

REIDON

The background of the cover features a photograph of a weathered stone building with a prominent doorway. In the foreground, there is a lush field of yellow daffodils. The overall aesthetic is bright and natural.

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE

APRIL 2021

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HE IS RISEN!



So begins the Easter Day service in many churches across the world. This year these words may begin to take on a greater depth of meaning than previously. The period of preparation for Easter, Lent, is often marked by abstaining from some of the pleasures of life. This is done on a voluntary basis yet for many the last twelve months have felt like a compulsory version. Unable to access many of our activities, shortages of some items, and being unable to spend times with friends or family has led to some describing this period as a year-long Lent.

Yet Lent ends with celebration. It ends with Easter, a time of renewal and hope, a time of liberty and possibility. As we move towards a post-lockdown world, perhaps we could view it through the lens of Easter. It is time for our lives to be resurrected. But resurrection is not to the same old life and ways. It is to a new life, with a new focus, and a new meaning. This Easter can we look forward to what may be rather than dwell on what once was? Can we seek new ways of being? Can we, in a sense, rise again?

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter let us not forget all that is offered to us, through him, as a gift of God. Let us seek to give thanks and celebrate. Let us begin again.

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

May you know the blessing of the Risen Jesus this Eastertime.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

EASTER SERVICES ●●●

We are pleased to let you know that Reid Memorial Church will be re-opening for communal worship as of Sunday 28th March 2021 at 11:15am.

To comply with social distancing, limited seating is available in the church. As 28th March is Palm Sunday and 4th April is Easter Sunday, there may be an increased wish to attend. We will be introducing a booking system. **To book a seat, please phone Linda Farrer on 07811 697 254 or 0131 667 5129. You can also email to lindafarrer19@gmail.com**

The Scottish Government and Church of Scotland guidelines include some conditions that we are required to meet:

- **One of the control measures dictates that doors must be left open therefore Sanctuary temperature may be cool.**
- **Queuing may be required outside.**
- **Singing is not permitted.**
- **Face coverings are mandatory unless there is an exemption in place.**
- **Toilet facilities will not be available, except in an emergency.**
- **Tea and coffee will not be available, and visitors are asked to leave the Church and surrounding areas in a timely manner.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Congregations from Newington Churches Together unite for a **service of worship on the evening of Maundy Thursday, 1st April, at 7:30pm.** This gathering will be led by members from each of the congregations and will be available on the NCT Facebook page.

GOOD FRIDAY

There will be a **short service at Craigmillar Park at 3pm on Good Friday 2nd April.** Booking will be required. To book a seat, please contact Pauline Weibye by telephone on 0131 668 3545 or email pauline@weibye.net

THE FUTURE THE STORY SO FAR



The way

As you will know from previous editions of Reid-On, we have been involved in conversations with neighbouring congregations around the potential future shape of the Kirk in our part of Edinburgh. A report has now been issued and sent to the people in Presbytery who will take the planning process forward.

During our discussion we found that we share much in common, we are doing many of the same things in the same way; many of our aspirations are the same. It became clear early on that there is a great deal of duplication. We found that we shared the same fears for the future, and that this was true even of the congregations that have good numbers and are well resourced from a material perspective. We all feared that nothing would change, and that the Kirk would simply continue as before, watching congregations fade and die along the way.

Our hopes are similar, too. We want to develop our congregations and engage more widely and deeply with our communities; we want the church to be able to break free from what holds us back and become more creative and innovative in our mission.

So what's next? First, we have a buildings survey that will ask each congregation to evaluate their location and buildings according to a given set of criteria. This is to be completed before the General Assembly. The Assembly is likely to produce legislation that >

> will see a significant reduction in the number of ministry posts and allow Presbyteries greater freedom to develop patterns and structures for mission that are appropriate for each area. Bringing these reports, surveys, and legislation together the Presbytery will then issue its draft Plan. This is expected to reach its final form by November and be acted upon soon afterward.

As we continue onward, please pray for all our congregations and the people charged with the difficult task of producing both a vision and a plan. Pray, too, for wisdom and insight that we may discern our role in these changing times.

YOURS IN CHRIST'S NAME, **ALEX**

(PS If you have any questions about any of this then please just ask. If you wish a copy of the report then please let me know and I'll get one to you.)



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

FAIRTRADE UPDATE

*In the run up to Christmas I sold off most of the perishable stock, any out of date stock was disposed of. It is unlikely that I will be replacing these items until we are able to go back to some normality. I am still making marmalade, jams, and lemon curd occasionally so if anyone would like some please get in touch either by email **kjrussell477@gmail.com** or mobile **07791407787**. You can leave a message and I will get back to you regarding delivery. I am low on jars so would appreciate if you could keep them for me. All proceeds will go to church funds.*

KIND REGARDS **KATRINA**

Ferdinand Magellan



ALL IN THE MONTH OF **APRIL**

IT WAS 500 YEARS AGO, on 27th April 1521 that Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the earth, died at the hands of natives in the Philippines. He was aged 41. >

> **300 YEARS AGO**, on 3rd April 1721 that Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister.

250 YEARS AGO, on 13th April 1771 that Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 YEARS AGO, from 6th to 15th April 1896 that the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

95 YEARS AGO, on 21st April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father became King on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936, from which time Elizabeth was the heir presumptive.

90 YEARS AGO, on 14th April 1931 that the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK.

80 YEARS AGO, on 12th April 1941 that Bobby Moore, British footballer, was born. He was Captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup and died in 1993.

50 YEARS AGO, on 6th April 1971 that Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century.

40 YEARS AGO, on 11th April 1981 that the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers, and damaging buildings, looting shops, and setting cars alight.

30 YEARS AGO, on 3rd April 1991 that Graham Greene, novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist died. Author of Brighton Rock, Our Man in Havana and many more.

20 YEARS AGO, on 7th April 2001 that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and remains operational (though it will run out of propellant in 2025).

10 YEARS AGO, on 29th April 2011 that the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

We might still be in lockdown, but Easter is not cancelled! It is as important as ever this year to celebrate the story of Jesus and its message of hope and new life. That's why the teams behind the *Edinburgh Easter Play* and the *Edinburgh Passion* are working together to create new work to watch and listen to online for Easter 2021.

'SATURDAY' is an audio play based on the script they would have performed in Princes Street Gardens. It's a completely new retelling of the Easter story, set on the day between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. We follow the characters in the story, what they are feeling and doing and the dangers, fears and hopes they experience as they remember their time with Jesus and wonder what will happen next. This will be available to listen to from 3pm on Saturday 3rd April on www.easterplay.org

'SCENES FROM THE PASSION' is a series of 21 short films, currently being shot at locations around Edinburgh, in which our actors take different characters in the Easter story and re-imagine them in contemporary settings. As well as Jesus himself and Mary, his mother, we explore voices from the fringes of the story: the centurion who watched the Crucifixion, the wife of Pontius Pilate, the mother of Judas Iscariot. These films will be released from 1st-4th April on www.edinburghpassion.com.



EASTER PLAYS

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the power of His divine manhood.

While still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was his coat.

When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. 19 wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centrepiece of the human race ...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.



THINE BE THE GLORY

The tune of 'Thine Be the Glory' was written by Handel in 1747, intended for use in Handel's Joshua oratorio; however, when it was played, it was popular enough that Handel added it to 'Judas Maccabaeus'.

In 1884, Edmond L. Budry used Handel's tune and wrote words to it. It is reported that he was inspired to write it after the death of his first wife. It was later published in a French hymn book and first translated from French into English by Richard B. Hoyle in 1923. The hymn is based on the Resurrection of Jesus and uses elements of Isaiah 25:8 (*he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord >*

> will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.) It tells the story of the first Easter morning and puts us in the place of the disciples with the risen Christ meeting us in the second verse.

In the Netherlands, it is used as a wedding hymn. It is listed under Easter psalms, but it also considered appropriate for funerals. The hymn is often used in Easter church services involving the British royal family. It was played during a service of thanksgiving in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II's 80th birthday. During the Last Night of the Proms in the United Kingdom, *Thine Be the Glory* is played after *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* with attendees traditionally whistling the tune.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.*

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.*

Refrain

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.*

Refrain

FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Fabric committee were Marjorie Houston, Hazel Melrose, Linda Farrer, and Stevie Douglas (convener). After 20 years' fabulous service, Marjorie resigned from the committee in January 2021. On behalf of the whole congregation, we thank Marjorie very much for her unstinting service which is one of the reasons why the Reid buildings and gardens are in such good condition. Ian Beckett joined the committee in March after confirmation with the minister and Finance Convener on how we would manage any conflict (Ian is also on the Finance Committee).

WORK COMPLETED SINCE MARCH 2020:

A quiet year for spending (essential items only), but a busy year ensuring our church buildings and grounds complied with ever changing Covid guidelines; that meant regularly assessing risks, applying H&S changes to our procedures, carrying out weekly building inspections, regularly securing and reopening our building for use.

Main activities completed include:

- Regular checks and inspection whilst church buildings unoccupied. Log created and retained for building insurances purposes (thanks Joyce and Ian)
- Created and followed operational procedure for closing and re-opening church with appropriate risk assessments undertaken.
- Kept up to date with changing Health and Safety guidelines being issued by Church of Scotland and Government to ensure our procedures and approach remained compliant.
- Moved all chairs from the church in preparation for individual prayer sessions and services.
- Key Management and Security - created list of key holders. >

> All those in charge on Sundays now have keys. Those not requiring keys have handed them in.

- Competitive quotes obtained for maintenance of central heating boilers, resulting in a change of supplier. All three boilers maintained and certified in October.
- Church building heating user guide created, and regular checks documented.
- Competitive Roofing Maintenance work quotes obtained, and roof maintenance completed.
- Christmas tree erected and removed with help from community.
- All Fire extinguishers checked and certified.
- PAT tested completed on electrical items.
- General gardening maintenance work (cutting grass and strimming edges, weeding/tidying all beds, cutting hedges, and pruning) from March to November. We are using Mike Phillips.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Preparation for church buildings re-opening at beginning of April (current date)

WORK FOR 2021

We have agreed a list of work for 2021 that is broken down into 'Must Do - H&S', 'Essential Maintenance' and 'our Wish list'. The main wish list item we would like to take on this year is upgrade the Small Hall. Prior to Covid lockdown, the small hall was a well rented space which provided a good income.

MONEY

In the last financial year, we spent £2.5k on essential maintenance items.



*This poem (full text overleaf) and photograph were kindly shared with us by Judith Smeaton. Mr Leggat, Judith's father, was a previous treasurer at Reid Memorial. He is second from the right in the front row and was adept at writing homilies. We don't know what year the photograph was taken. Do you recognise any other members of this Kirk Session? **EDITOR***

TAE MA FREENS

Wool, anither feenanshul year has gaen past
 An we see juist hoo muckle we've gained.
 We've dune mair nor we ettled in makin en's neot,
 Wi a pickle left over tae hain.

Gin A were tae raise the modern words
 Wi a Sassensach's gift o the gab
 A'd be talkin (an Heaven forfend that A dae)
 O "fantast'ic" an "super" an "fa'".

Bit treasurers coma be fousome like that,
 It's no in their natur ava,
 An tae sey whit they feel is ower muckle for them -
 The words wad juist stick in their crans.

Still, dearly A'd loe tae ding praises tae ye,
 For A ken ye've gien mair nor your pairt,
 An for ca that ye've dune wi sic gledness an joy
 Ye've won the best thanks o ma hert.

See ye'll ken in ma breist there are hert-rugs see strang,
 An jelouse fine ma feelins, A wad,
 When A rax for the ultimate words tae show thanks,
 An finally sey "Aye, no bad".

J.S. Leggat

September, 1981

'TAE MA FREENS

**Weel, anither feenanshul year has gaen past,
An we see juist hoo muckle we've gained.
We've dune mair nor we ettled in makin en's meet,
Wi a pickle left ower tae hain.**

**Gin A were tae yaise the modern words
Wi a Sassenach's gift o the gab
A'd be talkin (an Heeven forfend that A dae)
O "fantastic" an "super" an "fab"**

**Bit treasurers canna be fousome like that,
It's no in their naitur ava,
An tae say whit they feel is ower muckle for them,
The words wid juist stick in their craws.**

**Still, dearly A'd loe tae sing praises tae ye,
For A ken ye've given mair nor your pairt,
An for aa that ye've dune wi sic gledness an joy
Ye've won the best thanks o ma hert**

**Sae ye'll ken in ma breist there are hert-rugs sae strang,
An jalouse fine ma feelings, A wad,
When a rax for the ultimate words tae show thanks,
An finally say "Aye, no bad"**

J.S. Leggat (September 1981)'

J.S. Leggat

September, 1981

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 28th MARCH

Lesley Beckett, Sheila Capewell

In Charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Joyce Rosie, Douglas Mathieson

In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 11th APRIL

June Wylie, Lindsay Wood

In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 18th APRIL

Mary Allan, Alison MacLeod

In Charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 25th APRIL

Geeta Mackay, Sheila Capewell

In Charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 2nd MAY

Lesley Beckett, Joyce Rosie

In Charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 9th MAY

Gillian Brown, Lindsay Wood

In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 16th MAY

Alison MacLeod, Sheila Capewell

In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 23rd MAY

Douglas Mathieson, Mary Allan

In Charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 30th MAY

Geeta Mackay, Lindsay Wood

In Charge: Stevie Douglas

POSTER FOUND IN A CHURCH IN FRANCE:

'When you enter this church, it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want a quiet place to talk to Him, send Him a text while you're driving.'

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Judith, as our Treasurer, has completed the annual accounts and these will be presented to the Stated General Meeting of the congregation shortly. As usual, they have been approved by the Trustees - being the members of the Session and Board.

The main take away message from the accounts are that our income has been dramatically reduced, but so have our expenses. This resulted in a net surplus of £8709. As our reserves have been depleted in recent years it is planned to post the surplus to reserves. Expenditure this year should be met from income this year.

The accounts for the year to the end of February are setting a good start for the year - let's hope this trend continues. Despite the freewill offerings, at £10657, being down compared to last year, there is a small surplus because our expenses are also down. I am confident that when services resume, our offerings will revert to their normal level. Fortunately, both Church House and Wilton Road remain occupied and rent after expenses of approaching £5000 has been received. We are fortunate to be able to continue to pay our cleaner and organist throughout lockdown, but we do get a furlough contribution for the cleaner from the UK government. Some of the items in the Cash Cow collection were sent away, and we received prompt payment of £277. Several items, including some jewellery, earmarked for sale separately are still to be sold.

> We need to prepare for a very large organ overhaul. We already have an organ fund and those of you who have particularly enjoyed our wonderful music over the years, and are looking forward to hearing it again soon, may wish to make an additional contribution. Please make it clear in a note or email that any such donation is for the organ fund.

I have been asked to explain how the payments we make to 121 are calculated. In summary, 121 looks only at our income and requires us to pay a fixed percentage of it to them - this supports churches that are less well off than us, running costs of 121 including ministers' salaries and of presbytery and the wider work of the church. The percentage varies from year to year and in recent times has been between 50% and 65%. It is averaged over 3 years so a one-off large donation will increase the amount we pay to 121 over 3 years. Income which is 'restricted' as to what it can be used for by the donor is excluded. Some years ago, the Board ruled that fundraising income would be restricted in this way for fabric. Some members make it clear their donations are exclusively for fabric or the organ at The Reid. I leave you to draw your own conclusion as to use this facility.

ALASDAIR SEALE FINANCE CONVENOR

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be May 2021. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 24th April - see page 2 for contact details.



REIDMEMORIAL
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

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