martin's.

I cook for Breakfast Club – I apologise for the tempting smells that emanate from the kitchen. I am also a member of the Feast of Life Choir, which is the best fun, with a fantastic group of people. I am a Sunday door steward and often do the Bible readings too.

Q. What is a favourite hymn, and why?

A. My Jesus My Saviour by Darlene Zschech because it is so worshipful. It speaks about our Lord being our comfort and our Saviour but also reminds us that He is with us throughout our lives. "All of my days I want to praise the wonder of your mighty love."

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. Being in Sunday School before I even went to school. Mrs Skedd was my Sunday School teacher. I could even sing you the song we sang as we put our pennies into the offering bag.

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

A. My grandad taking my brother and me to the shops to buy toffee. We weren't allowed toffee! My mum wasn't amused but that toffee tasted so good. I think I was 3.

Q. What is your job, and in an alternative life, what job would you have chosen?

A. I am a primary school teacher and I love it. In an alternative life I would love to have been talented enough to be a musical theatre performer.

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. I discovered a new author during the summer holidays at an author event at my local library. Her name is Lyn Anderson and her crime books are set in Scotland. I like books that are set in places I know. Actually I like most books and I read everywhere.

Q. How did you find lockdown?

A. I discovered that I am more sociable than I thought. Although it was nice spending more time with my husband and son, I missed my friends, colleagues and most importantly my choir buddies. Teaching was so much harder but my ICT skills are so much better now.

Q. What are you longing to do once Covid is no longer a problem?

A. Not catch Covid. I have had it twice now and been pretty ill both times.

Q. What is your most prized possession?

A. As children are not a possession it has to be Smudge, our cat. Smudge, however, would say that I was his possession - he is definitely our lord and master.

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

A. I really enjoy going to see Speedway. We are big fans of the Edinburgh Monarchs and have even been to the British leg of the Speedway Grand Prix.

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

A. An endless supply of books.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. I read.



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

A. Ooh, good question. I'd like to pop back about 15 years with a current photo of my children to show my mum. She adored them.

Q. What is a favourite quotation?

A. "I know God won't give me anything I can't handle, I just wish he didn't trust me as much". (Mother Theresa)

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. Musicals, ABBA, Mellow Magic radio, anything we are currently learning at choir.

Q. What do you miss about being a child?

A. Going to ballet class. I loved it!

Q. How would you like to be remembered?

A. I would like people to smile when they remember me.

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

A. My class. 28 little smiling faces that walk through my classroom door each morning.

Q. Where would you like to be right now?

A. In bed. The first week of term is exhausting!

Q. What makes your heart sing?

A. Love.



LIFE AND WORK September 2022



Support and Dignity The work of the Italian refugee charity behind last winter's 'Operation Orange'

'God is Good to Us Wherever We Are' Jackie Macadam learns about Anna Mackinnon's upbringing on Lewis, and her work to preserve the island's Gaelic language and heritage

Green Shoots The Rev Muriel Pearson reflects on the new life for one congregation which took a radical decision

A Source of Comfort Nathan Hood argues that the Church has historically faced, and overcome, similar problems to those it is facing now

Love and Unity The Very Rev Albert Bogle argues that a spirit of generosity is the key to renewal in the Church of Scotland

Supporting the Agricultural Community Celebrating the 125th anniversary of RSABI, a charity with major links to the Church

'Back to Normal' In this month's youth column, Kirsty Hamilton describes how the Ukraine crisis has spurred her church into action

Faith in Action Official monthly update from the Faith Action team

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Remembering

15 April	John (Ian) Fallon of Joppa
17 April	Jack Snowdon of Joppa
3 May	Agnes Henry
28 June	Robert Brown of Joppa
2 July	Freda Henderson of Joppa
18 July	Ken Fenton of Lauder Lodge
12 Aug.	Isabel Gordon of Portobello
21 Aug.	Mary Wilson of Queen's Bay Lodge



Wedding

16 July Sarah and Tom of Craigentenny

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.

Magazine/Diary Deadlines

October 2022	Sunday 18 th September 2022
November 2022	Sunday 23 rd October 2022
December 2022/January 2023	Sunday 20 th November 2022

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

www.portyjoppachurch.org

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

