



Juniper Green
Parish Church

Spring Church News

The Final Edition



The “F” word.

What does the letter F mean for you.

The world hears the F word and assumes it is bad news.

We’re in the world but not of the world.

Our F word is powerful, healing and energising.

Even better, we have more than one F word.

FAITH

Faith in what we believe, not what we see.

FREEDOM

Freedom not to be trapped by pessimism and expectation of failures.

FOCUS

The ability to focus on the big picture. Scripture tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Who is that neighbour? Our family, the family next door, those in our street, those in our congregation and the congregation at Colinton.

FUTURE

What does our future hold? What a relief that while the world might throw in a comment about “God knows “in a difficult situation, we can take it as a freely given fact that God does indeed know, and will direct us to the future we need, always remembering that need and want don’t go hand in hand. Just ask any toddler who wanted two biscuits and only got one.

As we walk towards our shared future with the congregation at Colinton, we can be sure that we will get what we need because God is directing our future through our faith.

So may God’s Faith in you grant you the Freedom to Focus on the Future.

With every blessing,

Susan Galloway



BIBLE READING

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

Michael Merriman will be delighted to arrange copies of the following – “Our Daily Bread” Booklet

As you are hopefully all aware, Every Day With Jesus is no longer available in printed form and is now available as an app which can be installed on smartphones and tablets (such as the iPad). We hope that you are all enjoying the new format.

Nurture Team





TREASURER'S REPORT

Accounts for 2023:

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 has been approved by the Trustees, independently examined, and is now available on the church website. Some paper copies are available in the church vestibule, but if none are left, please let me or Alison know, and we will arrange to give you a copy. Also, if you would like to know more about any aspect of the Accounts, please contact me and I will be happy to give you more information.

Summary of 2023 Annual Accounts: Income was £118,231 and the Expenditure was £138,961 resulting in a loss of £20,731. Fortunately, there was a small increase in the value of our investment of £2,563 making the Total Deficit £18,168 The reason for this, in another difficult year, was because we had decided to increase our expenditure on Fabric to ensure the roof was watertight, painting of the halls and windows was up to date, and all necessary electrical work was completed. We also had to install a new boiler for the church which was over £11,000 Our giving by bank standing orders and open plate was, unfortunately, down by approx. 5% The amount we transferred from our funds held by the General Trustees was £14,674 for the cost of the boiler and repairs to the Church and Manse roof, gutters, and windows. The remaining costs of fabric were required for repair and maintenance, as necessary. The cost of employing a Family Worker (£7,789) was drawn from the Ministerial Assistance Fund leaving only £2,452 in this Fund. The Church of Scotland Investors Trust decreased by £17,4442

to £30,918 which decreased the total funds position to £56,010 a decrease of £18,168 over last year The Funds held by The Church of Scotland General Trustees decreased by £24,996 to £42,815.

Total Funds:

The total funds held by the church as of 31 December 2023 are as follows:

Held by Royal Bank of Scotland	£25,092
Held by C of S Investors Trust	£30,918
Sub Total	£56,010
Held by C of S General Trustees	£42,815
Total	£98,815

Fundraising:

Increasing the amount of church funds by fundraising is an essential way to make ends meet. Now that our church halls are in good condition, it is hoped that in some way, additional funds may be achieved from hall hire and fundraising events. The success of last year's Christmas Fayre, which raised £677, is a good example.

Budget for 2024:

I have prepared a budget for next year which shows that we could get through twelve months without a deficit. However, at the date of the Union, the Juniper Green Accounts will merge with the Colinton Accounts to form the Pentlands Accounts. Nevertheless, this should make us financially stronger, and I trust we will all continue to contribute to the success of the Union.

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal". 2 Corinthians 4 v 18

R Douglas Buchanan,
Treasurer



GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

We meet fortnightly at 2pm and have relocated to Hall 2 which has been decorated and is cozy and welcoming on cold wet afternoons!

So far this year we have welcomed Eric Melvin from Currie who gave an interesting talk on Napier the herbalist-- a well known Edinburgh concern. Sarah came from Holyrood Park to tell us about the work of the Rangers and share slides of flora and fauna unique to the area. A very interesting afternoon led by a keen young lady who would love to see us spending time in Holyrood Park.

Our quiz afternoon entitled Biscuits, Cakes and Everything Sweet showed how competitive we can be! Good fun and we agreed to accept the answers of the quiz master!

Our next meeting is Pot Luck and we look forward to finding out what this is. Please come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship ,fun and the opportunity to meet and talk with others over a cup of tea.

Margaret Woodrow



THE GREEN STROLLERS

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to one of our Strollers, Sheena Blair. Around 20 years ago, Sheena approached me and suggested it would be a good idea to start a walking group. Henceforth, the Strollers came into being. Sheena and

her late husband Bill were enthusiastic walkers and supporters of the group. I recall the many 'goodies' Sheena would supply on our walks, in order to preserve our energy levels. Sheena - you will be missed.

The weather this winter has not been particularly conducive to walking. However, as I write this, the sun is shining so, hopefully, Spring is just around the corner.

Our walking programme will start with a dinner in the Kingsknowe Golf Club in March, at which time we will start to plan our walking programme. Ideas for walks are always welcome, as are new members and volunteer leaders.

Check the intimations on a Sunday for all future walks.

Happy Strolling!
Jeanette Campbell



The day the Church News is available for distribution will be the day the Congregations of Juniper Green and

Colinton vote on the Basis of Union and Basis of Reviewable Charge. If the congregations vote in favour of the Union then it will go to Presbytery on the 30th April for approval and, assuming they approve it (there is no indication they won't), from 1st May we will be a joint congregation, Edinburgh Pentland's Parish Church.

All going to plan there will be a lot of communication with the congregations and communities over the coming

months to start to explain what Church might look like from the 1st of May.

If you have any questions please feel free to speak to any member of the Facilitation Group: Tillie Boulogne, Martin Elliot, Michael Merriman, Sarah Rhynas or Alison Robertson.

The Facilitation Group

END OF AN ERA

Assuming the Union with Colinton is approved this will be the final Juniper Green Church News! I am stepping down from doing the magazine for the joint Congregation and the Church Magazine for the new congregation will be edited by Kath Hay, a member of Colinton Parish Church and the Colinton News Editor. The new publication (name still to be confirmed) will take the best bits from both Church News and Colinton News and I hope you find it informative and enjoyable.

I can't step away without saying a huge thank you to the Church News team, Marilyn Godon, Maureen Heathwood and especially Isabel and Gordon Campbell. Isabel and Gordon have been the heart and soul of this Church News for more than 40 years, printing editing, proof reading and now doing the distribution. They have provided a constant source of communication to the congregation that can not be underestimated. Thank You!!

Alison Robertson



An Introduction: Kath Hay

Kath is going to be the editor of the new congregations Church magazine.

Currently, she is the Editor of Colinton News, the magazine of Colinton Parish Church, and took on this role in July 2019. She has worked within the publishing industry for more than 45 years, with book, periodical and newspaper publishers in London, Melbourne and Edinburgh. Kath also has a keen interest in music; as a folk singer on TV, Radio and in clubs during the 60s and 70s and also a member of Edinburgh Festival Chorus for 30 years. Kath also enjoys presenting her numerous illustrated talks to many Associations and Clubs, both in and around Edinburgh and also further afield.

It is safe to say the new publication is in very good hands and I hope you all provide Kath with the articles you would usually send to Church News!

Alison Robertson



The Gift

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare art works and had everything from Picasso to Raphael. A war broke out and the young man was drafted and later died in battle rescuing another soldier. His father grieved deeply over the loss of his son. One night there was a knock on the door. A young soldier stood outside with a package in his hands. He told the father, "I'm the man your son died to save. He often talked about you and how you both loved fine art." The package was a painting of his son done by the soldier. "I'm not an artist, but I wanted you to have this."

The father took the portrait of his son and hung it in pride of place above the fireplace. Every time someone came to the house, he showed them this painting first.

When the man died, an auction was organised to sell the works of art in his collection.

On the day of the auction the portrait of the man's son was the first item to be shown to the crowd. The auctioneer asked, "Who will bid on the son?" The room was silent because no one wanted this picture. What the people wanted was the famous pictures they'd come for. The auctioneer asked again "Who will bid on the son."

Finally, a voice said, "I'll give you £10 for it." It was the family gardener, and he didn't have much money. The auctioneer said "I have £10 bid, who will give me £20?" The people were furious and shouted for the famous paintings. The auctioneer banged his gavel, "Going once, going twice, sold to the man in the back for £10."

The auctioneer then stepped down saying that the auction was over and that due to a secret stipulation in the will the person who bought the son was to receive the entire collection as well.

This simple story made me think that, although Jesus was a million times more precious to God than this man's picture of his son, God was willing to sacrifice his son so that all of us might be forgiven and free.

It says in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."



Imagine the truth of that for a moment. You are valuable enough to God that He put his Son through humiliation ...torment ...pain ...heartbreak and death. The one who created the earth and the stars loves the same people that spat in his son's face and rejected his kindness.

Many times in our society, people are told that they're expendable, that they're worthless. God disagrees. He has said that he loves you enough to give up his only son for you. That makes YOU extremely valuable!

May you be blessed in your life by knowing and feeling God with you.

Susan.

Family News



BAPTISM

“Let the children come to me”

25th February
Joshua Mitchell Fraser



FUNERALS

“I am Resurrection and the life”

5th January Sheena Blair
21st February (Charles) Ian Riddell
7th March Janette Lawrie



*Congratulations to **John Sharp** who will celebrate his **70th Birthday** on **6th March**.*

*Congratulations to **Sandra Paulin** on her **75th birthday** on **10th March**.*

Easter Services in Juniper Green and Colinton

Full details in intimations

25th March Evening Service in Colinton
26th March Evening Service in Colinton
27th March Evening Service in Colinton
28th March Maundy Thursday Communion in Colinton
29th March Good Friday Service in Juniper Green
31st March 10.30am Easter Sunday Services in
Juniper Green and Colinton

WHO'S WHO

CONTACT

Locum Minister

Session Clerk

Temporary Treasurer

Beadle

Catering

Church Secretary

Green Strollers Walking Group

Guild of Friendship

Halls Convener

Ladies Badminton Club

Leprosy Mission

Magazine Distribution

Nurture Team

Open Door Café & Toddlers' Group

Organist and Choirmaster

Pastoral Care

Prayer Team

Joint Property Conveners

Roll Keeper

Safeguarding

NAME

Susan Galloway

John Sharp

Douglas Buchanan

George Anderson

Sandy Watt

Alison Robertson

Jeanette Campbell

Margaret Woodrow

Alison Robertson

Linda Sharp

Rita Brownlie

Isabel Campbell

Michael Merriman

Karen Berry

Florence Kinnear

Karen Berry

Yvonne Hunter

(Alison Robertson

(John McKellar

Isabel Campbell

Alastair Elliot

Church Office, open on Thursdays 1 – 3pm

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Facebook – Juniper Green Parish Church