

REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 2021
JANUARY 2022

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

MISSION DEVELOPMENT WORKER

MICHAEL McMULLIN

mmcmullin@churchofscotland.org.uk

07444 082 627

SUNDAY DUTY ROSTER

SHEILA CAPEWELL

TREASURER

JUDITH SMEATON

Treasurer_ReidMemorial@outlook.com

Tel: 662 0149

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mrs LINDA FARRER

reidon.editor@gmail.com

Graphics and design by **DAVID WHITE**

Tel: 667 5129

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 INTIMATIONS

[Currently suspended]

DAVID WHITE

reid_memorial@outlook.com, by Wednesday morning please.

FACEBOOK

@REIDMEMORIAL [REID MEMORIAL CHURCH, EDINBURGH]

SERVICES



5th December 11:15am

SACRAMENT OF **HOLY COMMUNION**

at Reid Memorial. Second Sunday in Advent.

Last chance to donate toys for the children of Castleview School:
contact Susan 0131 667 0910

12th December

MORNING WORSHIP

Craigmillar Park 09:45 am, Reid Memorial 11:15am

19th December

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Craigmillar Park 09:45 am, Reid Memorial 11:15am

Craigmillar Park - 6:30pm with the St. Margaret's Singers

24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Reid Memorial - 4pm - **Family Service**

Craigmillar Park - 11:15pm - **Watchnight Service**

25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

Reid Memorial 11:15am

26th December

BOXING DAY

Craigmillar Park 09:45 am, Reid Memorial 11:15am



WHAT'S ON



30th November at 2pm

ADVENT STUDIES

4 meetings - and the following 3 Wednesdays (Dec 8th, 15th, 22nd).

All at 2pm, Session Room, Craigmillar Park Church.

4th December at 10am - 1pm

CHRISTMAS CRAFTER'S FAIR

Many and varied stalls in the church. Refreshments in the large hall with seasonal piano music by Martyn Strachan. Free entry.

Some restrictions are still in place:

- *Maintain social distancing* • *Wear a mask when moving about*
- *Windows or doors will be open* • *Use sanitiser*
- *You will be served at the table* • *Volunteers will keep you right, just ask. Tell your friends, family and neighbours. All are welcome.*

5th December at 1:30 - 2:30pm

NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre.

10th December doors open at 7:00pm

NO STRINGS ATTACHED: COMMUNITY WIND BAND

Annual Christmas concert in the Reid Memorial Church, an evening of jazz, swing, and popular music. Entrance is free and includes refreshments after the performance. Given Covid restrictions, there will be a limit on numbers so arrive early to avoid disappointment.





DEAR FRIENDS...

Here we are again, approaching the shortest days of the year and their accompanying lack of sunlight. We are

also beginning to feel the cold of winter take over from the mild temperatures of autumn. It is,

however, the lack of light that I would prefer us to think about for the moment. Most of us do not like the dark, it can leave us feeling insecure, anxious, even afraid. Perhaps that's why we spend so much of winter in the northern hemisphere lighting up the world around us. As we have now entered Advent, and will progress through Christmas and Epiphany, we will be lighting up our houses, trees, gardens, and public spaces with a myriad of lights. This is true irrespective of our faith or spirituality. We light up our world with artificial light not just for safety by driving off the literal dark, but we do so also to drive off the metaphorical dark. Today we may not fear the existence of ghouls, ghosts, or scary monsters, yet there is still something of the darkness that unsettles us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to himself as the 'light of the world'. Rather than a literal light to drive off a literal darkness, Jesus is the metaphorical one who drives off our fears. Not only that, he is the light that lights our path to truth and freedom. With so much chaos and uncertainty in our world we need a light to guide us, all of us, that we may find our way. The light of Christ illuminates our inner selves that we may see our own faults and weaknesses that we may know what we need to address. The light of Christ illuminates the path before us that we may journey towards a life of peace

and justice, accomplished by our restoration with God. Once we have experienced the restorative love of God, we cannot keep it to ourselves, we need to share it with others. Once restored we are to be lights so that others, too, may encounter Christ and know what it is to be at one with God.

Christmas will soon be upon us, and we will be singing songs that speak of stars, guiding travellers, and angelic presences both lighting up the sky. As we journey into this celebration let us be the people who light up the world around us, pointing them not towards us but to the Lord Jesus.

May we all know a blessed and light-filled time this Christmas.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

HOW **GREEN** WE ARE

You'll no doubt be aware of the catastrophic consequences increasingly felt around the world as a result of continued man-made global warming: central to the World Church Committee's Christian Aid appeals, they prompted the Scottish Government to declare a Climate Emergency two years ago.

You might also be aware of **Eco-Congregation Scotland** - the movement of congregations addressing environmental issues in their life and mission. In response to a discussion at the recent Congregational Board meeting, the Reid will be looking at its response to climate change, and revisiting the idea of joining the 450 congregations who are part of the scheme.

To that end, we're looking for people who are interested in contributing to a small group who can help determine whether it's for us or not. Click on my name to email me. **DAVID WHITE**

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

Richard Black, Gillian Brown
In Charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

Joyce Rosie, Sheena Richardson
In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

Alison MacLeod, Lindsay Wood
In Charge: Linda Farrer

FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER

Lesley Beckett, Sheila Capewell
In Charge: Ian Beckett

SATURDAY 25th DECEMBER

Stephen Thomson,
Siobhan Gilliland
In Charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 26th DECEMBER

Richard Black, Joyce Rosie
In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY

Alison MacLeod,
Douglas Mathieson
In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 9th JANUARY

Geeta Mackay, Elizabeth Clark
In Charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 16th JANUARY

Gillian Brown, Mary Allan
In Charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY

Lesley Beckett, Lindsay Wood
In Charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 30th JANUARY

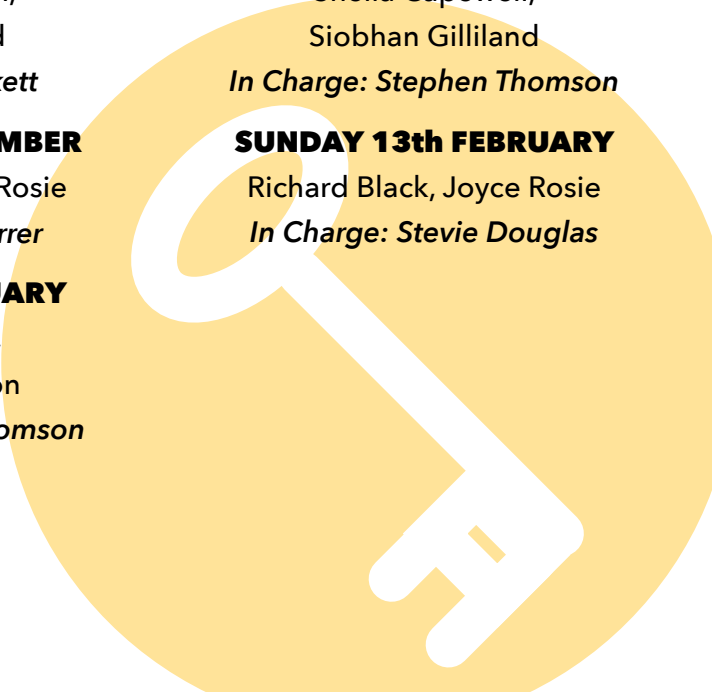
Sheena Richardson, June Wylie
In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY

Sheila Capewell,
Siobhan Gilliland
In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY

Richard Black, Joyce Rosie
In Charge: Stevie Douglas



ALL IN THE MONTH OF **DECEMBER**

IT WAS 1,500 YEARS AGO, on 7th December 521 that St Columba, Irish missionary who spread Christianity in Scotland, was born. He was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

175 YEARS AGO, on 21 December 1846 that the first surgical operation in Europe using anaesthesia took place. Robert Liston amputated a servant's leg at University College Hospital in London.

80 YEARS AGO, on 7th December 1941 that the Japanese made their surprise bomb attack on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. The USA, UK, Netherlands, New Zealand, and other countries declared war on Japan the following day. The War in Europe had now become a World War.

60 YEARS AGO, on 4th December 1961, that birth control pills became available on the NHS.

30 YEARS AGO, on 25th and 26th December 1991, that Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as President of the Soviet Union, and the next day the Soviet Union was officially dissolved. The 12 remaining Soviet republics became independent states.

25 YEARS AGO, on 10th December 1996, that South African President Nelson Mandela signed a new constitution, completing the transition from white minority rule to full democracy.

20 YEARS AGO, on 13th December 2001, that the Pentagon released a videotape of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, in which he stated that the deaths and destruction achieved by the 9/11 attacks had exceeded his most optimistic expectations.

15 YEARS AGO, on 30th December 2006, that Saddam Hussein, President/dictator of Iraq (1979 to 2003) was executed for war crimes.

PRAYERS

4th DECEMBER

*God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.*

*God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.*

*God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.*

*God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.*

AMEN.

11th DECEMBER

*Lord, inspire us to give of our best and make good use of
the talents you have given us. Show us how to be positive in
attitude, appreciating and valuing others, always being ready
to encourage and give praise. Sometimes we draw conclusions
about people in terms of what we think is meant by success and
failure. Lead us never to judge people but to accept others as
they are, knowing that it is together, each with our differences,
that we build up your Kingdom.*

AMEN.

18th DECEMBER

*To you O Lord we bring our lives
Troubled, broken or at ease
Take away our selfishness
And teach us to love as you love*

*Take away our sense of pride
And show us the meaning of humility
Take away our blindness
And show us the world through your eyes
Take away our greed
And teach us how to give
Show us your ways
Teach us your paths
That we might walk with you more closely.*

AMEN.

25th DECEMBER

God our Father, may the vastness of your creation that we can begin to see through a telescope, remind us of the abundance of your love. May the lowliness of the smallest creatures and cells that we can see through a microscope, remind us of how insignificant - yet special - we appear to be. May our vision each day of the world around us remind us that you so loved the world that you sent Jesus, your Son, to be one of us. In all that we observe, open our eyes so that we may really see and grow in wonder and appreciation.

AMEN.

EDINBURGH SOUTHSIDE GUILD

The next meeting of Edinburgh Southside Guild is on December 7th, 2pm at Craigmillar Park Church. We are having a Christmas party! Please bring along a small, wrapped gift.

Everyone is welcome.



ADVENT

Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, when we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: 'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back' (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: passive and active. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is passively waiting. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is actively waiting, for he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: how will we wait for Jesus' coming? Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return or simply look to him coming to us today. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. There is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!



'AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS...'

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told - the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds...' - that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message - a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah. They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds, in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.



The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. - J I Packer



'Blessed are the peacemakers; they will never be unemployed'.



'The Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle'.

- C S Lewis



Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

- Alexander Smith



Peace is a free gift, and it flows from the pure mercy of God.

- John Calvin



We rob ourselves of much joy if we forget the loving and caring presence all round about us of the angels of God.

- Maurice Roberts

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

23rd - 30th September 2022

Tour to the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play travelling from Scotland through Italy visiting Lake Garda, Venice, and Verona. Professional planning and management by the reputable 'Tailored Travels Agency' in London.

For further details contact Agatha Kai-Kai
(0131 664 1431. email. makaikai@ed.ac.uk).

FLAWS AND BENEFITS



An old Chinese woman had two pots, each slung at the end of a pole which she hung across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot was only half full.

For more than two years this went on daily with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could do only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I'm ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled and said, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw. So, I planted flower seeds on your side of the path and every day, while we walk back, you water them. For two years, I've been able to pick these beautifully flowers to decorate the table. Without you being the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

"Each of us has our own unique flaw, but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them."

FINANCE REPORT



NOVEMBER 2021 BOARD REPORT

I'm pleased to report that our finances remain positive and in addition we have had the benefit of a generous legacy. Our financial activity continues to shrink, with income and expenditure still down. However there remains a margin so we should see the close of this financial year significantly in the black. And the good news is that I expect this to be the case after taking account of some building repairs and a resolution to the long standing dispute with Scottish Water regarding our water bills . Small charities benefit from a 100% reduction in water costs; but in a year when we sold investments they deem us not to be small as the sale value is included as income. Illogical, but the legislation appears to support their view.

The generous legacy of £10,000 from our friend and member, Sybil Collier, has now been received.

Further good news is that the rent has continued to come in from Wilton Road and Church House and also that our hall lets are improving now that occupation is allowed, with £3770 for the year to the end of October. Well done - and thank you - to all concerned.

Legacies are a vital pillar of support for both the Reid and the Church of Scotland in general. While lifetime donations, unless restricted to property, organ or another fund, are subject to a portion of about 60% going to Presbytery and 121, this does not apply to legacies - where we benefit from 100% of the bequest.

ALASDAIR SEALE FINANCE CONVENER

FABRIC COMMITTEE



Fabric Committee are Hazel Melrose, Linda Farrer, Ian Beckett and Stevie Douglas. We could always do with more helpers - we have a big church.

MEETINGS: Last Fabric meeting was 15th September, next meeting 24th November.

WORK PROGRESSED SINCE LAST UPDATE (OCTOBER)

SECURITY: Installation of additional key safe for large hall users. Men's choir window catches secured.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS: Joyce, Ian and Stevie continued to check our buildings to ensure our insurance remained valid and to identify and Fabric issues. Now that the church and halls back to being used 7 days a week, this fortnightly inspection will cease.

HEATING: Annual maintenance of all three gas central heating boilers undertaken in October. Boilers are in good condition. Large radiator in small hall fixed. Heating now on (autumn settings) covering 5 days of large hall usage, 4 days church usage, 2 days small hall usage and 1 day green room usage

LIGHTING: Time clocks and heating programmes adjusted for changes to BST.

GENERAL: PAT testing completed (Fairshare).

CLOISTER WALLS: Cloister wall coping tiles facing into the garden, surveyed and any loose tiles secured by pin. Still to survey and fix one area of outward facing tiles (no access at time).

MOTHS: Moth specialist engaged and inspected church and offices. No infestation found in church but issues found in office. One application of repellent applied in October, second and last due in December.

GARDENS: Gardens being tidied for Winter. Christmas Tree will be

erected outside with help of 3 local community gentlemen. Tree will be erected in time for Christmas light up event on Sunday 12th at 6pm.

H&S: Covid regulations and guidance from CoS continue to change allowing Linda to take appropriate positive action for our church.

October's Reid Fair Operation risk assessed and enabled. We now have QR code allowing digital track and trace for our church.

Sunday checklists updated to cover risks identified in last month's H&S reports. Also track and trace sheets now include coffee. We

have assisted 28 external groups with risk assessment and 11 internal RA completed and updated as required.

ONGOING WORK

ROOF: We are investigating a leak in the Tower. Roofers instructed.

Church and Hall annual roof maintenance is due next couple of months (roof, gutters, downpipes and lightening rod inspection/repairs). We have asked our regular roofers to propose an annual maintenance contract for this work.

MANSE WORK: No further update at this time.

CHURCH WIFI: No further progress at this time - lower priority.

LIGHTING: We will do a review of lighting to create user guides and also gauge whether there are opportunities to reduce our power footprint by replacing bulbs with LEDs.

STRUCTURE: Inspection of potential movement above our south exit door at the back end of the church is still ongoing. As we do not have the technical knowledge whether this significant or not, James Clydesdale has offered his help and expertise.

H&S: Continue to review changing regulations and risk assess hall bookings and events. Looking at how we manage risks associated with 3 days of consecutive Christmas services.

STEVIE 23/11/2021

COFFEE AFTER WORSHIP



Being able to serve coffee and tea after the Morning Service has been appreciated by many. I know we have all enjoyed being able to sit and chat after the service. Can I please remind you that we do rely on your donations and the generosity of many of the coffee team members to keep up our supplies of coffee, tea, and biscuits? So please, make a donation on Sundays!

You will have seen that we do need more servers than before with the various restrictions in relation to the corona virus so that we keep everyone as safe as possible. We do need more volunteers to help with the preparation and serving of coffee in the weeks ahead. Can you please consider helping to keep coffee going?

We cannot rely on a very small group of helpers so please get in touch to offer to help.

THANKS **ANNE BLACK** 0131 447 4149

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be Feb 2022. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 22nd Jan - see page 2 for contact details.



REIDMEMORIAL
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

WWW.REIDMEMORIAL.ORG.UK
CHARITY No. SC014027 CCLI No. 1200303