

# Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish

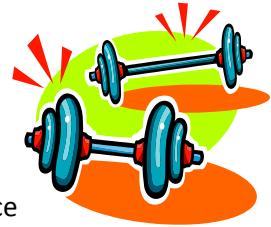
Church Magazine

April 2017



## *Portobello and Joppa Parish Church*

Worship takes place each Sunday at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church with  
two services – one at 9.30am and one at 11am  
(10.30am in July and August).



## **From the editor**

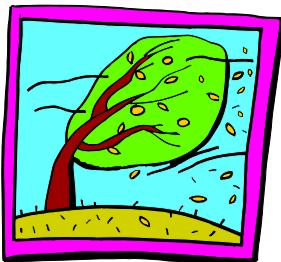
We recently got an electrician to replace the faulty inverter for our solar panels (the guarantee is void since the company has, slightly suspiciously, gone out of business). The nice young electrician commiserated with us, saying that he has a mum and dad and “wouldn’t like to see *them* getting ripped off”. Immediately we saw ourselves through his eyes as doddering pensioners... . Maybe under the same impression, our son - who is a fit and active person - has just made us an exercise video and is looking forward to seeing us ripplingly muscled in the next few months. Don’t hold your breath.

I don’t know how Maggie Williamson’s muscles are doing, but she’s about to test them by abseiling from the Forth Rail Bridge to raise money for CrossReach. I’m very excited by this, mainly because I’m stunned by her bravery but also because she first found out about this event in “Soundings”. Proof that somebody reads the magazine! Maggie tells us about this on page..... – do consider sponsoring her.

Stewart asks us to think about heeding a rather different kind of call – and gives details of all the events in Holy Week. There’s news from the Ladies’ Golf Club and the walking group and also a communication from Australia about a long-ago Portobello resident. Staying with history, you can read about an interesting window in Portobello Old Parish Church and – thinking of the near future - there’s a reminder about the backpacks for Mary’s Meals – deadline April 23 – and the Holiday Club.

And we find out some things we didn’t know about Ella Lynch, a former St James’ member who’s become a much valued member of the new PJPC.

**Pam**



## ***From the minister***

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

'How many times can a man turn his head,  
and pretend that he just doesn't see?'

I'm not typically a big Bob Dylan fan but I found myself listening to some of his music recently. This included the lyrics above, found in his well known song 'Blowin' in the wind'.

This bit of listening stemmed from a last minute decision when doing prayers at Charis House, the home of CrossReach (the social provision arm of the Church of Scotland). I thought I would go with the theme of calls, for there are many stories of men and women called by God in the Bible: Abraham, Moses at the burning bush, Isaiah's vision in the Temple. The thought of a call led to the thought of journeys, for at the moment we are in Lent and travelling with Jesus and his followers towards Jerusalem, Holy Week, the Cross and the Resurrection. And that reminded me of a Dylan song that one of the boys played constantly for a while: 'Like a rolling stone'. It seemed apt for the image of travel and journey.

Dylan, as many of us know, was recently awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. When I heard that, I was surprised. Perhaps I even harrumphed!

But the speech made by Prof. Horace Engdahl included the following lines: *In his hands, the material [he heard on the radio] changed. From what he discovered in heirloom and scrap, in banal rhyme and quick wit, in curses and pious prayers, sweet nothings and crude jokes, he panned poetry gold, whether on purpose or by accident is irrelevant; all creativity begins in imitation....He makes good rhymes, said a critic, explaining greatness. And it is true. His rhyming is an alchemical substance that dissolves contexts to create new ones, scarcely containable by the human brain.*

'All creativity begins in imitation'. Those words leapt out at me. As followers of Christ that is our first call: imitate Christ. In heeding a call, in journeying, in healing, in loving.

'...dissolves contexts to create new ones, scarcely containable by the human brain'. We are called to dissolve boundaries between people, between peoples, between ourselves and God. Done through an imitation of Christ.

We are called to see what Christ saw: people in need, the cry for healing, the yearning for a return the God, to their true selves. That each of us need time and space with God.

We do that when we heed our call not just to follow Christ but to be truly, fully human. Can we ever, ever be the latter without the former? Is the answer blowing in the wind....or is it staring us right in the face?

### **Stewart**



## **Holy Week and Easter 2017**

There is a lot going on at PJPC and in the other churches during Holy Week and Easter. Do join with us and with other traditions in order to experience the variety and power of these events.

### **Mon. 10 April-Friday 14 April**

**8.00-8.30am** Prayers at PJPC

**12.00-12.30** Prayers at Portobello Baptist Church

### **Monday 10 April @ 7pm**

Stations of the Cross for all the churches, St. John's (Brighton Place)

### **Tuesday 11 April from 3pm-8pm:** Labyrinth at St. Mark's

**Wednesday 12 April @ 7pm:** Service of the Shadows for all the churches, St. Mark's

### **Thursday 13 April (Maundy Thursday)**

- 10am:** Holy Communion and washing of the feet at St. Mark's  
**7pm:** Holy Communion and washing of the feet at St. Mark's  
**7.30pm:** Holy Communion at Portobello Baptist

### **Friday 14 April (Good Friday)**

- 10am:** Ecumenical Service for all the churches at PJPC followed by a walk with the cross to St. John's  
**10am:** Service of the Cross, esp. for children at St. John's  
**12-3pm:** Three hours of peace, meditation and reflection at St. Mark's (come and go as you wish)  
**7pm:** Reflections on the Cross at St. Martin's

### **Sunday 16 April (Easter Sunday)**

- 7am:** Easter Day Communion on the beach (bottom of Brunstane Rd. North), followed by breakfast at PJPC.  
**9.30am** Easter Communion at PJPC  
**11am** Easter Worship at PJPC

## ***The walking group***



March 18th being the third Saturday of the month, the walking group travelled by train to Fife for a 11 km walk from Kinghorn to Aberdour, introducing us to the beautiful Kinghorn Loch and an intriguing ecology centre. The route then ran across the hill, well above the shore, giving excellent views to Edinburgh. We wandered through wooded areas until reaching the Fife Coastal Path and enjoyed the esplanade around the bay at Silver Sands before reaching the station at Aberdour. By this time, the drizzling rain had stopped and the sun came out. What a treat!

There were 17 of us in total ranging in age from one year up to –well, let's just say "getting on a bit!" A great time was had by all. The next walk will be Saturday April 15: an Edinburgh walk of just over 5 miles. You're welcome to join us. **Sandra**

## ***Baking stalls this spring***

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| April 2 <sup>nd</sup> | - baking stall as usual  |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup>   | - no baking stall because of Elders' conference.   |
| June 4 <sup>th</sup>  | - Cup Cake Sunday. There will be no scones, but we will have marmalade and some preserves. |
| July 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | - baking stall as usual  |



Thank you for your continued support.

**Angela**



## ***CrossReach Forth Rail Bridge abseil***

I saw this advertised in "Soundings" and thought 'I can do that!' So I paid my entrance fee and signed up to: climb over the railing of the walkway on the Forth Bridge on 28<sup>th</sup> May, free-fall abseil to the foreshore, hoping to enjoy the spectacular view - and at the same time raise funds for CrossReach.

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland, helping children, families, and older people with all sorts of problems such as abuse, learning disabilities, homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, dementia etc.

If you would like to sponsor me, please click onto [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and donate to the Forth Bridge Abseil 2017 for CrossReach. I shall also be in the hall after the services on April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with sponsorship forms – or just catch me any time before then!

Many thanks.

**Maggie**



## ***Church Ladies' Golf Club***

The Church Ladies' Golf Club had another enjoyable year, if somewhat trying at times due to the building of the new Portobello High School. However that's all behind us now and the course is slowly getting back to normal. The weather was not always on our side as the first medal of the year in April was postponed twice due to heavy rain but we had success on the third attempt!

We had a summer outing at the Melville Golf Club on a lovely summer's day and then retired to the conservatory at the Melville Inn for a long chatty lunch.

6 ladies entered the annual competition with the Men's Club, which was held at Gogarburn Golf Club. The winners were Mandy Young and Alan Jerome.

We finished off the year with a dinner and prize-giving at the Kings Manor Hotel.

We would love to see some new members come and join us. We are totally mixed ability so if you are giving it some thought, don't worry if you are a novice. We meet every Tuesday at Portobello golf course. In the winter, if the weather is bad, we just get together for a coffee and chat, meeting about 10.30. If the weather is good, we tee off at 9.34, or 9.20 from March onwards. Please give me a call if you would like any more information.

**Anne**  
Secretary

(Many apologies for omitting this from last month's magazine.)



## Greetings from Australia

*We've had the following email from Chris Falla, a New Zealander who now lives in Australia, attaching some beautiful photos of the church.*

Hi from Australia,

During my visit to family origins at Portobello Edinburgh late last year, I was given assistance by Derek your caretaker to photograph the church interior. Keeping my promise to forward copies of these photos which are sent herewith by attachment to this email.

Best regards, Chris

*I then asked him for some details of his family history – as you'll see, his Portobello connection predates our current church building:*

To gain some understanding of my family's origins from Scotland some four generations before me, it was delightful to walk through Portobello and the heritage streets of Edinburgh last September, 2016.

George Falla, born Portobello in 1826, at aged 23 married Mary Adam aged 18 at St Stephen's Church, Edinburgh on June 27th 1849. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, one month later, they sailed with 77 souls on the 560 ton sailing ship "Kelso" for a three month odyssey to Nelson in the South Island of New Zealand with the exciting promise of a new life adventure in the antipodes. The cost of this passage is recorded as £18.18 per passenger, which in our current times seems like wonderful value!

George later became the inaugural Chairman of the Buller Council region on the West Coast of South Island (Gold/Coal/Timber) where they subsequently settled in the town of Westport and raised eight children. Because he was active in community affairs and well known as a retail merchant, upon his passing in 1880 the Westport town major declared a public holiday, to allow the local population to pay their respects on the day of his funeral.

**Chris Falla**





WILLIAM DOUGLAS 1789-1862

ANNE OLIVER BRUCE 1799-1877



## **Window in Portobello Old Parish Church**

In Portobello Old Parish Church there are two stained glass windows, one on either side of the chancel, which were donated in memory of her father by Mrs March, the great-grandmother of Mrs Morris . The windows commemorate Provost Alan Livingston, who lived in Joppa House at 61 Joppa Road. According to William Baird's *Annals of Duddingston and Portobello*, first published in 1898, Mr Livingston's father (also Alan) had a "brickwork, which was capable of turning out 18,000 bricks per week, ... close to the sea beach in what was latterly called Joppa Park; but the whole area is now covered with dwellings."

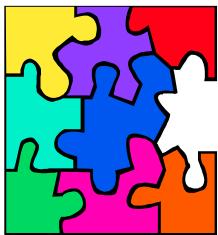
Later he moved to his works to Joppa Quarry, and "found the large quarry a great acquisition, since he could now carry on the brick making without being dependent on others for his clay. The quarry and brickwork were carried on by him till 1845, when he moved to the Abercorn Brick Works in Portobello."

The younger Mr Livingston, who continued the brickworks, owned property in the area – including the cottages adjoining his house - and was prominent in local politics. He was elected Provost of Portobello, but died suddenly on January 4, 1867, only seven weeks after his election.

Mrs Morris is pleased to hear about the potential sale of the church building to a community group, though she was naturally concerned as to what would happen to these windows. However, Robin has assured her that the windows are safe, since they cannot be removed – they're part of the listing of the building. She thought that other members of the congregation might be interested in this also.



## **Brain-teaser**



Here's an Easter word search – forwards, backwards, up and down, lots of fun! Try to find the words listed underneath.

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

**EASTER, LOVE, STONE, TOMB, CROSS, EGGS, CHOCOLATE, BONNETS, MARY,  
PALM, GETHSEMANE, KISS, GARDENER, REBIRTH, LIFE**

**Alison**

# *A call to prayer*

## GO TO THE MOUNTAIN OF

## PRAYER!



"He departed to the mountain to pray."  
(Mark Ch 6 v 46)

Before Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, He climbed a mountain to be alone with His Father in prayer. He left the demands of the crowd at sunset, prayed until dawn, then came down the mountain in the power of God's Spirit and stilled a raging storm. (Wouldn't we love to know how He prayed that night?) Prayer is a mountain; we have to climb it. 'Peter and John went up together...at the hour of prayer' (Acts 3:1 NKJV). If we wait until we feel like it, we won't pray consistently. It's a discipline. And the more we pray the more we want to pray, and the more rewarding it becomes. But first we must turn our back on the 'crowd'. Because Christ knew how to walk away from life's demands and distractions, He was able to still the storm that threatened His disciples. So before we get caught up in the daily rat race, go to the mountain of prayer. It's a place of stability in an uncertain world: a place where the view is unobstructed and the frantic pace of life is left behind. There you gain perspective. There Christ reminds us that there's nothing we'll face today that He hasn't already handled, and He'll give us grace to do the same. It's easy to recognise people who've been to the mountain of prayer. Their struggles are no different from ours - some are even more challenging. But they've an inner peace that transcends family problems, health concerns, budgetary shortfalls, etc. We can endure hard times with grace when we know that the summit is just a prayer away!

**Harry**  
**Prayer Promoter**

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## **Portobello Holiday Club 2017**



A reminder about Portobello Holiday Club, which is running this summer for the third year, with six area churches working again in partnership with Scripture Union Scotland, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July from 9am to 12:45pm. There will also be a crèche and nursery group available for volunteers' children. We hope your family will join us!

Remember that we are recruiting volunteers – for the full week or even a day or two - for help with games, arts and crafts, baking, music, drama, AV technology, snacks, crèche care, administration, small group leaders, and much more.

And if you can help with donations of plants, that would be great – see Sophia's article opposite.

There will be a training evening for the full team in May and a further training in July. All volunteers will need to complete an online volunteer's application for Scripture Union Scotland alongside the Disclosure Scotland PVG process. Since this process takes some time, we need names of volunteers by the beginning of May.

If you are interested in helping with our ecumenical holiday club or if you know any secondary students who might be interested in volunteering as Junior Helpers, then please speak with Michelle on any Sunday after church - the more volunteers we have, the more families we can welcome to take part.

**Michelle**



## **Plants for the Holiday Club**

Calling all gardeners - we need your help!

As you divide plants, and put in seeds for growing, and cuttings, or if you're doing a change around of your garden ... please consider putting in some spares for us.

The Holiday Club needs lots of plants - we have over 80 children and they garden every day and all want to put in and plant.

We are always in search of flowers (bedding plants, geraniums ..etc etc), lavender, rosemary, other herbs, and some vegetables would be good as well ... sunflowers if you're better at them than I am ... climbers ... whatever - we would love a wide variety but nothing that is going to take over completely!

Please consider helping, and any spares will be sold in aid of the Holiday Club funds afterwards.

If you can put the plants in small tubs and keep them going till July that would be wonderful. If you haven't got the space and need to get them out of your garden, please bring to St Mark's and we'll do our best to keep them alive!

**Sophia**

### **Count group**



We still need four or five volunteers for the count group. If you've been hesitating about putting your name forward, please don't hesitate any further! Advanced maths not necessary. Please contact Pam.



## ***Collecting Backpacks as the Portobello and Joppa Parish Church Community - reminder***

As most of the congregation will know, the Breakfast Club are leading a project to collect backpacks filled with school items for Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals is a non-profit organisation which works to provide a free meal a day for children in poverty at their place of education. Children at these schools also receive a backpack full of the necessities to encourage them to attend school. Items for the backpacks include:

**a notepad, pencils, pens, crayons, eraser, ruler, sharpener, pencil case, towel, shorts/skirt and t-shirt or dress, flip flops/sandals, small ball (tennis ball), soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a spoon.**

From 29 January to 23 April, the Breakfast Club will be collecting donations of backpacks full of the items listed above. If you're not able to contribute a full backpack, we would welcome donations of any of the items on their own (which can then be used to top up other backpacks as necessary).

The bags are being collected in tubs in the main hallway by the mailboxes. You could also turn your bag in at a special film screening on Saturday, 22 April from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the church, when we will be showing the short film, "Generation Hope", which shares stories of some of the first children to have grown up receiving Mary's Meals.

We'll have a final collection of backpacks and their contents on the dais in church on 23 April.

Our bags will then be taken to Mary's Meals.

**Michelle**



## Getting to know you - Ella

This month's interviewee is Ella, a former St. James' member, where she was an elder and property convener. She's now happily settled in Portobello & Joppa, where she is presbytery elder and involved in the finance and property groups and the social team, which she finds has been a great way of getting to know more people. Widowed and living in Northfield, she enjoys Portobello, which she looks on as a village within the city. Her daughter Valerie lives in Joppa and her son David lives in Aberdeen. She has four grandchildren who she says "keep her on her toes".

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

- A. *My favourite hymn is 'Will your Anchor hold in the storms of life?' - my late husband was an officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leith BB and this rousing and inspiring BB hymn brings back happy memories*

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

- A. *Going to church straight from Sunday School, having my attendance card stamped and the pandrops being passed along during the sermon.*

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

- A. *An extended family picnic on the beach at Portobello when my sandwich got sand on it.*

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

- A. *In another life, I would like to have been a clinical psychologist.*

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

- A. *At the moment I am reading 'A Painted House' by John Grisham.*

**Q. Do you have a hero or heroine? – either real or fictional? Who?**

- A. *My heroine is the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.*

- Q. What would be your ideal holiday?**  
A. It would be a world tour.
- Q. Tell us something that not many people know about you.**  
A. *I changed careers aged 49 when I left a secure secretarial job and went off to train as a social worker - I loved it and never once regretted it.*
- Q. What luxury would you take to a desert island?**  
A. *My luxury would be an Apple iPad permanently charged up.*
- Q. What do you do to relax?**  
A. *I go walking to relax - always helps to put any problems into perspective.*
- Q. What is a favourite quotation?**  
A. *My favourite quotation is 'You never know someone until you stand in their shoes and walk around in them'.*
- Q. What kind of music do you listen to?**  
A. *I enjoy different kinds of music - 60's popular, music from the shows and light classical.*
- Q. What do you miss (or not miss) about being a child?**  
A. *I miss being carefree as a child.*
- Q. How would you like to be remembered?**  
A. *I would like to be remembered as a good friend.*
- Q. What gets you up in the morning (apart from your alarm clock)?**  
A. *I am always happy to get up in the morning – a brand new day.*

## LIFE AND WORK APRIL 2017

### EASTER

**An Unexpected Easter Feast** Jolyon Mitchell considers the impact and influence of art in telling the story of Emmaus and opening eyes

**Clearing the Way at Christ's Baptismal Site** Tim Porter highlights the work of the Halo Trust, a charity involved in a key project to improve access to the site of Jesus' baptism

**Easter Prayer** from the Moderator of the General Assembly

**Bethlehem and Calvary** In his final reflection for Life and Work, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights parallels between Bethlehem and Calvary

**A Desire for Justice** Jackie Macadam interviews Val Brown, a Church of Scotland member who has opened her home to a Syrian refugee

**From Reform to Renewal** The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald introduces extracts from his new history of the Church

**An Artistic Legacy** Alison Roberts pays tribute to the life of esteemed stained glass artist Crear McCartney

**Christianity is Not Dead** Ron Ferguson argues that Christianity will not disappear in Scotland as humanity continues to seek meaning in life.

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## **MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES**

May	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2017
June/July/August	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2017
September	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2017

***Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728***

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

Photography by Kim Kjaerside