

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

February 2024



From the editor



I recently saw on Facebook some advice for becoming fitter. First you take a 3kg potato bag in each hand and extend your arms to the side, holding them there for a full minute. Each day you can lengthen the time. After a couple of weeks, try it with a 5kg bag, then a 10kg bag, and ultimately you should be able to do it with a 50kg bag.

Then you can try putting a potato in each bag.

Stewart in his letter asks us to think about who we are, as a church, and why we're here. And by extension, what we want to become. Change is never easy (see above) and sometimes we make choices without really being aware that they *were* choices. (I invited a nice boy in the Youth Fellowship to my school dance in 1967 and now we've been married for over 50 years.)

At Session recently we discussed the idea of hospitality, and in this edition of "Soundings" you can read about various examples of how we're reaching out to people. Notably, we recently raised over £1300 for Mary's Meals (which the government will double). At a more local level, the Guild invite us to their café on February 6, and the Coffee Club extend a weekly invitation to a cuppa and chat on Monday mornings. Fellowship through discussion is offered by the Book Group and help is requested by the Toddler Group. And both the Drama Group (who're rehearsing "Brigadoon") and Junior Drama offer a welcome to those within and outside the congregation. There's also an invitation from St Columba's, to their "Time to Remember" afternoon.

We as a church do a lot. Our ministry team do a WHOLE lot. But can we do more?

Pam



From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Who are we as a church? Why are we here?

How do we work with others?

At a recent meeting of session these were the types of questions that were posed and briefly addressed.

A paper was provided that outlined all that we do as a congregation in terms of worship, fellowship and provision of space for community groups. It is rather humbling to see all that happens and think about all of the time and effort contributed by so many people.

This paper, whose first question is 'who are we?', was created as a result of recent discussions, especially by those on finance and fabric. As we look at our resources, how can we best use these resources to support the work of the church as it moves forward into uncertain and changing times? What is our strategy?

Another paper set out the Five Marks of Mission (see below) and then there follows a series of thoughts on the values on which cooperation with others would be based, as well as the manner in which this cooperation would be pursued.

This paper was created as a result of Presbytery proposals that PJPC work more closely with the newly united Meadowbank and Willowbrae Parish Church. It is a covenant to which we will refer when forging a future common life together.

The discussion at session raised some interesting, helpful and challenging points. To what extent are the present ideas future orientated or are they too reflective of the present? How can the buildings be more inclusive and

hospitable? To what extent are the buildings a means of communication? Who will help lead us as we work with others and what decisions will be required?

One minister once suggested that meetings are best avoided in January. People are tired after the Christmas and New Year breaks. Many are undertaking tasks that were postponed in December and thus have even more commitments and experience more pressure. Best to allow space to breathe and recharge.

This meeting suggested otherwise. New year, new start, new ideas, new approaches?

We have, in one form or another, grappled with these or similar questions before. Yet, here and now, these broad and perhaps rather esoteric questions are by necessity firmly related to concrete reality and necessary decisions. Who we are and want to be is inextricably linked to the way in which we choose to use our resources. How we want to work with others profoundly affects the choices we make, the tone we set and our frame of mind as we approach important conversations, discussions and interactions.

At the start of the session meeting, a couple of lines were read from the Church of Scotland Book of Common Order, which provides prayers and services and other resources for leading worship. These lines, which are the Final Collect for the Monday Evening Daily Devotion, are as follows:

*God of work and rest and pleasure,
may all that we do this week
be an offering of love as well as of duty.
Keep us, this day and every day,
in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I thus wonder if, in the course of 2024, and all of the discussions, conversations, proposals and decisions that are required, we could keep such a prayer or reflection in mind. We ask for God's presence. We base all that we are and do on fruits of faith: kindness, simplicity and joy.

And, with God's blessing and basing our lives on kindness, simplicity and joy, all that we do this year will be an offering of love as well as of duty.

Stewart

Stewart and Presbytery Planning

Over the past few years, I have been intimately involved with the re-shaping of the way the Church of Scotland works in Edinburgh and West Lothian.

In November of 2019 I was asked to join a Strategy Group that began to examine the best way to approach this monumental task. In essence, how was the Church of Scotland to fulfil its task of ministry and mission to the Presbytery with future cuts of 40% to ministry posts and the need to release about 20% of its buildings?

I was asked because the union of the three Church of Scotland congregations in Portobello and Joppa went relatively smoothly. It was hoped that some of the lessons learnt in this process could contribute to a much larger and more complex process. I agreed with some fear and trembling.

In September of 2021 I was asked by the Presbytery Clerk to oversee a team that would create and implement a Presbytery Mission Plan for Edinburgh and West Lothian. It would set out the steps that would be taken to ensure continuing congregational life and mission even in the midst of difficult discussions, painful decisions and limited resources. Again, I agreed: 'Here I am, Lord'?

I thus became Convener of the Deployment Committee on 15 January 2022 and began working with a team of 15 people, who in turn worked to consult, discuss and propose with 95 congregations in Edinburgh and West Lothian. The membership of these congregations totalled 25,000 people. Those

numbers and the sensitivities of the discussions perhaps suggest the magnitude of this undertaking.

A Presbytery Plan, which included proposals for 40% ministry cuts and the release of between 20-30% of the building stock, was agreed by Presbytery and the national bodies in April of 2023. Thousands of hours were expended to get it to this stage. Recent months have required similar focus in order to begin implementing the changes: unions between congregations, working with those in vacancy, overseeing the sale of buildings. Each situation is unique and deserves care, attention and grace.

The work continues.

But – why am I sharing all of this?

By necessity, taking on a task of this scale has often drawn me away from congregational life. My contributions to pastoral care, to discussions and worship are far more limited than they were in previous years. The impact is not negligible and I am aware of the ripples that have been caused.

Is it worth it?

One does sometimes wonder. It is exhausting.

Yet, we saw in Portobello how crucially important it is to listen, understand, explore and reflect. Nobody likes a diktat. But, then again, drifting is not an option: churches could well drift into oblivion. There is a middle path and I have been struck by the grace and understanding of so many people who are letting go of buildings, congregations and ministers that they love deeply and dearly. They are letting go of preconceptions of the church and the way it can and should work. Such generosity is only ever possible through honest, open and transparent engagement.

Is it worth it when it comes to PJPC?

Things have as a result changed here and things are changing here. Yet, how grateful we all can be for the many people that have agreed to step up to the plate and, in their words and actions have conveyed a faithful 'Here I am.'

People who have helped with pastoral care, people who have taken on more tasks for worship, people who are contributing to committee meetings, people who are seeing a need and a gap and contributing to the life of the church and, by extension, to the life of the community and of the world.

So, why am I sharing this?

It is perhaps a long and verbose way of saying thank you for the kindness, patience and understanding of the people in PJPC.

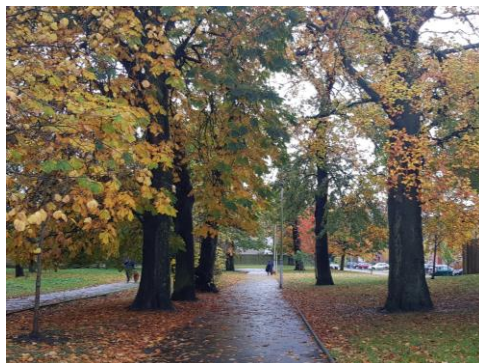
One minister suggested that, in fact, all members of the church, all of those who are baptised into the body of Christ, are the ministers. We are all called to preach, live and share the faith, hope and love that has enriched our lives. In doing this, we can enrich other lives, drawing them into the economy of God's grace, pointing the way, like John the Baptist, to the light of the world, which is Christ.

We are all learning and adjusting together. I sincerely hope that some of the insights gathered and lessons learnt in my travels helps our common life, and I sincerely hope too that those who have been so generous with their time, talents and skills know that our collective gratitude is genuine and our prayers for them deeply felt.

A long-winded explanation and a long-winded thank you.

But no less heartfelt.

Stewart



Worship

Sun. 4 Feb.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 11 Feb.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 18 Feb.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
(First Sun. of Lent)	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sat. 24 Feb.	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sun. 25 Feb.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
(Second Sun. of Lent)	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 3 Mar.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
(Third Sun. of Lent)	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional
Sun. 10 Mar.	9.30am	Quiet and reflective
(Fourth Sun. of Lent)	10.30am	Informal and interactive
	11.15am	Traditional



Thank you!

The ladies of the Flower Committee would like to thank everyone who donates, arranges or delivers the flowers each week.



The flowers are an important part of our worship, and are very much appreciated by the people who receive them after the service.

If you would like to be involved in the flower rota by donating, arranging or delivering, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Many thanks.

Margaret

THE GUILD

You are warmly invited to join us

for our

Guild Café

on

**Tuesday 6th February at 2pm in the Church
Hall**

**celebrating Shrove Tuesday
and St Valentine's Day – in advance!**





The Portobello and Joppa Toddler Group

The Portobello and Joppa Toddler group has been meeting in the Church halls during term-time for more than 40 years. We now have parents attending who themselves attended as children! The Group is run by a team of volunteer parents, grandparents and carers for the benefit of the community. The team changes composition constantly as individual circumstances change.

Open to families and carers with children (from zero to school age), we offer shared toys, a big space to play, and occasional organised activities and events. Adults can prepare a hot drink for themselves and help themselves to a sweet treat.

The group seeks to be as low impact, sustainable and ethical as possible. We try to buy only Fair Trade. We are members of Early Years Scotland and are insured through them.

We try to contribute to the local community as much as possible. At Christmas, we do a reverse Santa, in which the children give Santa toys and seasonal food items, which we then distribute to local charities and food banks. We use some of our funds to finance this. Previously, we hosted visitors from one of the local nursing homes.

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 kitchen prep.

In addition to the parent/grandparent/carer helpers, two wonderful helpers from the Church congregation also volunteer twice a month in the kitchen to help with washing and putting away dishes. 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. We also have some help from Derek in tidying up after sessions.

The model of being volunteer-run is increasingly challenging, no doubt due to the increasing demands on people's time. We have fewer stay-at-home parents and grandparents who are able to keep involved beyond a short period. The group is always looking for some extra help to keep the Group running.

There are various tasks that people can help with, whether doing the dishes, helping to set up the toys or set up the kitchen. There is also a need for help behind the scenes, with admin, finance, banking and communications.

We would also welcome help or input with interpersonal tasks. We would love to have someone available to welcome new members and show them around and answer questions. We would also be delighted if anyone would like to lead the children in an activity or craft. Children remain in the care of their own parent or carer at all times so no childcare is involved!

We would love to welcome more people from the congregation to our life-enriching, joyful sessions. We would like to build a less temporary community around our group and seek input in particular from those whose children or grandchildren have now grown up.

If you think you could help, even just occasionally, or would like to come along as a visitor to the group, please contact Michelle.



Penny tubes

Thank you to everyone who has put their small change into the penny tubes.

I have paid an amazing £356 into the fabric fund account during 2023. Pennies definitely make pounds.



Empty tubes are available in the vestibule and can be returned to the basket on the shelf above the radiator at the back of the sanctuary. Bank coin bags always welcome also.

Angela

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club is held on a Monday morning from 10 am to 11.30 am in the Church Hall. The Session begins the first Monday in September and finishes at the end of June the following year. The Coffee Club does not meet during the summer holiday months of July and August. Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and there is each week a variety of bakery items to accompany the hot drink. It gives people a chance to meet and catch up and is very enjoyable with lots of chat and laughter!

The Coffee Club started many years ago when Rev Peter Cameron was minister and he suggested that it would be good to have an opportunity for people to meet during the week. Fay Ewan and others started the Coffee Club and it is now run by Pat and Joan. All those who come along on a Monday morning are very grateful to Pat and Joan, as there is a lot of administration involved. Pat does the hall booking, catering rotas, hotel bookings/menus for the outings and most weeks sends out a news update regarding illness/hospital admissions but also good news regarding birthdays and anniversaries. Joan is the Treasurer and gives updates regarding funds, arranges the coach for the

outings and determines with Pat costs in respect of the trips, use of the hall, etc.

Three Coffee Club outings were arranged for 2023. The first in March with lunch in the County Hotel, Kelso, in June lunch at The Tinto Hotel, Symington, with a shopping opportunity in Biggar and in December Christmas Dinner at The Tontine Hotel in Peebles. This has been the destination for Christmas Dinner for a considerable number of years and always enjoyed by all involved as you can see from the photograph. The 2023 Christmas Dinner was in fact the thirtieth held by the Coffee Club although not always in Peebles. During these coach trips, there is a tub of sweets passed round the coach, sometimes overhead, sometimes sideways, sometimes goes amiss! and that's probably why Joan and Pat always ensure the sweets are wrapped. We are all looking forward to hearing the suggestions from Pat and Joan for our 2024 Coach Outings.

We all missed our Monday mornings at the Coffee Club during Covid and since re-starting the numbers have built up again with an average of around thirty each Monday and, if you decide to come along, be assured you will be warmly welcomed.

Mary



Mary's Meals fundraiser breakfast

Thanks so much to everyone who cooked, served, cleaned up and donated to our Mary's Meals fundraiser on 21 January! We raised £1,371.76 with the breakfast rolls. This donation will be doubled through the Double the Love campaign for Mary's Meals.

Many thanks!!



If you didn't have cash on the day but still want to support Mary's Meals than you can donate directly at <https://www.marysmeals.org/>

DRAMA GROUP NEWS

The Drama Group is presenting the musical

BRIGADOON

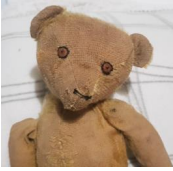
On Wednesday 13th March to Saturday 16th (matinée)

The group is having great fun, learning the lovely songs

and able to use their own accents!

Details to follow.

Tickets will be available shortly.



Junior Drama

On November 14th Junior Drama held its Christmas show, *The Worst Pantomime Ever*, which was a great success. It was written by Jamie, who devotes many hours to our young people in various capacities.



It certainly was not *the worst pantomime ever*. It was a funny show with lots of different pantomime characters getting mixed up – such as Goldilocks, an Ugly Sister, Prince Charming, a bear or two, Red Riding Hood and her wolf, Hansel, Gretel, a wood chopper – and so on. There was lots of pantomime misunderstanding and many bad (good!) jokes. And there was a moral: you don't have to be what other people want – you can decide for yourself *not* to be, for example, a mean Ugly Sister, and a wolf can be vegetarian.

The young people delivered their lines with aplomb, sang in tune and danced with vigour. There were quite a few new members, who did very well even though it was their first time on stage.

The show was directed by Charlotte and Jamie. Linsey taught the dance, while Fiona provided the music. Many thanks to you and the other helpers.

It's worth pointing out that Jamie does Messy Church (band and art projects), plays in the church band for the 10:30 service, co-leads Breakfast Club, and is a holiday club group leader. He helped to lead Sunday Stars for many years but is stepping back this year from Sunday Stars to concentrate more on the church band (though he still helped with the nativity play!)

He also helped Michelle M to cook our breakfast rolls for the Mary's Meals Fundraiser. Big thanks, Jamie!

Pam

Book group

Death and the Penguin – Andrey Kurkov



We met on Sunday 26 Nov at Ann's to discuss the 'tragic comic masterpiece', *Death and the Penguin* by Andrey Kurkov, a Ukrainian author born in Donetsk, who wrote it in Russian and was banned in Ukraine because of that.

To most of us this was a grey, dark, dull and depressing short novel containing little sunshine. Written at a time (1995) when the Soviet Union had just collapsed, it contained some of the author's memories of the austerity, corruption, state control and gloominess of the Soviet era and was well sprinkled with items of dramatic irony and flashes of dark humour.

Viktor, the main character, is the custodian of Misha, a King Penguin he has volunteered to look after when the zoo was forced to close its doors because it could no longer afford to keep its animals fed and in good health. He shares his flat with the King Penguin. There is humour in the antics of the penguin and the reaction of Viktor's friends (Nina, Sonya and Misha-non-Penguin) when they come to visit. The penguin becomes the main character, and the novel follows the bird's progress from when it is a relative recluse in Viktor's flat through its period of celebrity when it was in much demand as a 'mourner' at funerals.

Viktor has aspirations to be an author and write short stories. He finds more lucrative employment for his literary skills writing 'obituaries' for the local paper. The subjects for the obituaries (who are still alive at this point) were preselected by the sinister Editor in Chief. Mysteriously the subjects of the obituaries die soon afterwards and yet Viktor is delighted to see his words in print and to enjoy some form of notoriety as an author. Little does he realise that he has been lured into a trap from which his demise is the only escape. This is where the irony of the situation becomes evident.

While it is possible that much of the humour and innuendo may have been lost in translation the book cleverly and clearly depicts the post-Soviet period and the influence of the Mafia and other power groups.

Our discussions morphed into conversations about State control, Stalin and his relationship with Ukraine, as well as the current Russian invasion and ongoing conflict.

While it was a short, easily read novel, it created lots of discussion. I found it a good read.

Next reads

Our book for the end of January is another short story, Claire Keenan's *Small Things Like These*, described as a "haunting, hopeful masterpiece".

Our book for the end of March is *The Painted Veil* by W Somerset Maugham, originally published in 1927. This will probably be our classic read for the year. We meet on Sunday evenings and new members are welcome – contact Gill or George.

A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one. **George R R Martin** (Probably also true of women. Ed)

I find television very educating. Whenever someone turns on a set, I go into the other room and read a book. **Groucho Marx**

You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me. **CS Lewis**

Time to remember

Erica, who spent time with us a few years ago, is now a chaplain at St Columba's Hospice. She says:

All are invited to our Time to Remember event for Winter on Friday 16th of February, 2pm - 2.45pm, in our beautiful Fidra room (No. 17 Boswall Road).

This is an opportunity to gather together to remember loved ones who have died. It is an inclusive event, appropriate for all ages and for people of all faiths and none. If you have children, feel free to bring them. The event will include: quiet music, short reading(s)/reflection, something simple to make & take home and the chance to think about the people we love. The Iona café will be open afterwards offering free hot drinks for anyone who wishes to stay and chat.

I'm looking forward to leading this with my lovely colleagues. It's always a special event.

Visit <https://stcolumboshospice.org.uk/.../time-to-remember...>

to book.

Please note a separate booking must be made for each person wishing to attend.





The word for today

“In humility, value others above yourself.” Philippians 2,3.

Paul writes to the Philippians, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests... but to the interests of others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

Grace is like a garment: we have to put it on each morning and wear it all day. How can we live like that? By drawing daily on God’s grace, and deciding to put others first, looking for ways to support and encourage them. Everyone we meet is fighting a battle of some sort, and we may be able to speak a word of encouragement to them.

Humility prays: “Lord, teach me to use my energy to love and lift others. Show me how you did it, and help me to do it too.”

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



We are now well past the winter solstice, the days are lengthening perceptibly and already I have seen magpies and other members of the crow family showing an interest in nest building. The plants in the garden are also showing signs of stirring, as the days lengthen and the sunshine increases in its intensity.



As I write this in mid-January, there are a number of spring bulbs pushing up through the soil and bravely opening their petals. My sister and I compete to see who can post a picture of the first of our winter aconites to flower. I have never beaten her (she lives in coastal, Mediterranean North Berwick) however mine were earlier than normal this year, flowering on the 10th January and joining the early snowdrops and crocus that were already well advanced.

In the cold glasshouse, the last of the winter salad leaves await harvesting. Back in late October I sowed a mixture of lettuce, mustard, cress and rocket seeds in one of the grow bags that had previously grown some tomatoes, and we have been rewarded with small pickings of fresh green salad leaves throughout the darkest days of winter. Now it is time to start some of the cabbage, cauliflower, leeks, onions and lettuce for planting out later in the allotment. I will sow the seed in some of my own home-made peat-free compost created from leaf mould, garden soil and some left-over bark-based compost. Small quantities of seed will be sown in each container so that the emerging seedlings will not become overcrowded. Overcrowded seedlings become too tall, thin and weak and are very prone to damping off. Damping off is caused by a number of different fungi and thrives in conditions where there is poor air circulation, low light and poor growing conditions. If you are sowing seeds at this time of year make sure that the seedlings are kept on the windowsill where they can enjoy the sunshine (when it happens) and

remember to keep turning the pot or container round each day to ensure steady straight upright growth. I enjoy this time of year, its new awakenings and endless surprises.

It has been excessively wet over the past three months and the soil has become saturated on a number of occasions to such an extent that puddles have formed on the surface. Keep off your lawn area when it is excessively wet and on a day when the surface is dry, take a garden fork and give the lawn a thorough spiking. Push the fork in about every 150 mm (or six inches) and give it a good wiggle to open up small holes which will allow any subsequent surface water to drain away quickly. Moss is a common problem in lawns and its presence is often due to poor surface drainage conditions. Once you have spiked the lawn, give it a dressing of spring lawn fertiliser, which will encourage good root and leaf growth.

Outside the window I can see two pots of Paperwhite narcissus. They have survived the recent storms and sitting next to the wall of the house they have managed to avoid the worst effects of any frost. The pure white flowers are a delight to see. Some of the flower stems were damaged in the winds so I cut them and brought the flowers indoors.

Their scent is sweet and heavy and two stems are filling the room with their heady aroma. A springtime delight.

Wherever you garden,
Enjoy your space.
Happy Gardening

George



Brain-teaser



Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year. According to Wikipedia, Ash Wednesday is “a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God, and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season”.

Here’s a little quiz. The first letters of the answers are on the right.

- 1) Who, according to Genesis, was originally called Abram? **A**
- 2) Who, with his great strength, demolished the Philistine temple? **S**
- 3) Who was King of Judea when Jesus was born? **H**

- 4) What personal quality is Solomon renowned for? **W**
- 5) Who was Isaac’s elder son? **E**
- 6) What’s the fifth book of the Old Testament? **D**
- 7) Jesus of...? **N**
- 8) What is a book of the Bible named after a woman? **E**
- 9) What was Paul’s earlier name? **S**
- 10) Who betrayed Samson? **D**
- 11) What was the name of Moses’ brother and helper? **A**
- 12) “???, today, forever, Jesus is the same.” What’s the missing word? **Y**

According to Google...

The first Ash Wednesday is thought to have been held in the Middle Ages, so over 1000 years ago. Then, people would get ashes sprinkled on their heads. Pope Gregory introduced the tradition of marking people’s foreheads with a cross.

Alison

Answers: Abraham, Samson, Herod, wisdom, Esau, Deuteronomy, Nazareth, Esther, Saul, Deltiah, Aaron, yesterday.



Getting to know you – Lois. She says: *I'm Lois.*

I'm 13 and in 2nd year at high school. I have been coming to PJPC all my life - you might know my dad (Jamie) and granny (Sheena) who have both been part of the church even longer! I used to go to Sunday Stars when I was younger and now I help with it and also go to Breakfast Club. I also used to be in Junior Drama and still help with shows when I'm not busy dancing! I've also been in a few of the main Drama Group shows alongside my mum and will be on stage with them again in March.

Q. What job might you choose to do in the future? Why?

A. Physiotherapy, because I want to help people and do something in the health industry and I find it very interesting.

Q. What are you reading at the moment? Why are you enjoying it (or not)?

A. The "Lottie Brooks" series by Katie Kirby. I enjoy reading it because it is a fictional story about a girl my age who has the worst luck ever and lots of things happen and it is very funny.

Q. What is your most prized possession and why?

A. I was going to put dance shoes but I'm going to get my first pair of pointe shoes fitted on the 28th of January, so they will probably become my most prized possession.

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

A. I play for my school's basketball team.

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

A. A friend.

Q. What do you do to relax?

A. Listen to music.

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

A. *I'd probably go to the 31st of December 1999 so I could witness a change of millennium.*

Q. What is a favourite quotation?

A. *"Confidence comes from other places, not just how you look"*
Darcey Bussell

Q. What kind of music do you listen to?

A. *Pop and country pop.*

Q. What do you think will be good (or bad!) about being an adult?

A. *That there is so much to organise in life.*

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

A. *Dance.*

Q. Where would you like to be right now?

A. *In Disney World or a dance studio.*

Q. If not yourself, who might you like to be?

A. *Darcey Bussell.*



Q. What makes you happy?

A. *Dancing, family, friends, my pets and acting.*

Remembering

21 Nov. 2023 Katharine Hamawi of Queen's
Bay Lodge

25 Dec. 2023 William Gibb of Joppa

25 Dec. 2023 Olivia Brown of Joppa



LIFE AND WORK February 2024



A Missional Tool? The Church and social media, 20 years on from the launch of Facebook

'Values Really Matter' BBC presenter Ed Stourton on faith and living with cancer

Our Presbyteries Focus on the new Presbytery of Perth

Journey With Love The Moderator reflects on Lent and Valentine's Day

What's in a Name? The relevance and riches of stewardship

Jordan and Faith A group of teenagers and youth leaders from Skye reflect on a trip to Jordan

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

My Church: Fiona Spooner, Boys' Brigade worker and member of Neilston Parish Church

View from the Pulpit: the Rev Justin Taylor

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.

MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES

March 2024	Sunday 18 th February 2024
April 2024	Sunday 24 th March 2024
May 2024	Sunday 21 st April 2024

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

Portobello & Joppa



Parish Church

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

