



REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2022
JANUARY 2023

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DEAR FRIENDS

Once more we reach that time of year that seems simultaneously to fill us with either joy or dread.

Indeed, I have often joked that the word of that perennial Christmas hit, 'I wish it could be Christmas every day' are ones that fill me with dread! It is a time that our world demands that we fill with joy and frivolity, with bright lights and decorations, with parties and over-indulgence. For many, though, Christmas is a much darker time. For some, it is their first major time of celebration without a particular loved one. For others it is a reminder of their own material poverty. For yet others, especially this year, it is a time of both darkness and cold as winter and fuel poverty bite. For we, as Christians, in our time and place it provides us an opportunity to share something deeper than the secular celebrations, hope. Hope is to trust or believe in the things that we can be sure of. At Christmas, the story of the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God in human form, offers hope to the believer and the world. It is perhaps best put in words that are more often held to refer to Good Friday, 'For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever should believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.' The Gospel is Good News, hope, all of the year though perhaps this winter we need to feel it more than ever.

This edition of *Reid On...* also sees us say goodbye to Dean and his family. His year with us ends at the start of January, a time when he will move on to pastures new though remaining in Edinburgh for the time being. We will get an opportunity to say our >

goodbyes in person when he takes one of our services in January. On that date he will be covering for me as I fulfil my duties as Interim Moderator at Gorgie, Dalry & Stenhouse Parish. This is where Dean (pictured) will be working for the next eighteen months as Assistant Minister.



In the meantime let us keep the true message of Christmas at the heart of all our celebrations, whether great or small.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN



After several years of discussion and debate, and after many revisions, the Draft Presbytery Mission Plan was approved at the meeting of Presbytery on 15th November.

As this edition of Reid On goes to press the plan is with the General Trustees and Faith Nurture Forum of our central offices. Their role is to make sure that the plan addresses the needs of mission to the people of Edinburgh and West Lothian; it will look at not only staffing but the tricky matter of buildings too.

We are hoping to hear back from them soon and pray that there will be little, or no, revision required. Meanwhile the coming year will see us begin to develop our joint working with the existing south-east cluster group.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER

200 YEARS AGO, on 27th December 1822 that Louis Pasteur, French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist was born. One of the fathers of germ theory, he was best known for the pasteurisation process, which is named in his honour.

100 YEARS AGO, on 30th December 1922 that the Soviet Union was founded. Officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), it was dissolved in 1991.

90 YEARS AGO, on 25th December 1932 that the first Royal Christmas Message was broadcast on radio. King George V addressed the nation live from Sandringham.

80 YEARS AGO, on 1st December 1942 that the British Government published the Beveridge Report, which formed the basis of the welfare state.

ALSO 80 YEARS AGO, on 17th December 1942 that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons about the mass executions of Jews by the Nazis in occupied Europe. Ministers and Members of Parliament condemned the massacres and held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the victims.

65 YEARS AGO, on 25th December 1957 that Queen Elizabeth II's Christmas message was televised for the first time.

50 YEARS AGO, on 22nd December 1972 that 14 people were found alive in the Andes more than two months after their plane crashed. They had survived by eating dead passengers.

40 YEARS AGO, on 12th December 1982 that 30,000 >



> women joined hands around the Greenham Common RAF base in Berkshire to protest against the siting of US Cruise missiles there.

25 YEARS AGO, on 11th December 1997 that Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams met Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street - the first Irish Republican leader to do so since Michael Collins in 1921.

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 11th December 1997 that the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing greenhouse gases and combating global warming, was adopted at a conference in Japan. More than 190 countries have signed the agreement, which came into effect in February 2005.

20 YEARS AGO, on 7th December 2002 that Iraq submitted a weapons declaration to the United Nations in which it said it had no weapons of mass destruction. This was part of the prelude to the March 2003 Invasion of Iraq.

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

Gillian Brown, Douglas Mathieson
In Charge: Lindsay Wood

SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER

4pm: Joyce Rosie, Sheila Capewell
In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

Alison MacLeod, Siobhan Gilliland
In Charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 25th DEC 10:30am

Douglas Mathieson, Elizabeth Clark
In Charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

Geeta Mackay, Mary Allan
In Charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 1st JAN 2023 11.15am

tbc June Wylie, Richard Black
In Charge: Stephen Thomson

The Churches of South East Edinburgh

Joint Leadership Conference

Tron Kirk
Saturday 12 November, 2022



The way

Not a gripping image I admit, but a significant and hopeful day for the Reid and other churches in the South-East Edinburgh cluster, at a very well-attended Joint Leadership conference at Tron Kirk, Moredun on 12th November. Several members of the Reid attended and contributed to the syndicates, exploring ways forward in mission, discipleship, pastoral care, youth work, communication, buildings, finance and worship [see page 2]. Pictured convening the conference is John Young from Liberton Kirk.

DAVID WHITE

'I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.'



160 YEARS OF HEALING IN NAZARETH

Jesus brought healing to Galilee, and nowadays the Nazareth Trust carries on this work through running one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East.

The Nazareth Trust traces its roots back to 1861 and is now one of the largest Christian organisations in Israel. Located in Nazareth, the Trust engages with around 400,000 people a year, including patients and their families, nursing students, international volunteers, pilgrims, and tourists, as well as their staff.

In fact, the Nazareth Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in the Middle East, and the largest in Nazareth. The hospital is run by the



Nazareth Trust and began in 1861, when a young Christian doctor, Dr Kaloost Vartan, made the journey from Edinburgh to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, to establish a small four-bed clinic.

At the time, it was the only medical facility in the town, and as far as Damascus and Beirut in the north, and Jerusalem in the south. Dr Vartan carried out pioneering medical work, reaching out to a population with a very low life expectancy.

Today the Nazareth Hospital is a general hospital with Nazareth's main Emergency Room that works 24/7, ICU, a recently refurbished Path Lab, Orthopaedic Surgical department, General Surgical department, a Paediatric surgical unit, Urology Unit and Esthetic Clinic. There is also an extensive Medical department and Psychiatry department.

The Nazareth Hospital is one of the area's biggest employers. It is affiliated with Bar-Ilan University and is committed to developing medical education and research. Each year it welcomes many students of medicine, nursing and other medical fields from universities and colleges around the world. Please visit: <https://nazarethtrust.org>



NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER (NCT)

On Sunday 18th December there will be Carol singing with members of the NCT congregations - hopefully now to be held at Nicolson Square Gardens. The Salvation Army Band will be there too, which is always a wonderful sound.

Newington Foodbank + is continuing to work well and we regularly see around 26 service users coming along. They are all very pleased and appreciative of our 'pantry style' where items are displayed in trays on a long row of tables. They can just walk along the line and pick up what they wish. This includes fresh fruit and vegetables, depending on what has been delivered that morning. We received generous donations of food from several churches in the NCT, including the Reid, at Harvest Thanksgiving. I would like to record my thanks on behalf of NCT to our congregation for their contributions both from Sunday and also in the past. Also, a thank you to the Welsh Society for their Harvest contributions.

Please continue to pray for our service users in these difficult times.

ALISON MACLEOD

'Inviting a number of people to come and stay with you over the Christmas holidays is a lot like living in California: if you find a fault, don't dwell on it!'

REFLECTING FAITH TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Everything about the church building is intended to tell us something about God.

But it doesn't end there. We put into the building things that are important to us and again reflect not just our specific denomination but our ways of worship.

Imagine visiting someone in their home whom you are just getting to know and have a look around at the decorations, photos, wall hangings, books, music etc. What are their hobbies? How do they enjoy spending their time? Who is important to them? Well, our church interiors are like that.

In most church buildings each week there will be a display of flowers. Venues vary from being large and elaborate to simple and homely and so do such arrangements. Of course, much depends upon finance and the availability of flowers as well as the interest and skills of the arranger.

Flower arrangements 'should' be in keeping with the church season or the occasion that is being celebrated. During Advent (Latin meaning 'coming') while we anticipate the birth of Christ at the Feast of Christmas most places of worship show restraint in their arrangements and often decline to use any coloured flowers using only evergreen leaves.

Then nearer to Christmas itself everything changes and either flowers are added to the original evergreens, or they start completely new. Colours change to red for love and Christ's death and passion, white and gold for importance, royalty, and celebration: with green alongside for the hope of new birth and spring.



I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Editor: for those who like more traditional poems, here is a famous one by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1863.

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

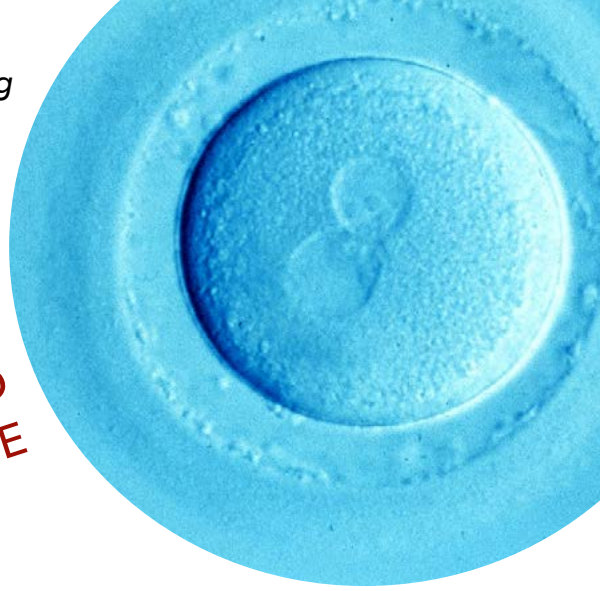
*And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

A fertilised human egg

**THE INCARNATION:
FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE**



*'My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be'.
Psalm 139:15-16*

You began life as a single cell. For a few hours you were a miniscule but highly complex blob of jelly, until it began to divide: two cells, four, eight, sixteen, a ball, a hollow ball, and then something more recognisably like a living organism. You were still tiny, but developing a nervous system, a head, a body, arms, and legs.

Until recently I hadn't thought much about Jesus being an embryo. Somehow, I find that thought even more shocking than His birth. How could God, who made the universe, have become something so completely and utterly vulnerable? Maybe in the past, when the development of a child happened in 'secret', it was possible just to let that part of the Christmas story go untold.

Today, when we see images of a developing child, or even embryos outside the womb, it is harder to ignore the process of Jesus developing into a baby. The incarnation meant that God's Son went through all the stages in the diagram in my developmental biology textbook: 'zygote', 'morula', 'blastocyst', implantation, and so on.

Jesus was there in the beginning, and all life owes its existence to Him. But instead of remaining aloof, He chose to become one of us. The Son of God shared the same kind of DNA as every other organism on the planet. He knows what it feels like to have a body, to feel hungry and thirsty, pain and pleasure, dark and light.

In Psalm 139, the writer is meditating on God's intimate knowledge of him, which began when he was an embryo. There is nothing God doesn't know about him, and even darkness cannot obscure him from God's sight. The incarnation means that God's intimacy with us now extends even further. He became one of us, lived alongside us, and shared our very fragile material nature.

The transcendent God is also immanent, longing for us to relate to Him as Father. He became as fragile as we are so He could rescue us from the messes we so often find ourselves in. With His help, we can remember what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

DR **RUTH M BANCEWICZ**, *Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge*, writes on *the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith*.

'Kindness is a hard thing to give away. It keeps coming back to the giver.' - Ralph Scott

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



ACTIVITIES FOR 2022

Early in 2022 there were still some covid restrictions in place and these had to be considered when organising our first events.

Our **Spring Fair** was held in March and £780 was raised, in addition £135 went to Ukraine Save the Children fund which was raised from tea and coffee sales.

In May we held our first **pop up cafe** during Election Day. This was well received and raised £365.65.

June saw the **Jubilee Afternoon Tea** being held in honour of the Queen's platinum jubilee. This was well attended by young and old and raised £452.

It was decided to hold a **pop-up cafe** on the last Friday of every month starting in June. Its popularity has gone from strength to strength and bringing people in the local community together in a relaxed and friendly environment. It has been lovely to welcome new faces and to let them know what the church has to offer. The total raised between June to October at the monthly pop-up cafes was £1861.35 with the September profits going to the Macmillan Cancer Trust.

Our last fundraiser is our **Christmas crafters fair** on 26th November 2022. Sadly, due to the death of our Queen and as a mark of respect we decided to cancel the Craft fair in September.

Although raising funds is our remit, it has been so nice to bring people together and see them coming along to our events. This has proved to have a positive effect on the church and local community after the lock down and restrictions over of the past two years.

A good start to getting our fundraising going again and our thanks goes everyone who helped us achieve this.

During 2022, when a few of the committee and congregation completed the online Food Hygiene course allowing us to reintroduce home baking. We may even consider bringing back our charity bake Sundays again but that will be discussed at our first meeting in 2023.

On behalf of the fundraisers have a lovely Christmas and enjoy your well-earned rest.



ARE YOU DREADING SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Do you expect to like all the presents you will receive this year? Not if last year was anything to go by! In fact, it seems that more than two-thirds of us expect that we will unwrap at least one item that we do not like this Christmas.

What do you do with those weird gifts? One in four of us admit to dumping them - straight into the bin. Yet we are very polite about it - two in five of us pretend delight so that we do not hurt anyone's feelings. Only one in ten of us is ruthlessly honest and express our disappointment.

A better way of getting rid of unwanted presents is to donate them to charity. Charity shops will welcome almost any kind of unwanted Christmas present.

OUTDOOR **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** CEREMONY

A very short service and lighting ceremony will take place, accompanied by music and bagpipes at the West Door of Reid Memorial Church on Sunday 4th December 2022 at 6pm. Wrap up well and come along and enjoy some warming refreshments. All welcome. **SUSAN MACKAY**

KNIT AND NATTER

Reid Memorial's Knit and Natter group will take up again on Tuesday, 10th January at 10am in the Green Room. Please don't be put off by the "knit" bit! If your hobby is portable, come along. We ask £1.50 per session to cover tea/coffee and a biscuit. The money collected is divided between the Reid and a charity selected by the members themselves. All welcome. **ELIZABETH CLARK**

PROFESSOR IAN NISH

Professor Ian Nish who died on 31st July 2022 at the age of 96 was present at the service of dedication of the Reid Memorial on 6th January 1935. Although he made his home in Surrey, he kept a keen interest in the church to the end. He became an expert on the foreign relations of modern Japan and for many years he lectured at LSE while to the age of 90 continued to research and publish his work.

MONEYBOXES

I was asked recently by members of the congregation where they can give money on a Sunday to support the church. The answer is in our money boxes. When you come through the inner double doors from West Savile Terrace, look to your left and you will see a box on legs - that's one of our two moneyboxes. It's noticeable because there's a bottle of hand sanitiser on the top. You will find its counterpart at the entrance to the south side of the church. There is a slot in the lid for your donation. These boxes are emptied regularly, and the donations processed by the Reid Memorial Treasurer.

If a collection is being taken to support a particular charity, a large pewter plate, labelled with the name of the charity or organisation will be available at the back of the church.

Money to support the refreshments after the service can be placed in the containers on the tables. **ELIZABETH CLARK**

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel demanded.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing by the door and glaring at you? They're hushers."



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2022

Collect stamps now to support pastors in Lebanon



National Evangelical Synod
of Syria and Lebanon

During the 2021 financial crisis pastors in Syria and Lebanon donated half of one month's salary to start a fund to support the neediest families.

Please put all your used stamps in the special post box at the rear of the church.
THANK YOU! LINDSAY, WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

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An unusual view of the church, from the south-west



The next issue of **REIDON...** will be February 2023. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 21st January. See page 2 for contact details.



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