

Soundings

Portobello & Joppa Parish
Church Magazine

June, July &
August 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



I usually start this page with something mildly frivolous, but the events in Manchester make this seem unsuitable. In this summer edition of “Soundings”, Stewart gives us some thoughts about this and other difficult problems facing us in the world today.

It’s heartening that many people at PJPC do their best to help others: you can read about our contributions to the Mary’s Meals backpack project and about Maggie’s valiant abseil to fundraise for CrossReach (she did it!). You’re invited to contribute towards Alzheimer’s Research UK by attending a quiz night in the halls; and to donate your old spectacles to Third World countries.

There’s also information about the Castle Community Bank, which would welcome our investments so that it can keep helping Edinburgh people who need an affordable loan to tide them over a difficult period.

And you can read about the past year in Sunday Stars, Breakfast Club, Messy Church and the Junior Section of the BBs – many thanks from us all to the leaders of these groups and best wishes for your future plans. There’s also more information about the Holiday Club, holiday Sunday crèche provision and summer Godly Play. Michelle is a very busy person!

Thanks to the other contributors, such as Harry, who faithfully provides us with food for thought and prayer every month, and Alison, who thinks up puzzles appropriate to the season. And it’s lovely to hear from Elaine, who’s new to our congregation and who is happy to be there.

And just to end – a word from our five-year-old grandson. “I love you, Granny. You’re so wrinkly.”

Pam

Don’t forget that the main Sunday services during July and August are at 10.30 instead of 11 am.

From the minister

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

The open hand or the closed fist? The embrace that enfolds only us or that enfolds the world?



The day after the Manchester bombing I listened to the report of the Church and Society Council at the General Assembly, at which I am a commissioner this year. Rev. Richard Frazer, who is the convener and does such excellent work at Greyfriars and with the Grassmarket Community Project, used this image to describe possibilities.

Do we respond in a manner that some call complementarity: we react to others as they treat us? Or, do we supersede that by fusing head, heart and emotions together to respond more fully, more deeply, more thoughtfully?

The previous day there was a discussion about the appropriate recognition of the Balfour Declaration in 1917. In essence, incompatible promises were made to the Jewish people and to the Palestinian people. The discussion was full and passionate and informed, yet always, always understanding and polite and tempered. As Princess Anne said at the opening of the Assembly, so many look to it as a much needed place for reasoned debate and discussion.

One delegate, a descendant of slaves, reminded the Assembly at one point that many, many of these discussions cannot be disentangled from a world where billion dollar arms deals are celebrated and where a tiny minority control a vast amount of wealth.

None of us lives in a bubble or in a sheltered world or in a cloister. We live in this world with all of its beauty and with all of its rough edges, with people who love and people who hate, with people who exclude and with people who welcome. It is not a perfect world.

One person whom I visited had been asked a question: how can you believe in God when you look at Syria? Measured responses are possible: God gives us as humans freedom and we often choose what is not love but what separates. One report suggested a connection with climate change: once fertile farmland in Syria grew arid, people moved to crowded cities, tensions mounted...we know the rest. And we cannot forget the history of the Middle East either: decisions made and actions taken for a variety of reasons, understandable and admirable, as well as selfishly and cynically.

What about me? What about you?

Every moment in our lives is a God given gift. And we can choose the path of Christ. Speak truth to power. Nurture those whose faith is delicate and growing. Care for those who have been left behind. Balance the prophetic and the pastoral. Love and righteous anger.

Our world needs us as people of faith more than ever now. Will you open your hand, open your heart, open your mind and in the stranger, the orphan, the refugee, the widow, the excluded find that miracle of love called the Christ?

Stewart

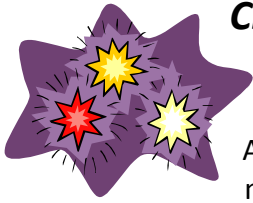


"When you do a good turn, you feel rich, even if you are broke." **Rabbi Lionel Blue.**

"I have come to believe that giving and receiving are really the same. Giving and receiving - not giving and taking." **Joyce Grenfell**

"The real evidence for Jesus and Christianity is in how Jesus and the Christianity based on him manifest themselves in the lives of practising Christians." **Rabbi Lionel Blue**

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." **Mark Twain**



CrossReach Forth Rail Bridge abseil - 28th May

As of today's magazine deadline, 21st May, sponsorship for my Forth Rail Bridge abseil has reached £500, and I very much thank all of you who have contributed. A big thank you also to Alice, who commandeered some of you one morning at coffee time! By the time you read this I shall have done it - I am hoping for good weather on the day!

If you would still like to sponsor me, I have until the end of June to collect money.

Many thanks, **Maggie**

STOP PRESS FROM MAGGIE: Mission completed. It was a lovely day at the bridge and hundreds of people abseiling for various charities. Total raised at the moment is £550 and I still have some to collect.

Family quiz night - 10 June

We're holding a Family Quiz Night on Saturday 10 June from 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Church Halls in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK. Come as a team of 4/5 - or teams can be made up on the night. Refreshments provided. BYOB. Tickets £5 - email office@portyjoppachurch.org or see me or any member of the Social Team.



All welcome!

Ella

Portobello Holiday Club 2017



Registration is open for our summer holiday club, *Guardians of Ancora: Treasure Seekers*. Our club will run from 24 July to 28 July from 9am to 1pm at Portobello and Joppa Parish Church with some activities up at St Mark's Episcopal Church. The club is for children who have been in P1 to P7 for the 2016-2017 academic year.

We are looking forward to our third Holiday Club, most especially because we will be working with five other Portobello Churches to bring this club together with the help of Scripture Union Scotland. We are running this ecumenical holiday club with St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church, St John's Catholic Church, St Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church, Portobello Baptist Church, and Central's missional community in Portobello. It is an excellent opportunity to come together with the churches in Portobello to provide a positive and fun experience for the children of Portobello and Joppa as we learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus through games, arts and crafts, drama, music, prayer, Bible studies, gardening, baking, worship and many more surprise activities.

To register your children for holiday club, email portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com to get registration forms or speak with Michelle on a Sunday morning. We hope to see you there!



Summer Godly Play and Holiday Crèche

During the summer months, our Sunday Stars leaders take a well-deserved rest. However, children's ministry still continues all summer long. On Sundays from 25 June until 27 August, we offer Godly Play in the Session Room for children aged four and older, with holiday crèche in the Baird Hall for three years old and younger.

Holiday crèche will be available from the start of worship each week. Children attending Godly Play will start off in worship with their parents and come down to the session room after the minister's talk time. At Godly Play, Michelle, Catherine or Reuben will tell a Bible story followed on with a time of wondering questions and then a response time when the children are invited to create anything they wish using the craft materials available or to work with any of the Bible stories in the room. We gather again for a feast (a light snack shared together in the circle with prayer) and then close our circle time with goodbyes.

If you and your family are around this summer, drop on in for Sunday worship and summer children's ministry at 11am on 25 June and then at 10:30am from 2 July to 27 August.

Michelle

Sunday Stars



It has been, as always, a fun and busy year for the Sunday Stars. We began the year with learning a welcome song called *Hello*. You may recall the colourful words up in the church as part of the song *Ça Va, Ola, Salam and Jambo*. As part of the theme of welcome we invited some of the elders and congregation to come and join us at Sunday Stars. We took this opportunity to tell the children about Martha and Mary and the importance of hospitality, that welcoming and serving your guests were important but so was being with them and enjoying their company.

After that most of our time was taken up with planning and filming our fantastic, children-led Nativity. Also called "Nativity: it's a bit loud!" The children were all responsible for the script of the nativity. Every word came from the children themselves. They all had an opportunity to play any part they liked. It would not have been nearly so impressive without the help of Jenny and Stephen, who created those fantastic back drops.

After Christmas, thanks to George and the grounds team, the children planted some bulbs in the two beds by the back gate. We hope you enjoyed the flowers when they came up. We used this as part of our work on senses, thanking God for all that we could see and smell and taste and hear and touch. We had games with optical illusions and spot the difference and Kim's game to thank God for all our senses and for the wonderful things that we experience with them - flowers and birdsong and chocolate, among other things.

We've done some fundraising this year too. Baked potato Sunday and Mary's Meals backpacks and not forgetting the wildly popular Cupcake Sunday still to come. Throughout the year we've been fortunate to have some fantastic Godly Play sessions run by Michelle and brilliant music with Fiona and Donna, amazing art with Jenny and Stephen and a great visit with Charlotte who talked about ASHA and taught us a new game they play in India. We have even squeezed in an Easter Visit to Spring Gardens to sing with the ladies and gentlemen and to hand over some little gifts the children made. Phew, no wonder we're exhausted. The year has simply flown by and in no time it'll be August again and we look forward to meeting the new Moonbeams and Constellations to the Session rooms.

Sarah

Baking stalls

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| June 4 th | - Cup Cake Sunday. There will be no scones, but we will have marmalade and some preserves. |
| July 2 nd | - baking stall as usual |
| August 6 th | - baking stall as usual |
| September 3 rd | - baking stall as usual |



Thank you for your continued support.

Angela



Castle Community Bank

The minister of South Leith Parish Church is a former banker who left banking when he became uneasy with the state of the industry and felt a call to the ministry. Once established in South Leith in 2012, he noticed the large number of pay-day lenders in the area and realised that there was a need for a different kind of access to money for the poorer people in the community. He therefore founded the Castle Community Bank, which operates by encouraging saving and giving affordable loans when necessary. It's accessible 24 hours a day, to cope with financial emergencies and to provide an alternative to pay-day lending establishments, which are often very expensive.

His story is featured in the April edition of The New Statesman, and you can read more here: <http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/economy/2017/04/banker-who-found-god>

He feels that he's helping to deal with the problems which have been caused in part by the banking industry in which he used to work.

In an email to Stewart, he says:

"The credit union/Castle Community Bank is up and running and doing well; but we do need to get more personal deposits. All personal deposits are fully protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) up to £75,000 per person. However, Castle Community Bank can only accept deposits up to £15,000 per person.

It would really help if you can promote our latest savings rate of up to 1.75% AER, which is a good rate compared with many are receiving in their banks accounts."

An advertisement for the bank is featured on the next page.

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Feel good about where you keep your savings.

Apply online at castlecommunitybank.co.uk
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Fixed accounts are subject to subscription. All applicants will go through a KYC check. Castle Community Bank is the trading name of North Edinburgh & Castle Credit Union Ltd. Registered office 10-12 Wardieburn Drive, Edinburgh, EH5 1BU. Registered under the 1979 Credit Union Act. Reg No. 019CUS. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under registration number 213877. Castle Community Bank is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and Financial Ombudsman Service. Terms and conditions apply.

Old spectacles wanted!

For many years, I've collected old pairs of glasses for the charity "Vision Aid".

Spectacles in any state of repair are required for 3rd world countries - where optical services are almost non-existent. Prescriptions are obtained from the donated spectacles, and frames repaired if necessary. Volunteer opticians test eyes in places around the world in desperate need, and match the recipients' sight to the most suitable pair of glasses.

Old spectacles can be left in the flower room or on the back shelf of the sanctuary. Cases are *not* needed.

Thank you.

Angela



Thank you from Elaine

I have recently moved back to Portobello after 36 years in York. I was brought up in Portobello and now have returned home. I have joined a couple of fantastic groups at the church (choir and Scottish Country

Dancing) and enjoyed the inspirational Sunday services. The warmth and welcome shown by you all has been ever so touching. When I thought that I was alone in my thoughts, I was so wrong. What a comfort to find such a beautiful bunch of flowers at the door step from Stewart and the whole Parish, organised by the Flower Committee. I am delighted that I found the names of the flower ladies in your magazine. Thank you, Margaret and Marion, for bringing them to the door. So sorry I missed you. The flowers are beautiful .

Looking forward to meeting you in person.

Elaine

Junior Section Easter Camp at Craggan



For many years the Junior Section of the 25th Edinburgh Boys Brigade have had a week away at Craggan, Loch Tay during the Easter holidays. This year we took 9 boys, along with 4 officers, who all enjoyed our week of activities at Craggan outdoor centre, which is owned by the Edinburgh Battalion of the Boys Brigade and is situated around 7 miles from Killin, right on the shores of Loch Tay. We organise a range of activities to keep the boys busy. Some things haven't changed since I was a boy in Junior Section. Boys still love getting wet, messy and running around!

On this week away we try to offer activities which are not only enjoyable and good fun for the boys (and officers!) but also challenge individuals to do something outside their comfort zone. We had a number of activities which were about teamwork and it is interesting to see young leaders emerge within the group.

This year we started the week with some canoeing and kayaking on the Loch. Great fun! Particularly when the instructor, David from the Edinburgh Battalion, tipped himself into the water, showing the boys what not to do! We went walking at Weem, swimming in Aberfeldy, shopping in Killin and had a full day's activities with Abernethy Trust at their Ardeonaig centre. The boys were challenged on the high ropes course and also with some team challenges – it is great to see the boys working together in teams and also to see the leaders develop through these activities.

We built shelters in the woods using only natural materials we could find, had an individual 'Superboy' competition, the Craggan Olympics (team competitions), indoor games competitions, a duck race in the river and archery. Tin-can cooking (hot dog sausages on an upturned can heated with candles) and fire lighting - with a flint and steel, cotton wool and tortilla chips - were popular too.

Our end of session Annual Display and Awards night took place on Friday 12th May at 7.30pm in the church. Visitors were welcomed to come along and get a taster for

some of the activities the boys from all three sections (Primary two to S6) get up to during the year.

We will start our 129th session at the end of August and we always welcome new members (and ex-members and interested helpers).

Anchor Boys is for Primary 2&3 boys: 6.30-7.30pm on Tuesdays

Junior Section is Primary 4, 5&6 boys: 6.30-8pm on Thursdays

Company Section is for Primary 7 to S6 boys: 7.30-10pm on Fridays

Jamie, Officer in Charge, Junior Section , 25th Edinburgh Boys Brigade

www.Facebook.com/25Edinburgh

Mary's Meals backpack collection



Thank you to everyone who contributed backpacks and backpack supplies for our recent Mary's Meals collection! On Wednesday, 26 April, the Mary's Meals van pulled into the church grounds to find 148 filled bags waiting on the church steps for collection. The PJPC church and community groups contributed 113 bags and Seabeach Nursery brought along a further 35 bags! The nursery children and their teachers were there for the collection day, along with Jo Strachan, who organised the joint collection with Seabeach Nursery. We watched a short film about where the backpacks go when they leave Scotland and then helped load the bags on to the van. The children waved the van goodbye and then we played some parachute games in the bright sunshine before the children returned to the nursery school. It was a fitting celebration to four months of collecting bags.

In addition to the main collection, John , the advocate for Mary's Meals who spoke at church on Sunday, 23 April, brought back to his garage near Linlithgow lots and

lots of supplies to top up more bags as well as 14 empty bags to be filled. He was thrilled with such generosity and kindness from everyone he met!

A huge thank you to the Breakfast Club for all your work organising this collection and sorting bags and a huge thank you to Jo for bringing Seabeach on board too! Thanks to the Boys Brigade, Brownies, Rainbows, Guides, Scouts, Toddler Group, Coffee Break, Messy Church, the congregation and many more people for your donations. Thanks also for the financial contributions received which will go towards the Mary's Meals feeding project. In total, £668.67 was raised!

Michelle

Portobello and Joppa Parish Church

For the Period to 30 April 2017

	2017 (£)	2016 (£)
Congregational Fund		
Income	63,108	76,764
Expenditure	(62,646)	(70,737)
Net (Deficit)	462	6,027
Drawdown from General Trustees	6,117	17,130
Overall (Deficit)/Surplus	6,579	23,157

Fabric Fund

Income	8,502	7,636
Expenditure	(22,021)	(29,276)
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(13,519)	(21,640)
Drawdown from General Trustees	40,000	0
Overall Surplus	26,481	(21,640)

Ministry & Mission

Ministry & Mission Allocation	134,061	141,962
Stipend Fund Pre-payment	(12,500)	(8,042)
Net payable by Congregational Fund	121,561	133,920

The proceeds from the sale of the Rosefield Complex are invested with the General Trustees for the benefit of the Fabric Fund. However, the Church of Scotland allows the proceeds from the sale to be invested in the Church of Scotland Stipend Fund. The interest received on this investment is treated as a prepayment of the Church's Ministry and Mission Allocation. As the Congregational Fund is running at a slight deficit each year the Kirk Session passed a resolution to invest a portion of the proceeds of the sale in the Stipend Fund. This has the benefit of reducing the amount directly payable from the Congregational Fund.

D Stocks

Treasurer

Messy Church



Messy Church is an inclusive group of local families and other random people who meet once a month for Bible-themed fun. I've often helped to lead one of the crafts, and sometimes I tell the story. I've been asked to let you know what we have been doing in recent months.

My favourite game was the huge parachute game we had in the sunshine - especially as the adults seemed to be having as much fun as the children. We have started to do a regular prayer activity - and I was surprised to see how even our most excitable children calmly and prayerfully walked the Labyrinth we had laid out (hard to believe but true!). We have also had many amazing craft / activity times. I tend to gravitate toward the science activities, and a highlight would be the wired feeling of trying to draw when you could only see the reflection of your hands in a mirror.

It doesn't seem to matter who leads the celebration as families are always keen to join in and take part in the story as well as our (often silly) songs. We end with a meal, which is my favourite part of Messy Church. Not for the food (though it is great) but because it gives me a chance to catch up with people I haven't seen for a while, and be amazed at how big their children have grown!

If you have not been before, just turn up on the last Saturday of the month (3:30 – 6pm in PJPCs main hall). If you want to know more, especially if you have any hidden talents, let us know and we would love to help you get more involved.

27 May – Three in One – God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

24 June – Jonah and the Whale

29 July – Treasure Seekers – follow on from Holiday Club, with a BBQ!

26 August – Joshua and the Battle of Jericho – with some time up at the Big Beach Busk!

Reuben

Staying up until breakfast!

Every year, the Breakfast Club (the Youth Group for Portobello and Joppa Parish Church) holds their Easter Vigil, staying up all night in church until we reach Easter Morning and join the congregation up at the beach for the 7am sunrise service.

Throughout the night, the youth group take part in a variety of activities all around the church including big art projects, games, discussions, worship, drama, prepping Easter Breakfast, baking and a couple other new surprises each year. We meet up in the church every hour throughout the night to have some time-out from the high energy activities and just have ten minutes to sit in silence and reflect on an aspect of the Easter story. This year we talked about events in the final week of Jesus' life. We created a short animated film about Holy Week and made some Easter Gardens for the coffee tables and Communion table. Throughout the night, the young people had time on their own to walk a labyrinth in the church which took up two-thirds of the church floor. The youth group also baked the bread served at Communion at the beach in the morning.

Each year the vigil marks the first welcome into youth group for the P7s from the church community. We welcomed in two new P7s, a new Breakfast Clubber and some friends of current Breakfast Clubbers along with our current Breakfast Clubbers. In total, we had sixteen young people take part in the Easter Vigil, along with six leaders.

Since the vigil, we have had three P7s come along to join our Sunday morning club. Do you know someone who might like to join Breakfast Club too?

Breakfast Club is for secondary students, with P7s welcome to join us from Easter onwards. We meet on Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 during school term in the main hall and share bacon or sausage roll breakfast with cereal and fruit available as well, for a £1.50 donation. Then we have our discussions, games or craft. If you know of a secondary student who might be interested in coming along, please have them email me at families@portyjoppachurch.org for the BC schedule and registration forms. We meet during school term and have summer social events during summer break.

Michelle

A call to prayer



'A PRAYING MOTHER'

'Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart.'

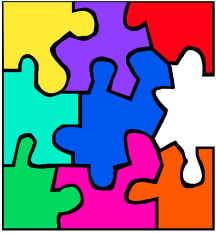
(Luke Ch 2 v 19)

Max Lucado writes: 'Some things only a mum can do ... like powdering a baby's bottom with one hand while holding the phone with the other ... Spending the day wiping noses, laundering socks, balancing a cheque book, and still meaning it when she thanks God for her kids. Some things only a mum can fix ... like the cabinet doors her husband couldn't, and his bruised ego when he found out she could! Broken shoelaces ... broken hearts ... breaking up with your sweetheart. Some things only a mum can know ... like how long it takes to drive from piano lessons to football practice ... how many pizzas you need for a sleepover ... the number of days left in a term. The rest of us can only wonder ... *"Mum, what was it like when that infant's cry first filled the room? Or the day the school bus pulled to a stop, we placed a kiss on a five-year-old's cheek, waved goodbye and then saw the tricycle - silent and still? How did we feel? Did we cry? Did we smile?"* Were we like Mary who *"quietly treasured all these things in her heart?"*' A mother who loves and prays for her children is a force to be reckoned with. When a preacher stopped by a house and asked to speak to the mother, her little boy said, 'You can't see her right now, she's praying.' That's because Susanna Wesley spent one hour every day praying for each of her seventeen children. Eventually two of them, John and Charles, were used by God to bring a spiritual awakening to Britain and America and establish the Methodist Church. Such is the influence of a praying mother.

Harry ,
Prayer Promoter

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ST6 4JF

Brain-teaser



Now that it's summer, here are some seaside-y words for you to work out – some locally relevant and some less so.

Every second letter has been omitted, which makes it more difficult than it might seem!

B-A-H
P-R-S-L
L-L-I-S
S-A-E
B-C-E-
B-T-S
S-N-C-S-L-
P-O-
I-E -R-A- (two words)
P-R-O-E-L-
P-O- (again!)
W-T-R
B-E-K-R-
D-N-E-S
W-N-B-E-K

Alison

Answers: beach, parasol, lollies, spade, bucket, baths, sandcastle, pool (or prom), ice cream, Portobello, prom (or pool), water, breakers, donkeys, windbreak



Getting to know you – Morag

I was born in Melbourne, Australia. I grew up in (in order): Australia, Fife, Kenya, Australia, Fife, Dumfriesshire. Then on to Oxford, and then China, and finally Edinburgh. I have now spent exactly half my life in Edinburgh, and since 2002, when Andrew and I were married, that life has been in Joppa. For a long time I attended St Andrew's and St George's West, and was ordained as an elder there in 2001. In 2010 I made the move, with Robert and Rhona, to St Philip's. My involvement with the Church of Scotland over the years has seen me in a variety of roles, the most demanding being Convener of the Church and Society Council. That was from 2004 to 2008. From 2008 to 2016 I served as a Trustee of Christian Aid, and chaired the Advisory Committee for Scotland. These days, my commitment to Christian Aid is more focused on organising the PJPC house-to-house collection.

In my working life I am a QC. My practice at the bar is mostly in public and administrative law (judicial review and other proceedings relating to government and other public authorities).

Q. What is an early church memory?

A. My father is a minister. He studied Divinity and was then a probationary minister when I was of primary school age. There were a lot of church services, and quite a lot of churches to go to. If there was no Sunday School, I remember being given National Geographics to read during the sermon. No reading allowed during the other parts of the service – just the sermon. And in one Sunday School, which wasn't in our regular church, the Sunday School teacher gave me sweets because I was the minister's daughter and therefore must be good, but the other children didn't get any. I don't think I went back ...

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

A. I'm not sure, but it would be something creative, and something to do with land. I have a great admiration for people who work with wood, and who know and understand trees. Of course, such a job would require skills which I just do not have.

Q. What are you reading at the moment?

A. "Between the woods and the water" by Patrick Leigh Fermor. It's a book that's been on the shelf for a while and I'm glad that I've finally picked it up. It's a beautifully written account of the extraordinary adventures of a young man walking through Central and Eastern Europe in the 1930s.

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

*A. I can speak Mandarin Chinese. Let's be honest: I used to be able to speak Chinese. About 20+ years ago, it was of a fairly acceptable standard. These days, it's very definitely rusty. But I can still write my characters. I can't **remember** them, but I can write them.*

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

A. Daylight; the children; the knowledge that, out there, someone needs me to do, read or say something.

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

LIFE AND WORK JUNE 2017

Life and Work is now available as a digital edition for computer, tablet and smartphone. Subscribe from £11.99 for six months or buy a single issue for £1.99 from www.lifeandwork.org



Making a Difference How church-led youth projects are changing lives in some of Scotland's poorest communities.

Rooted in Faith The life of the new Director of the Boys' Brigade in Scotland.

General Assembly 2017 More reports to this year's meeting.

Not Just Another Management Tool An overview of the Future Focus programme which helps congregations to develop their vision and priorities.

'A Bridge Over Troubled Waters' Ron Ferguson considers the life of St Magnus of Orkney, who was martyred 900 years ago this year.

'Do You Hear What I Hear?' The success of a pilot scheme aiming to include deaf and hard of hearing people in worship.

What We Leave Behind The Rev Lezley Stuart encourages us to believe we can leave behind a positive legacy.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords

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Gaelic The Gaelic Supplement for June will be available as a free download from www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/gaelic-supplement from May 29. If you would like an email notification when it becomes available, please contact us on magazine@lifeandwork.org

MAGAZINE/DIARY DEADLINES

September	Sunday 20 th August 2017
October	Sunday 17 th September 2017
November	Sunday 22 nd October 2017

Scottish Charity Number : SCO11728

www.portyjoppachurch.org

Photography by Kim Kjaerside

