

Soundings

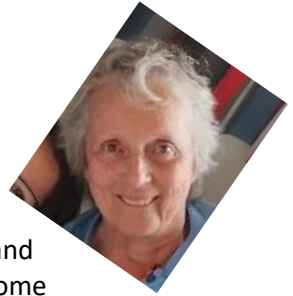
Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

April 2024



Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

From the editor



In his letter to us, Stewart thinks about silence as a response to the horrors going on in the world. This makes perfect sense, though being silent isn't one of my talents; and as any teacher or ex-teacher will tell you, it sadly doesn't come naturally to many pupils in the classroom, either. I well remember, as a student teacher, trying to impart some gem of wisdom to a second-year class at Porty High. I was doing all right till a girl suddenly declared loudly, "Miss, ah've goat sair taes." It took me a few seconds to realise that her problem was that her toes hurt; due probably to the fashionable platform soles that she was wearing. (Remember them?) The relevance to my lesson? Hmm.

I do find gardening to be meditative, though, and am happy to be silent, finding solace in the plants and the fresh air. Michelle describes Muddy Church, now coming to its natural end, as "a ministry of outreach and a space to connect to God", which I can well believe. George probably finds the same in his Sunny Joppa garden and allotment; and you can read about these in "Soundings" this month. You can also learn about Messy Church – which in our congregation is now 15 years old – and the Breakfast Club's Easter vigil.

Also in this edition, Michael gives a report on the church's Annual Stated Meeting. You're invited to various events: the Guild's coffee morning on April 6 and their meetings on April 8 and 22; Rob Halligan's concert on April 13; and Junior Drama's production on May 9. Michelle asks for volunteers to help with Holiday Club.

And there are the usual features - in one of which you can find out who's seen a pink elephant.

Pam

From the minister



Dear Friends and Neighbours,

*Look around you; can you see?
Times are troubled, people grieve.
See the violence, feel the hardness;
all my people, weep with me.*

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison

These were some of the words that were sung, very much as a chant, at the Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service on the Monday evening of Holy Week. It took place at St. John the Evangelist Church on Brighton Place.

The sanctuary was darkened for a majority of the service and there were connections made between the suffering of Jesus as portrayed in the stations of the cross and the suffering experienced by people in Gaza and Ukraine and in other areas of the world. The reflections and prayers were composed by Muriel Pearson, a Church of Scotland minister in St. Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberius, Galilee. There was a prayer too composed by Sheila Weinberg, a Rabbi in Amherst, Massachusetts.

After the service, there was some conversation with people who attend a weekly Stillness Service at Duddingston Kirk. It takes place on Wednesday mornings at 10am and it includes 20 minutes of silence, initiated with a short reading and prayer and ending with a prayer. It is a gathering of people from many congregations who appreciate the silence, quiet and stillness.

In the midst of so much chaos, turmoil and confusion in the world, the centring of a chant, the quiet of a darkened sanctuary or the conscious decision to rest in silence is not just response but preparation.

That is, we can, of course, sit quietly on our own and read passages from the Bible or pray silently. In such moments, our openness to God so often meets God's openness to us.

But there was something about chanting a simple but profound and heartfelt set of words with others. There was something about sharing with others the importance of silence and stillness. There was something about setting such considerations in a context of a world that almost seems to have gone out of kilter.

What was that something?

Can words or images adequately describe what's going on in Gaza or Ukraine? How far they must fall short of the visceral experiences of those who live there. And let's not forget about Sudan: a recent UN report warned that 18 million people face acute food insecurity and there are 6.5 million displaced people, many of whom have been a part of a conflict that involves 'mass graves...rapes, shockingly indiscriminate attacks in densely populated areas.' How does one even begin to envisage that calamity?

Perhaps silence is based on humility.

Our words are not enough. Our imaginations fail us. Our human plans and ideas are insufficient. Our human heart is too complex to understand. We are simply overwhelmed.

We need each other at times like this. But we need each other in a manner deeper and more profound than the social media bling or the coffee cup chatter or the earnest conversations of Things That Should Be Done (usually by someone else).

Perhaps the most profound form of communal communication and intra-communication is silence.

It is a collective expression of humility. It is a group's willingness to say: we need your help, God. Speak to us, talk to us, touch us, heal us, strengthen us, support us.

And perhaps the first step of a response is and should be a simple collective chant that arises from depths of the souls: a recognition of all that is around us and perhaps all that is within us.

And such a simple chant is saturated and infused with humility: Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

We are but human.

So, please God, please help us in these turbulent times.

Stewart

Rob Halligan in concert – 13 April, 7pm, PJPC

We've welcomed Rob before and he sings some terrific music.

His songs are heartfelt and honest, articulating his faith and his hope, and these especially as formed by the loss of his father when the World Trade Centers were destroyed on 11 September 2001. Here are the details:

Date: Saturday 13 April

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Portobello and Joppa Parish Church (EH15 2DL)

Tickets: £5 – order from Stewart

And check out his website:

<https://robhalligan.co.uk/video/>



Worship



Sun. 7 April	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 14 April	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 21 April	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sat. 27 April	3.30pm	Messy Church in Main Hall
Sun. 28 April	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 5 May	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 12 May	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 19 May (Pentecost)	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional

Annual Stated Meeting

This year's Annual Stated Meeting (ASM) was held on Sunday 24 March immediately after the 11.15am worship service. There was a good number of representatives from the congregation in attendance. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Finance Update

Adrian (Finance Convener) provided an update on some of the key financial metrics for 2023. He started by thanking David (Honorary Treasurer) and Anne (Church Administrator and Bookkeeper) for their stewardship of the church's finances.

In summary, PJPC was able to report a surplus of £20k in net income over expenditure in its Congregational Fund for the financial year ending 31 December 2023. During 2023, 75% of the total income of £240k came via congregational giving (including gift aid). The remaining income arose primarily from the interest earned on the investments held by the General Trustees for the benefit of PJPC with the balance coming from donations from other organisations who use the church complex. The bulk of the expenditure (52%) in the Congregational Fund relates to PJPC's contribution to the national church's Ministry and Mission costs.

Property Update

Jamie (Property Convener) provided an update on the 3-year plan for the church complex. His update covered regular maintenance, one-off items, energy efficiency actions and longer-term projects. He gave several examples of the work which had been undertaken during the previous 12 months. He conveyed his thanks to Derek (Church Caretaker) and Ian (Church Elder) for their contributions towards the maintenance of the church properties during the year.

Review of 2023 and a Look Forward

Stewart reflected on the events of the previous 12 months in the context of his broader work on behalf of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian in supporting other congregations implement the changes introduced by the presbytery planning process. He noted that relative to most other congregations, PJPC continues to do comparatively well. For example, PJPC's weekly attendance is the fourth highest across Presbytery and our contribution towards Ministry and Mission is the fifth highest. This is down to the generosity of our congregation and allows PJPC to have an impact on a national as well as local level.

He also referred to the decision by the Kirk Session to continue to experiment and to use its resources wisely for mission and outreach purposes. Examples were given of the investment in the AV system and in the ongoing employment of a Family Worker in support of our ministry to families and younger people. He also noted the interest expressed by other churches in PJPC's ongoing commitment to three worship services on a Sunday morning and how this, along with other initiatives such as the Café Ceilidh, is helping to attract new people into the church orbit.

He concluded his remarks by noting the need for balance – that while continuing to experiment it was important to hold onto what is important and valued by the congregation. He cited our continued efforts to offer pastoral support as one practical example of our Christian calling to love one another.

There were several questions raised by those in attendance.

Stewart thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. He re-iterated his thanks to all those who contribute so much to the life of our church community.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

You can view the whole meeting by linking to the PJPC page on YouTube – see link below:

[Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Live Stream - Service \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

A copy of the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained by contacting the church office at office@portyjoppachurch.org or telephoning 0131 657 3401.

Michael
Session Clerk

Pastoral Support

Do you know of anyone who would welcome a visit or phone call from a member of the pastoral team? If so, please contact the Session Clerk.

The PJPC website also has useful information about the pastoral support that is on offer – see link: [Pastoral Support | PJPC \(portyjoppachurch.org\)](https://www.portyjoppachurch.org/pastoral-support)

MDC

Legacies and other voluntary giving

On behalf of the Finance team, I'd like to acknowledge with our gratitude the legacies gifted from two of our former members, Rosemary Wilson and Margaret Goodall. Legacy offerings such as this play an increasingly important role in enabling the Kingdom work here in Portobello and Joppa.*

I'd also like to thank all the many groups who are part of the wider PJPC community and who made a financial contribution towards our upkeep over the past year. These include the following clubs and organisations: Probus Club; Rainbows, Brownies & Guides; Drama Group; Junior Drama Group; Parent & Toddler Group; Monday Coffee Club; Coffee Break; Messy Church and the 25th Boys Brigade company. Not forgetting the ongoing support of The Guild!

Adrian

Finance Convenor

** If you wish to find out more about how a legacy could help with the work of PJPC then please contact David Stocks (Honorary Treasurer) or myself.*

Messy Church



Our Messy Church will be 15 years old in August! It has been an incredible fifteen years of worship, messy crafts, games, music, meals, and relationships grown between each other and with God. As we head into our fifteenth year, our Messy Church volunteer team is full of young people. We currently have five teenagers who support this ministry each month – helping with crafts, AV, music and more. This is particularly wonderful as four of them have grown up with our Messy Church, including one young person who has been part of Messy Church since he was one month old! This is truly their church and our volunteer team and those who

take part are from each generation – worshipping and serving together. It is intergenerational ministry and what a gift this is for the relationships built over the fifteen years at Messy Church.

Since Christmas, we heard the story of Samson, the Parable of the Good Shepherd and we celebrated a Messy Church Easter together. On 27 April, we will hear the story of the Road to Emmaus. Towards summer, we will celebrate faith and sport with the story of Eric Liddell and lots of races as we prepare for the summer Olympics.

Messy Church meets on the last Saturday of every month here at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church, usually from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Messy Church is an informal, relaxed atmosphere where everyone is welcome (all ages, of any faith or none). There is no cost, but we put out a free will donation bowl at the door. If you would like more information, contact Michelle.

We are also on the lookout for more volunteers to help us run Messy Church. If you could help with crafts, games, storytelling, music, or welcoming people then speak with Michelle to volunteer.

Michelle

Staying Up Until Sunrise

From 10pm on Holy Saturday (30 March) until the 7am Easter morning service on the beach (31 March), our youth group and volunteers stayed up throughout the night at the 2024 Breakfast Club Easter Vigil. We were joined by Lourens until just after the midnight communion service.

As we do each year, we begin the vigil with a trip to St Andrew's Chip Shop and then after our late-night supper, the big youth group event properly begins. We have ice breaker games to welcome in the new P7s and get to know everyone taking part. Then at midnight, we go into the church for a midnight worship

service with Lourens – hearing about the last supper and Good Friday. We share communion and the peace with each other.

Then the rest of the night is full of arts and crafts projects, more games, baking Easter treats and more surprises in the hall. Meanwhile, every hour we go back into the church for a ten-minute timeout from the activities – this is time to pause, sit in the silence and then share a faith discussion about another part of the Easter story. We keep vigil through the night until Easter sunrise, reflecting each hour on the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we reach 6am, we tie together all the talks from the night as we think once more about what the Easter means to us.

Then there is a mad dash to clean up the church and main hall and set up for Easter Breakfast. We close the night by joining in with the ecumenical sunrise service at the beach at 7am. If you were there and spotted some exhausted young people around the morning campfire, then you will have spotted some of the fantastic youth group members who took part in the all-night youth event.

This year we were thankful to have one less hour to stay awake with the clocks changing in the middle of the vigil! Once again, we were blessed with wonderful young people to keep vigil with. An incredible team of volunteers gave of their time and talents and gave up their sleep to take lead as well – many thanks to Elaine, Jamie, and Michelle! Thanks as well to Lourens for leading our midnight worship. Huge thanks to Derek for preparing Easter breakfast. Happy Easter from the Breakfast Club!



Michelle



Ending Well at Muddy Church



Our Muddy Church met once a month from July 2021 – February 2024 at Duddingston Kirk Gardens. I collaborated with a Deacon from Richmond Craigmillar and a minister from Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish Church to put together this outside worship time each month. We met rain or shine, snow, or warm weather. There are many memories of gathering around a campfire for warmth as snow or sleet fell around us and other memories of gorgeous sunshine with butterflies and bees buzzing about the beautiful Dr Neil’s Gardens.

Muddy Church was a ministry of outreach and a space to connect to God, each other, and nature. It was a deliberate setting of time aside to be open to awe and wonder outside. There was often an outdoor nature activity to do, or you could just wander the gardens and spend time in nature exploring the theme of the month. We ended each Muddy Church gathering back together to share a Bible story and a time to reflect through an interactive prayer. Sometimes this was around a campfire with toasting marshmallows and enjoying hot drinks.

We started Muddy Church to gather again mid-pandemic in a safe way, outside. There was a small, but steady group of participants – volunteers

and families, who took part each month. We really valued those who made this a monthly day in the diary to attend. However, time moves on and unfortunately all the leaders have found themselves extraordinarily busy post-pandemic in ministry work, so we all needed to step away from Muddy Church. Thankfully, our three regular families were all there for our final Muddy Church on 3 February so we could end well all together at the campfire.

Though we are no longer formally meeting once a month for Muddy Church, I do encourage everyone to take some time and get outside and find space to be with God in nature. If even for just ten minutes a week. Check out www.muddychurch.co.uk for ideas and free resources that you can use for you and your family or friends.

Michelle



Deep Sea Divers - Portobello Holiday Club 2024



Our seventh Portobello Holiday Club will take place on 15-19 July 2024 from 9am to 12:30pm here at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church and at St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church. Our theme is Deep Sea Divers and we will be diving into the Gospel of Matthew with several stories about Jesus. Six local churches are working together to bring a fun filled week of games, crafts, gardening, science, bible study, music, storytelling, baking and much more for children currently in P1-P7. We have a big team of youth volunteers as well.

We are looking for volunteers for group leaders, group helpers, arts and crafts, nature, snacks, team challenges, gardening and general help. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Michelle and email portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com to be sent an online form to volunteer. New volunteers will also need two references and to complete a PVG safeguarding application.

Registration is now open for children currently in P1-P7. Email portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com to be sent an online form to register for holiday club. The cost to attend is £15 per child for the full week or £3 per day per child. If cost is prohibitive, please speak with Michelle as some funded places are available.

We would also love donations of home baking for the volunteers and donations of undersea themed decorations.

Deep Sea Divers



A
**Portobello
Summer**
holiday club
programme

Portobello Holiday Club for Primary School Children

15th - 19th July 2024

9am - 12.30pm

Portobello & Joppa Parish Church
1 Brunstane Road North, EH15 2DL

Email: portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com to register

**£15 for full
week
or
£3 per day**

St John's and St Mary Magdalene SC008540
St Mark's Episcopal SC017137
Portobello Baptist SC050925
Portobello & Joppa Parish SC011728
Central Church SC005871



GUILD NEWS



PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR

THE GUILD SPRING COFFEE MORNING

ON SATURDAY APRIL 6TH AT 10 am

when there will be home baking and a Tombola stall!

**Monday 8th April at 7pm
A WALK AROUND PORTOBELLO
In words and pictures
Jim Gilchrist**

**Monday 22nd April at 7pm
FRESH START**

Ryan Strachan will tell us about the Church charity which helps people who have been homeless get established in their new homes.

**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO JOIN US
FOR THESE INTERESTING TALKS**

Junior Drama Update

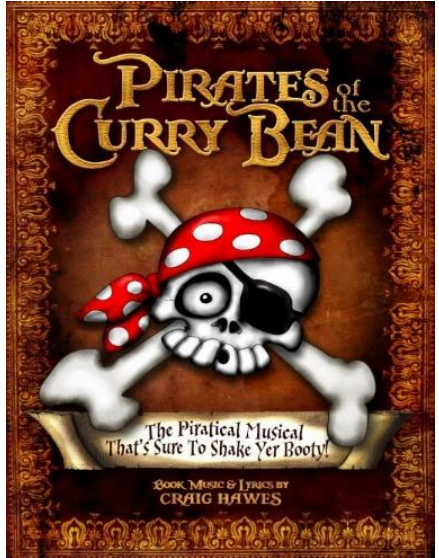
Hi everyone! I hope that you are all keeping well. Junior Drama have been very busy rehearsing for our next play, "The Pirates of the Curry Bean."

We did this show ten years ago and we thought that we should do it again with the lovely young people we have now, since we are back up to our pre-Covid numbers.

Their characters have all been given out. Most of the scenes have been covered and most of the dances have been danced at rehearsals.

What is the show is about? Narrator, Deadeye Dinghy, sets the scene with the story of the mysterious disappearance of a pirate, Captain Swaggersword, and his treasure. We then meet landlord Pearl Periwinkle and her twins Jack and Liza in the tavern. Deadeye, the children's pirate uncle, reappears – to Pearl's disappointment. She hates pirates and the sea and throws him out, but before he goes, he leaves a treasure map on the table for the children to find.

Redbeard, whose beard is pink, and his silly pirate crew of the ship "The Curry Bean" enter the tavern and hear the Periwinkle family talking about the treasure map on the island of Lumbago, in the sea of Sciatica. The pirates decide to steal the map and kidnap Pearl, as pirates do.



Jack and Liza decide to search for Redbeard (or Pinkbeard), their mum and the treasure map but need a ship to sail on. We then meet poor Captain Cod of The Crunchy Frog and the useless Admiral Horatio Hornhonker and their silly crew of sailors. We also meet the hilarious odd job men, Scuttle and Slack, who Captain Cod pressed gang into his crew and two jobsworth characters, Mr Pratt, and Mr Wally. Jack and Liza also join Captain Cod and his crew and off they sail to find the pirate ship The Curry Bean.

Very soon the captains of both ships spot each other at sea. After sending and receiving funny messages, the two ships meet, and the pirates take over the Crunchy Frog. The crew are taken prisoner and Jack, Liza and Pearl meet up again and are rescued by Scuttle and Slack. A storm begins and the Curry Bean is wrecked, and everyone is washed up on the Island of Lumbago.

After being chased by cheeky monkeys everyone eventually meets the locals Ping, Pong, Wiff and Chief Wonga who we discover, after being battered by a fish, that he is Pearl's missing husband and the children's father, the legendary pirate Swaggersword. Scuttle and Slack find the treasure chest and Redbeard attempts to steal the treasure, but his crew turn against him. They make the Periwinkles their new leaders and Redbeard is suitably punished in an unusual way. A reprise of 'Piratical Style' ends the show on a high.

The show will be performed on Thursday, 9th May 2024.

Jamie

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



The year has passed the Spring Equinox when the sun on its northern journey passes directly over the equator and when day and night are of equal length. Temperatures are slowly rising, the first of the summer migrants have arrived, and day length is increasing slowly day by day, reminding me that there is much to do in the garden.

However, beware of false prophets. Look out for the false spring when temperatures rise, growth starts and then a northerly blast of cold Arctic air dismantles all the good and causes us to look out scarves and gloves once again.



The raised planters at the gate entrance to the main hall with their display of dwarf daffodils and early purple crocus create a cheery spring welcome to the many users of the halls. The groups of double daffodils at the main church door (slightly windblown at the moment) have welcomed us on our way to Sunday services, and the tulips and daffodils in the recently refurbished raised beds outside the Centenary Hall door brighten our homeward journey as we set off home. So too the dwarf daffodils along the west wall of the Sanctuary, planted some years ago by the Sunday Stars. We are so lucky. Spring is a glorious season.

The seasonal preparations for the cycle of planting and sowing have started. At the allotment areas have been cleared and cultivated, the potatoes and broad beans have been planted, all the waste wood and apple prunings have been used to create a glorious bonfire and the structures for the garden peas and runner beans have been set out in place in anticipation of bountiful crops ahead.

“To everything there is a season” (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8) and this is the season of hope and renewal as we all look forward to Easter, warmer days and time to sit in the sunshine.

Meanwhile in the unheated glasshouse at home, the growbags for the tomatoes and aubergines have been set in place. These have been set out much earlier this year. Because of the milder winter I have been able to clear and prepare the space much sooner than in years past. The pots of daffodils outside the living room window are in full bloom now and along with the multicoloured array of hyacinths and tulips are much enjoyed.

Soon, however, it will be time to discard them and plant up the pots with summer bedding - but I will wait for a month or so yet in case we experience another false spring.

Wherever you garden in pots, plots containers or in borders around the house, enjoy your space and the warmth of the spring sunshine on your back.

Stay safe and well.
Happy gardening.

George



Brain-teaser



What do you do on Easter Monday? Praise the Lord? Enjoy the (we hope) beautiful spring sunshine? Eat chocolate? All of these?

Here are some (very varied) Eastery words. Can you find them in the word square? Some are straight across, some diagonal, some downwards.

CROSS, EGG, CRUCIFY, PILATE, CHOCOLATE, ASCENT, BUNNY, THORNS, BONNET, JESUS

C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
K	G	D	J	E	X	P	R	Q
C	R	U	C	I	F	Y	A	M
Y	R	H	B	B	W	S	S	X
T	H	O	R	N	S	O	C	O
J	B	D	S	D	Z	M	E	U
E	U	T	H	S	K	B	N	S
S	N	C	P	I	L	A	T	E
U	N	B	O	N	N	E	T	G
S	Y	T	U	M	M	S	R	G

Happy Easter

Alison



Getting to know you –

Arnot. Arnot says: *My grandparents lived in Portobello, and for a short time my mum and*



I stayed with my grandad in Regent Street before moving to Mountcastle when I was five, so I have been in and around Portobello most of my life. I went to St Martin's Church in Magdalene Drive for Sunday School and Bible Class. Bessie M Smith was my Sunday school teacher. I also attended Brownies and Guides. In 1971 our Guides went to camp at Loch an Eilein. We were camped near a Scout Company from Leith, and that's where I met my husband Brian. We were married in 1979. We have been blessed with two daughters Fiona and Jenny and two granddaughters Elsie and Abbie.

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

A. I was born in India. My father worked in the tea estates in Assam. His name is John Horn and he piped in the haggis at many of the Christian Aid Burns suppers in Old Parish Church in Bellfield Street.

Q. What's your earliest memory?

A. It's maybe not very early, c.1969, but I did get to go to a Company Christmas Party in India where there was an elephant painted pink with silver swirls, and a giant piñata shaped like a Christmas cracker filled with sawdust, sweets and maybe toys.

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. At home or out and about I would rather listen to an audiobook but saying that, I do love music of all kinds including folk, bluegrass, country, classical and blues. After all musicians are all storytellers.

Q. What is your favourite hymn, and why?

A. I was a member of Scripture Union at school and also attended Crusaders in Old Parish Church and I am always happiest singing the choruses in Youth Praise. Number 11, Lord of the cross of shame, written by Michael Saward, is a very touching hymn stating mortal man's emptiness without the love of Jesus and the joy of being forgiven when accepting Christ as Lord. Throughout my primary and secondary school days these choruses spoke to me of the love and joy of being part of the family of Christ not because of who I am but despite who I am and because of who Christ is.

Q. What is your job?

A. You will find me most days working in Portobello Library. My shifts vary so it could be in the morning, afternoon or evening and also some Saturdays. When I was in 2nd year at school our art teacher, Peter Standen, asked us to paint a portrait of ourselves in 10 or 20 years' time. I painted myself in front of books. I wanted to work in a library. It took me a while but I started working in Edinburgh University Library in 1999 until 2021 and I have been working in Portobello Library since 2021.

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. The Abominable Man: The Martin Beck Series by Maj Sjöwall & Per Wahloo, recognised as the pioneer creators of Scandi Noir.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. You might be able to guess that reading is important to me and getting lost in a story is definitely my best form of relaxation.

Q. What gets you up in the morning?

A. Going to Aqua Fit classes! Luckily there are classes in Portobello and the Royal Commonwealth Pool at 7.45/8.00/8.10 and 8.15 am so I can exercise, chat and dance in the water all before my morning shift at 9.45.

Q. What makes your heart sing?

A. Family time is my favourite time, when my daughters are singing, laughing having fun with or at my granddaughters. So you can see I am truly blessed to stay somewhere with so many old family memories, have my family nearby and enjoy a very rewarding job.

LIFE AND WORK APRIL 2024



A Blessing to the Church Churches taking on worship without a minister

Love in Action An update on the work of the charity Scottish Love in Action, which has its roots in the Church of Scotland

New Life for Church Buildings How redundant church buildings are being repurposed

Our Presbyteries Focus on the Presbytery of Clyde

View from the Pulpit The Rev Scott Rennie on the challenges and differences of ministry in London

God's Original Cathedral The Rev Roddy Hamilton says outdoor worship 'invites a whole range of new experiences'

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Alan Blair of St Columba's Church, Jersey

Youth: New elder Grant Henderson shares his journey of faith

Plus: official updates from the Assembly Trustees and Faith Action Programme, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator.

Remembering

21 Feb. 2024 Margaret Gilchrist of Edinburgh



MAGAZINE DEADLINES

May 2024

June/July/August 2024

September 2024

Sunday 21st April 2024

Sunday 19th May 2024

Sunday 18th August 2024

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

Portobello & Joppa



Parish Church

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

