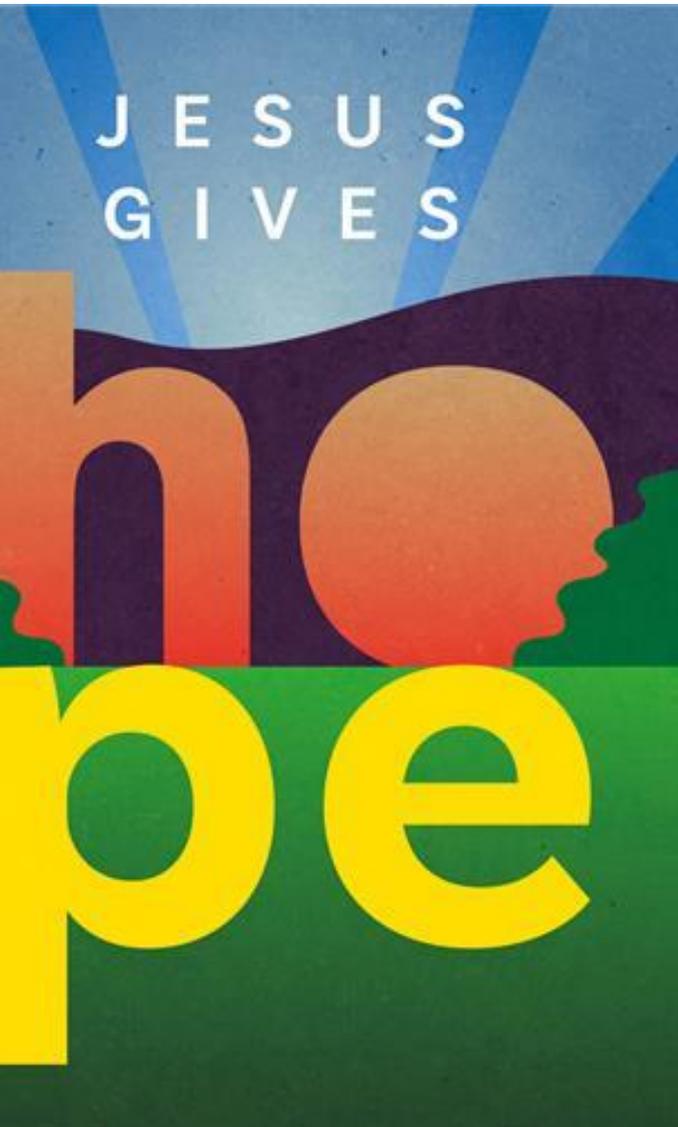


# Church News

## Spring 2020



Juniper Green  
Parish Church





## ***Friends,***

The Scotland of the future has a church! Is that a bold statement or a foolhardy one? Is that a statement of faith, trusting in the faithfulness of God against the odds, or is it blind to the realities of the twenty-first century world in which Scotland lives? I like to think that this statement is based on Jesus' promise to build His church and that ultimately nothing will be able to stand against it.

The question we then ask is "what will this church look like?" That's where my ability to predict the future comes to an end. I know that the church in Scotland is entering into a period of enormous change, but I don't know where that will end or what the finished result will be. Edinburgh Presbytery has a planning strategy group tasked with trying to work out how the congregations in Edinburgh are organised for the next 10 years or so. We have printed elsewhere in the magazine the values and principles by which that group is going about its work. Also, there are questions of church leadership (there will be fewer ministers!) and buildings (the Church can't afford to keep all the buildings we presently operate) so what happens next?

So often we work with an unspoken equation: a church = a congregation + a building + a minister. Unless all three aspects of that equation are there, then the church is somehow deficient. But there are churches across Scotland who don't have a building of their own; there are churches who share the leadership that a minister provides; God is still with

His people in these circumstances and God is still at work in these places.

Recently, I was drawn back to a sermon I had read years ago. It was preached by Robert Murray M'Cheyne, a minister in Dundee in the nineteenth century. It was based on Isaiah 44:3 quoted below. M'Cheyne makes great play of the notion that it is God who pours out water, it is God who gives His Spirit to needy people. God does this. M'Cheyne was privileged to see revival sweep through his church and people were inspired to believe in the Lord Jesus, to read the Bible and to pray in a whole new way. Ironically, this revival happened when M'Cheyne was out of town! God poured out His Spirit and the church was refreshed!

**God says: "I will  
pour water on the  
thirsty land, and  
streams on the dry  
ground; I will pour  
out my Spirit on  
your offspring."  
(Isaiah 44:3)**

Only God can inspire someone to believe in the Lord Jesus; only God can inspire someone to want to read the Bible or learn to pray. Our prayer for our

community and for Scotland at large should be for God to be at work to inspire people in exactly these ways. This is how the Church grows and expands, when God inspires people in these ways.

God refreshes His church. I love that idea. People who have worked hard for many years and are tired; people who love the church but worry about its future; people who long to see others come to faith – God refreshes His people! He brings new energy and inspiration to our faith; He brings new people to the church; He loves us endlessly. God refreshes His people. Pray Isaiah 44:3!

***Jim***



## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Accounts for 2019:** The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 has been approved by the Trustees, independently examined, and is now available in the church. A copy is also available on the church website. Details of the Accounts will be very briefly explained, and any questions on the content answered at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 15th March. You should bring a copy along with you to the Meeting.

**Summary of 2019 Accounts:** A small increase in our Offerings of £1,736 (2.2%) was achieved. The other significant increase was in Hall Rents which was up by £6,951 due to the after-school club renting the hall for 4 afternoons per week and the enforced fall in usage in 2018. Our expenditure increased by £14,115, but we received two legacies amounting to £12,000 to help us achieve a surplus of £4,753. A gain on our Investments held by the Church of Scotland Investors Trust increased this to £9,913. There was also a gain in our investments held by the General Trustees of £4,886. However, the total of these investments fell by £16,583 due to withdrawals made to meet the final costs of *'Shaping the Future'* and the unexpected high costs of treating dry rot, reducing the total by £9,575 after the addition of £2,122 in Dividends.

**Total Funds:** The total funds held by the church as at 31 December 2019 are as follows:

Held in Royal Bank Accounts	£ 39,135
Flower Fund cash	£ 117
Held by C of S Investors Trust	<u>£ 51,560</u>
Sub Total	£ 90,812
Held by C of S General Trustees	<u>£ 92,961</u>
Total	<u>£183,773</u>

It must be remembered that investments can fall as well as increase.

**Budget for 2020:** A 2.5% increase in Offerings is required to meet our estimated financial obligations this year and it is hoped that this can be achieved.

**Fundraising:** Increasing the amount of church funds by fundraising is an essential way to make ends meet. Last year we had two events: the Balerno Music Festival concert raised £456 and the Christmas Fayre raised £651. These events will continue this year but if anyone has other ideas to raise funds will they please contact me. Incidentally, the BMF Concert will be held this year on 9th October, so please save the date.

***R Douglas Buchanan***  
**Treasurer**

## PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH STRATEGIC PLAN

Edinburgh Presbytery is made up of the ministers who work in the city and one elder from each congregation, together

with others who are retired and live here. Its function is to supervise the work of the congregations in the city and provide leadership for the church across the whole city. In 2018, Edinburgh Presbytery set up a Strategy Group tasked with creating a plan for the Presbytery to be in place by 2022 and to be enacted over the following 10 years. Where should we have our congregations? Where should our buildings be located? How should we deploy the smaller number of full-time ministers? What other ways can we find to provide leadership to congregations? Below are the values and principles by which the committee is going about its work, though no concrete proposals are yet in place.

## **Values and Principles**

This document lays out, in summarised form, the values and principles that might animate and guide the Presbytery Plan of the Presbytery of Edinburgh. The *values* of the Plan define the attitudes and standards that should animate a Plan that will directly affect thousands of church officers and members, and indirectly affect hundreds of thousands of Edinburgh's citizens. The *principles* of the Plan refer to the foundational beliefs that ground its policy decisions and implementation. These principles may be unfamiliar to some within the Church, yet they are supported by the bulk of research into contemporary ministry and mission, and have been adopted by many other Edinburgh churches.

### **Values**

*Faithfulness* Above everything else, the Plan aims to be faithful to the vision that God has for the city of Edinburgh, and not to our own personal visions.

*Realism* As part of this, the Plan makes decisions on the basis of fact, and not as we would like the world to be.

*Ambition* The Plan does not settle for the way things are, however, but shares with God God's ambition to see our churches and city transformed.

*Fairness* Realism, tempered with God's vision, mean that the Plan will attempt to be impartial and objective in its recommendations

*Transparency* The work of the Strategy Committee, and the creation and execution of the Plan, will be carried out in a spirit of full transparency, honesty, openness, with clear communication to Presbytery a priority.

*Flexibility* Scottish society is changing at an unprecedented speed, and any Plan we create must be flexible enough to respond quickly to new developments.

### **Principles**

*We Exist for Others, Not Ourselves* William Temple once said that the Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members. That means that all strategic decisions have to be made on the basis of missional, and not merely congregational, considerations. Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve, and the Church is not above its Master.

*Ministry and Mission Shared by Presbytery and Congregations* Ours is a Presbyterian - and not Congregational - Church, and therefore good working within the Presbytery is crucial. Ministry is not only the work of particular congregations but of the whole

Presbytery, and the Plan recognises this by acknowledging Presbytery's role in identifying areas of strategic importance, and directing personnel and finance to these areas.

*Working with Other Churches* The Church of Scotland is part of the Universal Church, of which the other denominations and churches of Edinburgh are also part. As such, we share our ministry and mission with them, and, where possible, we should seek to express this through shared ministry and mission.

*Policies Determined by Fact, Not Anecdote* Following our core values of realism and fairness, the Plan is, wherever possible, directed by evidence rather than personal impression or bias. This involves close consideration of census and social attitude data, contemporary missional thinking, and the practices of other churches. This is particularly important in relation to the use of buildings.

*Breaking the Identification of Ministry with Parish Ministers* Parish ministry will always be the bedrock of the Church of Scotland. Yet a shortage of ministers, economic constraints, and the need to mobilise the whole Church to maintain and grow the Church mean that ministry can no longer be identified solely with parish ministry. As such, some parishes and worshipping communities within the Presbytery will no longer be led by full-time ministers of Word and Sacrament.

*Parish Churches as One Means among Others* Related to this, and to our core values of ambition and flexibility, is the culture shift needed to see parishes as one means of undertaking ministry and mission among others. We live in a period of unprecedented numerical

decline and unprecedented missional opportunity, and new forms of church community will be necessary to grasp this opportunity.

*Recognising Healthy Churches that Grow in Prayer, Discipleship, and Mission* When making policy decisions regarding the future of particular congregations and distribution of resources, cognisance will be taken not only of financial giving or number of members but *health*, understood as growth in prayer, discipleship, and mission. In addition, congregations which excel in these areas should be closely studied, and their experience and giftings used for the benefit of the wider Presbytery.

*Integration of All Presbytery Business with the Strategic Plan* The work of Presbytery can at times feel less coordinated than it might be. If we are to reform our ministry and mission in a time of genuine challenge, the process of planning must integrate with all the other work of Presbytery.

We live in changing times for the Church in Scotland. Over the next ten years, the church will be organized in a different way; its leadership will be provided in different ways; church life will look different. I thought it important to reprint this piece from Edinburgh Presbytery so that you know what is happening. Over the next few months, the elders will be involved in group conversations with others from other congregations to engage in some of this forward-planning process. Please pray for the elders as they take on this responsibility and pray for us as a congregation, that we may be equipped to deal with this change in a positive way as we look to be faithful to God and His mission in our community.

**Jim Dewar**

company, and time spent with friends in a lovely venue. Many thanks to Jim Walker, ably assisted by Pat, for arranging to once again hold the event in the club room. Thanks also to all Strollers who turned out and made the evening a great success.



## **GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP**

Since returning in January we have been joined by our Minister, Jim Dewar who conducted our Communion Service, listened to several members telling us about memories from their youth, enjoyed a fun bingo afternoon and had a very interesting talk from The Tumaini Fund (Scotland).

We have welcomed three new members and look forward to getting to know them better.

Our syllabus if planned meetings is on our noticeboard in Hall 2 and we welcome any members of the cingregationto join us at any of the planned meetings.

Later in the sesssion we have arranged a talk from the Leprosy Mlssioin and would invite anyone to come along and find out what happens to all the money collected in the blue tubs.

**Margaret Woodrow**



## **THE GREEN STROLLERS**

On 17th February, thirty-three Strollers met for our annual dinner at Kingsknowe Golf Club. I think I speak for the group when I say a good time was had by all; good food, great

A group of Strollers, all of whom have volunteered to lead a walk, will be meeting very soon to arrange the programme for this year. Check the notice board for dates. If you would like to be involved in leading or co-leading a walk, then contact myself or Beth Walker. We will be happy to add you to our list!! We also extend a warm welcome to all to come and join our group. Check out the calendar and come along on our next walk.

Once again, a big thank you to all Strollers for making our walks so successful.

Happy Strolling!

**Jeanette Campbell**



**BIBLE**



**READING**

Regularly reading the Bible is an essential part of anyone's journey of Faith, reflecting daily on God's Word.

We continue to offer 6 Bible Reading options, including one for young people.

See all the Bible reading material in the Vestibule at the front door of the Church. You can also view the material on the Church Web Site on the Home Page - Daily Bible Study Materials - by clicking on the "blue" description of the Bible reading material namely "Every Day with Jesus", "Our Daily Bread", "Word for Today", "Word for You" for Young People, "3 Year Reading Plan" (Scottish Bible Society).

If you wish more information about Bible Reading material please speak to Ian Aitken or Michael Merriman.

### **Nurture Team**

***"Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul."***

***Psalms 103 v1 & 2***



### **Minister's Sermons**

Did you want to read the **Minister's Sermon** from last Sunday? Did you miss it? Were there bits of it you didn't understand? Go to the Church website at [www.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk) and follow the link to 'sermons' and you will find them there. Alternatively, go to the soft play area in the Sanctuary for paper copies. There are also sets of Sermons from back to 2009 in titled folders for read and return. If you would like a large print copy speak to Ian Aitken. Or it is possible to get a CD copy of a Morning Service from Sandra Paulin.

Over the past few years our church family have been actively involved in the "trypraying" campaign by supporting the campaign both financially and prayerfully. This year is no different. By

the time you read this we will have had our "trypraying" retiring offering to help contribute towards its £100K target. Scotland will see buses travelling in and out of its towns and cities with its "trypraying" message. These are becoming more familiar and can have a powerful effect leading people to Jesus and starting their journey of faith.

Our banner and the "trypraying" booklets are available both inside the church building and outside the church, in a box attached to the railings by the bus stop. The booklet is a 7 day prayer guide and journey, encouraging people who "don't do church" the opportunity to find out more about God and try praying.

Our prayer and hope is that God will be at work.

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### **Catching the wave:**

Catching the Wave is a 40 day prayer guide encouraging us to pray. It can be used at any time. Some people like to use it in the run up to Easter (during Lent).

It encourages us to pray for revival, our friends and any big issue we may have. Copies can be downloaded from trypraying or bought for £3.75 from trypraying there is hope.

### **Yvonne Hunter**

#### **WEGB1**

What a great weekend we had at Gowanbank in January! 19 young people and 9 team members from the local communities gathered at SU Scotland's newest centre in Darvel, East Ayrshire for a weekend of fun, fellowship and exploring the book of Nehemiah.



On the Saturday we all went tubing, (that's going down a dry ski slope on a rubber ring in case you don't know!) then did some challenges in teams that included building a house and bridge out of various materials such as Lego or newspaper and tape. In the afternoon we did archery and bushcraft – that involved building a fire, making bread to cook on the fire, and crafting shelters out of branches and leaves. Then we were off to the local sports centre for some games, a bouncy castle and a bouldering wall. After our teaching time in the evening we had a bonfire where we sang songs, toasted marshmallows and made s'mores. Sunday morning was filled with more team challenges and our final teaching time.

During our teaching slots we focused in on Nehemiah and explored what his story means for us. How do we stand up for what we believe in, and asking God to help us be bold and courageous in telling others about what we believe? We thought about how we stand against those who oppose us for being a Christian, and we discussed how we could live our lives dedicated to God, what helps us to do that? We gave each young person the opportunity to really think about where they are at in terms of their journey with God and were surprised and encouraged by a lot of their answers.

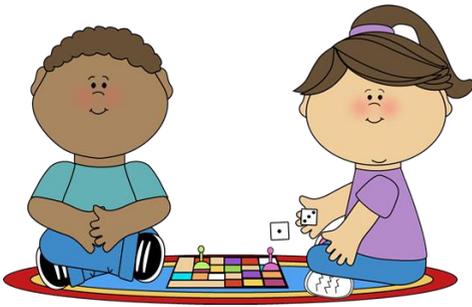
In the month that's followed I've heard that some of the girls have booked to go to a weeklong camp in the summer

holidays, many of the young people told others who hadn't come about how good the weekend was and some have come back to their school SU groups after having missed it for a while. Let's give thanks for that!



The highlight for me personally was the Sunday morning worship. Everyone in the same room singing songs about how great God is, no-one shy of singing loudly or doing silly actions, everyone praising God and celebrating who He is. In that moment I saw those young people the way God sees them and had a glimpse of just how much God loves and cares for each and every one of them. My prayer now the weekend is over is that we will continue to build deeper relationships with these young people, demonstrating and teaching them of God's love, and that God would keep working in their lives, drawing them ever closer to Him. Thank you to those who prayed for the weekend, please continue to pray for these young lives as the months go on.

**Heather Merriman**



## **Open Door Café and Toddler Group**

Tuesday Morning 10-12,  
Parent/Carer and Toddlers.

I had a heart attack on the 9th of December 2019. The next day we had arranged to have the last session of the Open Door by having a Christmas event.

Heather Merriman, Sheena Simpson, Yvonne Hunter, Karen Berry, Marjorie Hope who not only covered the Christmas Event but restarted the Open Door on the 14th of January and each week since except for school holidays. On the 11<sup>th</sup> February Maureen Heathwood stepped into the breach and Linda Ruff attended when she could.

The Open Door has been very busy over the last few weeks. The numbers fluctuate but are showing an overall increase.

My Thanks to all the volunteers who make up a great team but also the Mums, Dads, Grans, Grandpas and all who attend the open door and enjoy the atmosphere and what we offer.

***Inez Paisley***

**FreshStart**  
helping people make a home for themselves

Once again I have to thank the Congregation for the regular donations left in or by the box every week. Fresh Start is so appreciative of all that is delivered to them as of course, are their clients.

There are many changes and innovations taking place within Fresh Start at present, too much to list here. Their winter email can be read on the notice board in Hall 2. It makes for interesting reading. Of particular interest is This Month's Myth Buster telling us that anyone can become homeless, amongst many of these reasons is flooding, which is very close to home at the moment. Please take time to read it or email me on [marjorie.hope@icloud.com](mailto:marjorie.hope@icloud.com) for your own copy.

Anyone who is looking for volunteering opportunities should contact [admin@freshstartweb.org.uk](mailto:admin@freshstartweb.org.uk) or call on 0131 476 7741.

***Marjorie Hope***

# Family News



## FUNERALS

**“I am Resurrection and the life”**

Jan 14

Alan Cunningham

Jan 22

Sarah Dunn

Jan 31

Mary Sandilands

## *Congratulations to*



**Margaret Thomas**  
on the birth on her  
granddaughter,  
**Maisie Karen Hook**

on 4th January 2020.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**Bill Blair**, who will celebrate his 85<sup>th</sup>  
birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.



## THE STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The AGM of the congregation will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March after the morning service. We will have lunch together first: lunch is free, though you need a ticket so that we know how many people to expect; it continues to be free because the Kirk Session wants to use this occasion as a way of saying “thank you” to you for your generosity and commitment through the rest of the year. There will be a plate for donations; we suggest this year that these donations are given to the Food Bank.

After lunch, we will take a little time to consider the Annual report and accounts and you will have the opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of Church life.

Please do come and take part; we look forward to seeing you there.

**Jim Dewar**



*For where two or three  
are gathered in my name,  
there am I among them.*

Matthew 18:20



# The Noticeboard



## Communion Services

Jesus said:  
"Do this, to  
remember me"

### Sunday 5th April

After the Morning Service

**Thursday 9th April** Joint Maundy

Thursday Communion at 7pm

**Sunday 12th April** 9.30am Easter

Communion Service

**Sunday 3rd May** After the  
Morning Service

**Sunday 7th June** 10.30am

Communion Service



## Messy Church

Saturdays March 7th and  
April 4th at 3.30pm in Hall 1

## Church Wednesday Church

**Wednesday** will start again on April  
22nd; more details in the leaflet.

## The Thursday services-

Thursdays, March 19th, April 23rd, May  
21st, June 18th at 10.30am in St  
Margaret's Court

## Lorimer House services –

Sundays March 29th, April 26th, May 31st  
at 3pm.

**The Stated Annual Meeting (our  
AGM!)** will take place on 15th March.  
(More details elsewhere!)



Youth Group @ JG

## Soup and Roll Lunch

Fridays Mar 27th, April 24th,  
May 29th in  
Hall 1 from 12  
noon.

**Youth Group**  
meets on the  
first Sunday  
of every  
month during

the morning service. All p7 to S4 are  
welcome!



## Prayers for Healing

take place after the morning  
service on the third Sunday  
of each month; we have a list  
of names of people who are  
ill and have asked for prayer, there is  
then a short Bible reading and a prayer  
in which we include the list of names. It  
is quite a simple 'service' but many have  
found this prayer time to be significant.

## Summer Church News

Articles for the Summer edition of the  
CF Church News should be in by 29th  
May 2010. They may be handed to  
Alison Robertson or sent to  
jgchurchnews@gmail.com.

# WHO'S WHO

## CONTACT

**Minister**

**Session Clerk**

**Temporary Treasurer**

Beadle

Bereavement Care Team

Catering

Christian Action Team

Church Halls Cleaning Team

Church Secretary

Communications Team

Crèche

Flower Convener

Freewill Offering Administrator

Fresh Start Organiser

Garden Team Co-ordinator

Gift Aid Treasurer

Girlguiding District Commissioner

Green Strollers Walking Group

Global Church Co-ordinator

Guild of Friendship

Halls Convener

Kids' Church

Ladies Badminton Club

Leprosy Mission

Magazine Distribution

MSM

Nurture Team

Open Door Café & Toddlers' Group

Organist and Choirmaster

Prayer Team

Joint Property Conveners

Recordings of Church Service

Roll Keeper

Safeguarding

Youth Group

Church Office is open on Friday mornings 9.30 – 11.30am

## NAME

Rev James S Dewar

Martin Elliot

Douglas Buchanan

George Anderson

Jim Dewar

Sandy Watt

Jean Dewar

Elaine Wilson

Alison Robertson

Shona Cook

Vacancy

Hilda McNeil

Lesley Grieve

Marjorie Hope

Jean Dewar

Vacancy

Jean Dewar

(Jeanette Campbell

(Beth Walker

Fiona Elliot

Margaret Woodrow

Alison Robertson

Vacancy

Alison Buchanan

Rita Brownlie

Isabel Campbell

Martin Elliot

Michael Merriman

Inez Paisley

Florence Kinnear

Yvonne Hunter

(Ian Gilmour

(Andrew Watson

Sandra Paulin

Isabel Campbell

Maureen Heathwood

Alison Robertson

458 5147

**Church Website: [www.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk),**

**Email: [jgpc@supanet.com](mailto:jgpc@supanet.com)**

**Facebook – Juniper Green Parish Church**