

REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023

REID MEMORIAL
CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICES
10.00 AM
11.30 AM
2.30 PM
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
ALL WELCOME

CONTACT INFORMATION

MINISTER

REV. ALEX McASPURREN

AMcAspurren@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel. 667 1623

SESSION CLERK

Mrs ELIZABETH CLARK

ReidMemorial_SessionClerk@outlook.com Tel: 667 6705

ROLL KEEPER

Mrs LINDA FARRER

Tel: 667 5129

CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL

ANSWERPHONE IN OPERATION

reid_memorial@outlook.com

Tel: 662 1203

ELDER IN CHARGE OF COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS

ELIZABETH CLARK

maretaclark@btinternet.com Tel: 667 6705

SUNDAY DUTY ROSTER

SHEILA CAPEWELL

TREASURER

JUDITH SMEATON

Treasurer_ReidMemorial@outlook.com Tel: 662 0149

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs LINDA FARRER

reidon.editor@gmail.com Tel: 667 5129
Graphics and design by **DAVID WHITE**

ORGANIST

Dr MARTYN STRACHAN

martynpaul1959@gmail.com Tel: 339 3217

HALL BOOKINGS

Mrs JOYCE ROSIE

joycerosie05@blueyonder.co.uk Tel: 667 2527

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

ANNE BLACK

anneblack2@btinternet.com Tel: 447 4149

CLERK TO THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Mrs SUSAN MACKAY

crmackay@aol.com Tel: 667 0910

ORDER OF SERVICE AND INTIMATIONS

DAVID WHITE

reid_memorial@outlook.com, by Wednesday morning please.

FACEBOOK

@REIDMEMORIAL [Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh]



WHERE HAS ALL THE TIME GONE?

It hardly seems that far since we welcomed in the New Year yet, at the time of writing, it is not only mid-March but also

halfway through Lent. Where has the time gone? For some in our congregation it has been a busy time. With the Church having a reporting year that matches the calendar one it has been a time of writing reports and finalising accounts. With so much significant restructuring going on in the Church it has also been a time of many, many, meetings; the good news is that these have not been 'talking shops' but have been productive and creative. With all this busy-ness the time seems to have flown by. Yet. There is a danger in this!

Lent is a time that really is not about giving up chocolate, wine, or whatever. It is a time to slow down and be focussed on our faith, on Jesus and all that he accomplished for us on the Cross. But, I fear, we have lost sight of this. If we have become focussed it has been on the work of administration and reorganisation; we have taken our eyes from the Cross. For our spiritual health we should, perhaps, pause amid all the busyness, averting our gaze for a moment from all the reports, and returning to the one who loved us and died for us. The reports can wait; the urgent ones have already been done and the deadlines for the others remain in the distance. We can stop; we can wait, we can be still. >

> And in that stillness we may hear the still, small, voice of God calling out to each us:

"Do not be afraid,

For I have redeemed you.

I have called you by your name;

You are mine."

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

LENT 2023: **HOLY WEEK**

HOLY WEEK

In previous years we have met daily throughout Holy Week to both worship and share in a light breakfast; this year we continue that pattern.

From Monday 3rd April through Friday 7th we gather at Craigmillar Park Church at 07:45. Services will be led by a range of church leaders from across the area.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

This year we aim to repeat last year's successful Maundy Thursday evening service. We will begin at 7pm for a time of worship and reflection that will also include a light meal as an integral part. In order to cater for everyone attending we need to know numbers in advance.

With that in mind a sign-up sheet will be available in church on Sundays 19th and 26th March. If you are not going to be in church on those two Sundays then please contact Alex and ask to have your name added to the list.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF **APRIL**

IT WAS 100 YEARS AGO, on 26th April 1923 that Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother) at Westminster Abbey in London.

90 YEARS AGO, on 3rd April 1933 that the first flight over Mount Everest took place. British pilots the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre flew two biplanes over the summit.

80 YEARS AGO, on 30th April 1943 that the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was established in Germany. The former prisoner-of-war camp was converted into a holding camp, mainly for Jews. Tens of thousands of people died of starvation and disease in the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions.

75 YEARS AGO, on 7th April 1948 that the World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland as a specialist agency of the United Nations.

70 YEARS AGO, on 16th April 1953 that Queen Elizabeth II launched the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was decommissioned in 1997. The Royal Family no longer owns a royal yacht.

50 YEARS AGO, on 4th April 1973 that the World Trade Centre in New York City was officially opened. It was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

40 YEARS AGO, on 1st April 1983 that tens of thousands of anti-nuclear weapons protestors formed a 14-mile human chain >

> in Berkshire. They linked the US airbase at Greenham Common, the nuclear research centre in Aldermaston, and an ordnance factory in Burghfield.

30 YEARS AGO, on 22nd April 1993 that Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old British teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Eltham, London. The high-profile case was widely covered by the media, and an inquiry found that the Metropolitan Police Service, which originally investigated the crime, was institutionally racist.

ALSO 30 YEARS AGO, on 29th April 1993 that Queen Elizabeth II announced that Buckingham Palace would open to the public for the first time, to raise funds to repair fire damage at Windsor Castle.

ALSO 30 YEARS AGO, on 30th April 1993 that CERN, the creators of the World Wide Web, announced that it could be used for free by anyone. That decision has shaped the modern world as we know it.

25 YEARS AGO, on 10th April 1998 that the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland.



'The art of life is to know how to enjoy a little and to endure much' - William Hazlitt

'Goodness is action - not intention to act' - John Fowles

'Life is made up of getting and giving, and forgetting and forgiving' - Anon

'We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give' - Anon



DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 26th MARCH

Douglas Mathieson, Gillian Brown
In Charge Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 2nd APRIL

Mary Allan, Alison MacLeod
In Charge Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 9th APRIL

Geeta Mackay, Sheena Richardson
In Charge Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 16th APRIL

Lesley Beckett, Sheila Capewell
In Charge Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 23rd APRIL

Siobhan Gilliland, June Wylie
In Charge Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 30th APRIL

Joyce Rosie, Elizabeth Clark
In Charge Stephen Thomson

LENT 2023: **HOLY WEEK**

LIBERTON NORTHFIELD'S BIG READ

*Liberton Northfield would like to extend the invitation to neighbouring congregations during Holy Week. We will be holding a '**Big Read**' at 2pm on Tuesday 4th April.*

Here is the description prepared by Adrian: 'We are used to reading or hearing the Bible read in short sections. The Big Read is an opportunity to come together to read Mark's gospel from beginning to end. It is a great story full of action covering the whole life of Jesus leading up to his death and resurrection. Read together it is an emotional experience for Holy Week that may change forever the way you read and listen to the Bible.'

FAITH AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

As the Scottish National Party prepares to elect a new leader, who will become the next First Minister of Scotland, the role that an individual's personal faith may play in shaping their views and voting patterns as an elected member and in influencing public policy has come to the fore. This follows statements made by one of the candidates, Kate Forbes MSP, who is a member of the Free Church of Scotland. Her views and their implications for the electorate have played out extensively in public.

In response, the Church of Scotland developed the following comment which has been widely issued to the media through our normal channels. We are now further sharing that with you to ensure the views that we have expressed are widely available to people across the Church. Please do feel free to share this message in any way that suits you.

I hope you will find this update helpful.

With all good wishes, Rev Fiona Smith (Principal Clerk)

'The prospect of Kate Forbes taking on the role of First Minister has engendered much debate about her beliefs as a member of the Free Church of Scotland and the impact of those beliefs on any political decisions she may take. >



> *'As fellow Christians, we support Ms Forbes' right to hold her beliefs, as we would for anyone else. We deplore comments which suggest that holding views because of religion, faith or belief would impair her suitability as a candidate for First Minister. Freedom of religion and belief is a human right and a protected characteristic under the Equality Act. Scotland is a diverse, pluralist society that includes people of many faiths and beliefs, and it is right that we seek to treat one another with fairness and respect, especially when we hold a different opinion.*

'In a democratic society it is important for our political leaders to uphold the decisions of the Scottish Parliament, even when they do not personally agree with them. There is a longstanding tradition of politicians being able to exercise their own conscience on moral issues, where they are given 'free votes' rather than have to follow a party line.

'We urge those involved in choosing a potential leader to examine what positive qualities they can contribute, such as a commitment to public service, a willingness to work for the benefit of the country as a whole, and those personal qualities of honesty and integrity which we all expect from those in high office.

'We also appeal to people to consider their own words and actions as they engage in the debate about Scotland's next First Minister. The political arena is all too often an environment that can see highly damaging personal attacks made on those in public office. Our politicians are human beings first and foremost who volunteer to serve the public and in doing so accept the scrutiny that comes with that role but all too often this sadly falls into a level of abuse that should never be acceptable.'

The Church of Scotland is urging the UK Government to reconsider its plan to pass a bill aimed at preventing asylum seekers and refugees who cross the English Channel by boat from being considered for asylum or remaining in the country.

Rev Karen Hendry, convener of the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum, expressed the General Assembly's long-held position on the issue, saying, *'I am deeply concerned by the growing hostility towards people seeking safety both in the way they are viewed and, as displayed today, in policy by the UK Government.* >

ASYLUM SEEKERS BILL

KIRK RESPONDS



> 'The proposed 'Illegal Migration Bill' goes against everything that we uphold and value in our faith and communities - the dignity and value of all humans and their right to seek safety when their lives are threatened and torn apart.

'We urge the UK Government to rethink their proposal and take a sharp U-turn. This bill will not just strip people fleeing war and persecution of their right to seek safety in the UK but punish them, based simply on how they came here, not whether they need protection from war and persecution.

'If someone risks their life in search for safety then we must assume that what they are leaving is worse by far and grant them the right to prove their case.

'Only a tiny fraction of people fleeing their own country make their way to the United Kingdom. We have a responsibility to share the duty of offering hospitality for those seeking sanctuary along with all the other nations of the world. If every country adopted a policy of closed borders to refugees, then ordinary people would be left at the mercy of warlords, terrorists and dictators.

'Nearly two thirds of people who arrive by small boats are granted refugee status following rigorous checks by the Home Office. Many arrive from countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Iran and Sudan and do not have the opportunity to seek the promised 'safe and legal' routes that are open to a very limited number of people.

'We strongly oppose this bill and will continue to work with partners and in our local communities to ensure Scotland is a welcoming and safe place for all.'

[PUBLISHED 7th MARCH 2023]

WORSHIP AND PRAYER GATHERING

Reid Memorial was the venue for the Worship and Prayer gathering of SEECoS on Sunday 26th February at 6:30pm. I didn't know what to expect so it was with some anxiety that I agreed to organise the refreshments. I had no idea of how many people would attend from the churches in the South-East Edinburgh Group or the format of the worship.

We were in the large hall and the sound system was set up. It hadn't been used for some time but it was a pleasant surprise when it worked well and enhanced the sound within the hall.

I set up the refreshments and guessed that about 30 people might attend. Oaty Tiffin, Lemon Drizzle cake and chocolate biscuits were on offer as well as coffee, tea and drinking chocolate. Tables and chairs were laid out for 30 people.

We quickly had to replenish the flasks and add extra chairs. I estimate that between 50 and 60 people arrived. After introductions, John Young, minister at Liberton Kirk, led the hymn singing on the guitar. The joint voices were a joy to behold. We listened to a short reflection from Janet MacKenzie, OLM at Tron Moredun, followed by a list of suggested prayer topics from Fiona Devoy, reader from Liberton Kirk. Small groups were formed, some people prayed while other were more comfortable listening.

The meeting ended at 8pm, but a number of visitors were keen to have a tour of our building. Without exception, they were >

> impressed by our facilities and were keen to hear about the history of the building, the congregation, and the many users of the halls.

The next Worship and Prayer Gathering will take place on Sunday 26th March at 6:30pm in the Gilmerton Hub, 6 Ravenscroft St, Edinburgh EH17 8QL.

LINDA FARRER

ELDERSHIP TRAINING

This started on 8th March at 7:30pm in the Main Sanctuary of Reid Memorial Church. The course is being run for all the churches in SECCoS, one evening a month for four months, by John Young. It offers refreshment and encouragement to those who are already elders and a taster for those who may be considering taking on the role. There is no obligation to become an elder at the end of the course. However, the course is open to anyone.

Refreshments were available and a relaxed informal atmosphere was evident. After a short talk from John, we split into groups of 4 or 5 with people from different churches. It is anticipated that the groups will be maintained throughout the course. Within our groups we shared our Christian journeys and discussed topics suggested by John. A summary of our discussion was shared with the other groups. For anyone who wished to, we recorded a sentence about the take-away message that was personal to each of us. The future dates are outlined below for anyone who would like to join, there's plenty of space. Come along at 7pm for refreshment in the Main Sanctuary at Reid Memorial Church, on Wednesdays 19th April, 17th May and 14th June. *[see picture at rear]*

It had been hoped that the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan would have been approved before now, however progress has been slow in part due to concerns from 'The General trustees' around some of the building proposals.

Despite these, work toward our future union with our neighbouring congregations into what is now referred to as 'The South-East Edinburgh Church of Scotland' (aka SEECoS) continues apace. Very little of the ongoing work is in the public domain but is done in a quiet and orderly manner by a range of groups working to guide us into the best possible outcome.

The first draft of the 'Basis of Union' has been written, and we are currently having this looked at by someone with the relevant knowledge of Church Law. As a part of this we are looking at how the idea of 'Local Mission Church' fits in with the existing legislation around unions. At a later point in the process this 'Basis' document will be brought to the congregation for discussion and for a vote on whether or not to accept it.

Other groups are continuing to look at Finance, Worship, and Communication. A group to consider business cases for each of our buildings will commence work soon. These groups all have input from members of Reid Memorial Church.

Aside from these, work is ongoing to look at how we staff the new Parish. There is a desire not only to keep all our buildings open, and to construct a new one at Gracemount, but to ensure that each congregation has a designated full-time leader.

As further steps are taken those of us in leadership roles will continue to keep you updated.

UNION UPDATE



Alex leads the discussion at last month's congregational meeting

FABRIC COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

This Fabric report covers work carried out in 2022. The Fabric Committee are Linda Farrer, Hazel Melrose, Ian Beckett, and Stevie Douglas (Convenor).

SUMMARY

It has been another tough and busy year for Fabric. On top of the normal demands of maintaining a grade A listed building we had:

- Significant and frustrating issues with our church heating (at one point in December our church temperature was 5 degrees).
- Our Organ maintenance and repair work took around 6 months, which meant piano and electric piano being used for services.
- Our 5 yearly electrical inspection was carried out and identified a number of issues to be dealt with.
- The increasing use of our church and halls as a rental space has increased our day to day activities.

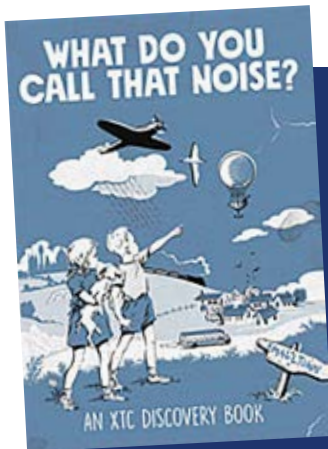
Despite all the challenges, our Fabric spend came in under budget (again). We spent £3,888.17 (last year was £9,211.77) against a budget of £13,200 - a false low as some of the 2022 work was not invoiced until 2023 (so will be in next year's accounts). However, I expect the true total would still be well under budget for year. Our working budget for 2023 is £13,200.

There is always still more to do, and a particular focus for this coming year is our Church, Hall and Manse Presbytery 5 yearly inspection (quinquennial), scheduled to take place at the end >

> of March 2023. Our last inspection was in July 2017. Trinity factors will also be involved as they look after and maintain our Manse and Church Officer House. We will of course continue to do the essentials for our buildings - keeping them safe, secure, watertight and welcoming.


I'd like to thank the small team who do much to keep the lights on at the Reid - Linda Farrer, Hazel Melrose and Ian Beckett. Also, thanks to Susan for her support, Joyce for her understanding and Trinity Factors for looking after our church officer house and Manse.

STEVIE DOUGLAS 1st MARCH 2023



PODCASTING OVERTIME

An unusual 'witness opportunity' came up last month, to put the Christian point of view to a panel put together for an episode of *What Do You Call That Noise?* - a regular podcast examining all aspects of the English band XTC, hosted by journalist Mark Fisher. This month I was joined by Belinda Blanchard (a Humanist) and Ash Jñānagarbha (a Buddhist); and considering we were discussing the spiritual side of the band's music from very different viewpoints, it was a respectful discussion, and awkwardness-free. **DAVID WHITE**



DON'T DIE: *The vicar announced: "I am sure that you will not wish to overwork our visiting minister while I am on holiday, and will keep funerals to a minimum."*

WAGES: *Advert for a new minister: 'Wages not high, but retirement benefits out of this world.'*


'Give God what's right - not what's left'. - Anon

'Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope'. - Anon

'When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty'. - Anon

'I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter.'
- Winston Churchill, on his 75th birthday.

No medicine is more valuable... none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble - and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy. - St Aelred of Rievaulx





NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER


St Columba's church in Upper Gray Street has a programme of 'Saturday Talks over 2022/23 Refreshments will be available from 10am with the talk commencing at 10:30.

FOODBANK +

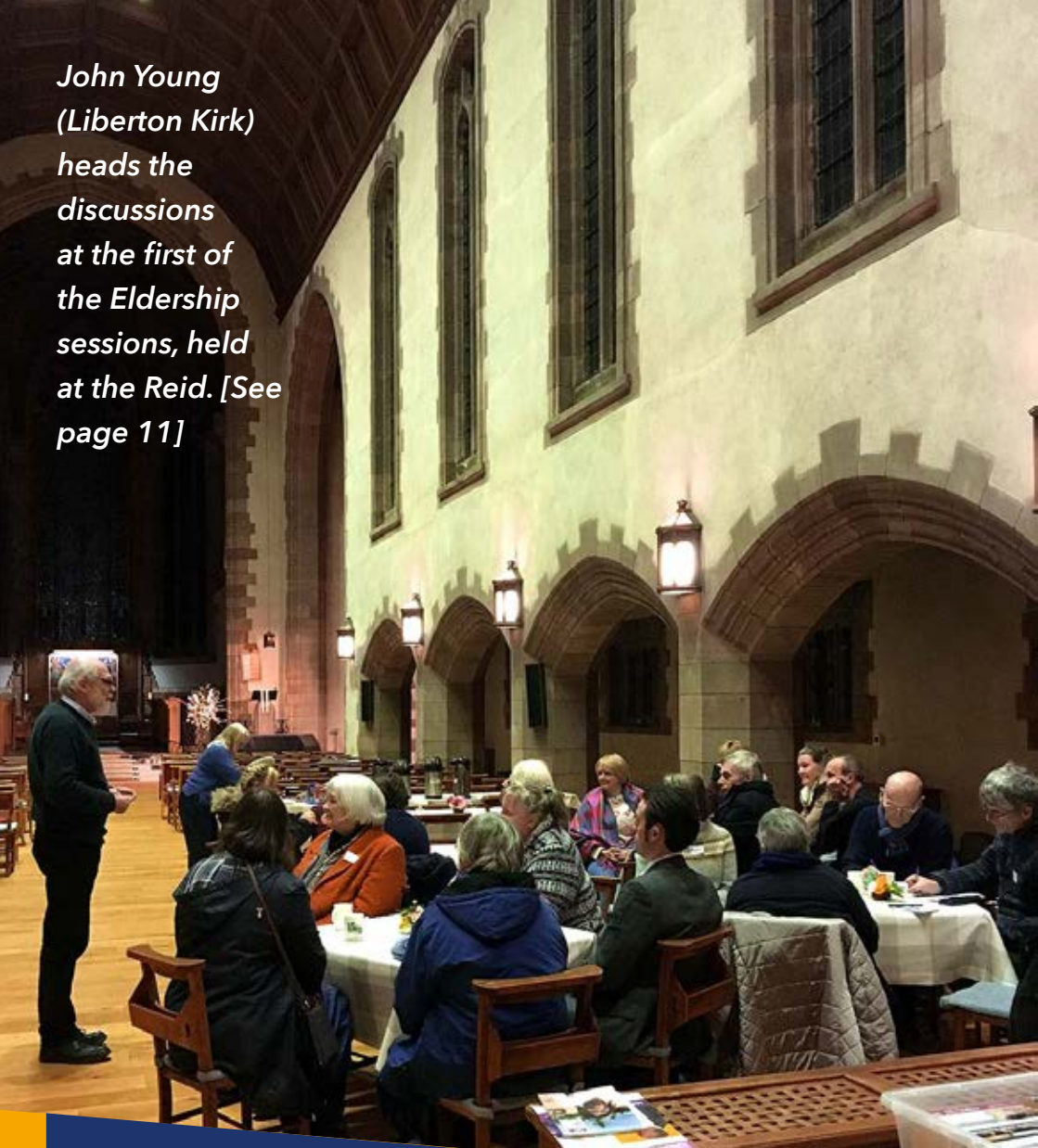
The Foodbank has been very busy, especially in the last few months. Recently we have seen from 28 to 35 service users coming along.. Currently we have a few larger families + single men/women and couples. Many thanks to all members of our congregation who donate food in church and also give monetary donations for our Foodbank. At the moment donations of tinned fruit and tinned meat would be appreciated.

Please continue to pray for all at the Foodbank, including the helpers, during these difficult times.

ALISON MACLEOD



*John Young
(Liberton Kirk)
heads the
discussions
at the first of
the Eldership
sessions, held
at the Reid. [See
page 11]*



The next issue of **REIDON...** will be May 2023. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 22nd April. See page 2 for contact details.



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CHARITY No. SC014027 CCLI No. 1200303