



REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2022

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SERVICES



6th February at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

led by Rev Alex McAspurren

13th February at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

led by Rev Dean Batchelor

20th February at 10:30am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

led by Rev Alex McAspurren;
including Congregational meeting

27th February at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

led by Rev Dean Batchelor

'You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you' - John Bunyan

'Life is a journey that no-one makes alone. The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time.' - Anon

'The good thing about prayer is that there's only one way to go wrong, and that's not to do it. If prayer at its simplest level is listening to God and talking to Him, you don't need long books to tell you how to do it.' - Anon



DEAR FRIENDS...

Go where you don't want to go?

Welcome to a new year and a new edition of the magazine. As with every new year, it seems, it is a time of change. Some of these are positive and life-giving, whereas others seem to drain and drag us down. This year may prove to be something of both.

The first piece of good news is that we are here and continue to share the Gospel in both our words and our actions. Second, the latest phase of the pandemic is on the wane with the governments suggesting we may have turned the final corner. Thirdly, and finally, we also welcome our new assistant minister, Dean. He is a very experienced colleague from South Africa and joins us for around twelve months as he acclimatises to both the Kirk and the country. During this time, he will be bringing his experience and gifts to bear to further enable us to grow as disciples and reach out to our neighbouring community.

This year, though, will also be one of great challenges. Along with every other parish in Edinburgh, we will be required to explore the subject of union with other congregations. In our case it is with Morningside Parish with whom we are being asked to converse. We will not be seeking to enter any formal union this year, but it will come soon enough. For many it will not be something that they wish to think about. For others the idea may bring pain, confusion, anger, or grief. While most of us would prefer to remain where we are, and with no significant change, we will have to face these >

> developments, and hopefully do so together.

Jesus once warned his disciples that the day would come when they would go where they did not want to go. He did this as he prepared them for his crucifixion. They reacted to his teaching with a mixture of disbelief and confusion; in a sense they grieved just as we have begun to. The disciples, like us, had to face a future over which they had little control. Yet their doubts, questions, and lack of power did not stop them from sharing the Gospel. This year may have to be a time we look forward, like the disciples, not in the certainties of this world, or in our own influence, but in faith alone. May God grant us all the grace and strength to face the challenges ahead, and to do so serving and praising Him in the name of Jesus.

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 6th FEBRUARY

Sheila Capewell, Mary Allan
In Charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY

Richard Black, Joyce Rosie
In Charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

Gillian Brown, Sheila Capewell
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Clark, Lindsay Wood
In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 6th MARCH

Lesley Beckett, Douglas Mathieson
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 13th MARCH

Alison MacLeod, Joyce Rosie
In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 20th MARCH

Sheena Richardson,
Siobhan Gilliland
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 27th MARCH

Richard Black, Mary Allan
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 3rd APRIL

Lesley Beckett, Sheila Capewell
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 10th APRIL

Geeta Mackay, Gillian Brown
In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 17th APRIL

Elizabeth Clark, Joyce Rosie
In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 24th APRIL

Douglas Mathieson, Lindsay Wood
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 1st MAY

Alison MacLeod, June Wylie
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 8th MAY

Siobhan Gilliland,
Sheena Richardson
In charge: Linda Farrer



ALL IN THE MONTH OF **FEBRUARY**

IT WAS 175 YEARS AGO, on 11th Feb 1847 that Thomas Edison, American inventor, and businessman was born. Best known for inventing the first practical incandescent light bulb, phonograph, movie camera and projector, and many more.

100 YEARS AGO, on 8th Feb 1922 that the first radio was installed in the White House.

90 YEARS AGO, on 27th Feb 1932 that British physicist James Chadwick announced his discovery of the neutron subatomic particle in the journal Nature. He was awarded the 1935 Nobel Prize for Physics for his discovery.

80 YEARS AGO, on 8th Feb 1942 that the Battle of Singapore took place. The Japanese then occupied Singapore until September 1945. This is regarded as the worst disaster in British military history, with about 80,000 British, Indian, and Australian troops captured.

75 YEARS AGO, on 7th Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

70 YEARS AGO, on 6th Feb 1952 that Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne following the death of her father, King George VI. She was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede while abroad.

60 YEARS AGO, on 20th Feb 1962 that John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth. He made three orbits in the space capsule Friendship 7.

50 YEARS AGO, on 9th Feb 1972 that the British Government declared a state of emergency over the miners' strike which began >

> in January. From 16th February, electricity supplies to homes and businesses were cut off for up to nine hours a day. The strike ended on 25th February.

ALSO 50 YEARS AGO, on 18th Feb 1972 that the House of Commons voted narrowly in favour (by eight votes) of joining the Common Market (now the European Union).

25 YEARS AGO, on 13th Feb 1997 that an inquest into the death of black British teenager Stephen Lawrence ended. The jury decided that he had been unlawfully killed by five white youths, but they were not convicted. The case was one of the highest-profile racial killings in British history. Two of the perpetrators were eventually convicted in January 2012 and sentenced to 15 years and 14 years in prison.

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 22nd Feb 1997 that scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced that they had successfully cloned a mammal for the first time: a sheep named Dolly.



A REMINDER for anyone interested in the proposed development at Cameron Toll shopping centre to incorporate residential and hotel buildings, alongside other changes: the proposal is available to view on [the Centre's website](#).



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

On Sunday evening, 12th December, bagpipes could be heard in the darkness at the front of the church. Why?

We were officially switching on the lights on our beautiful Christmas tree, high above the church doorway. For the first time, that we can remember, we made it an event with music, carol singing, mulled wine, and chat. It was a beautiful evening and about thirty folks made it along to join in. Some residents from the houses around came out to join with church members in the celebration. We sang three carols together, some accompanied by the bagpipes, then a countdown led by Alex to switching on the tree lights. Thanks to Stevie for having the idea and erecting the tree, along with willing volunteers from the local community. Thanks also to the people who came along. A truly magical evening was enjoyed by all. Look out for a repeat of this event next year and come along to join the merriment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR SUSAN MACKAY

LIFE AND WORK UPDATES

In 2022 each issue of Life and Work will host a series of features offering updates from the Faith Action Programme. Readers will hear directly from those who have been charged by the General Assembly to help implement and support this new movement of reformation for the Church.

The purpose of the double page articles will be to try and ensure that those who are involved in being and doing Faith Action where it matters most at congregational level feel involved and supported by the Trustee Forums and staff of both the National Office and Presbyteries.

With members of congregations eager to stay informed, we recognise each of the monthly features will be a valuable resource. Therefore, anyone without access to Life and Work can subscribe via their congregation or [the magazine's website](#) and choose from a print or digital edition.

I trust this information is useful and thank you for sharing in support of keeping people connected.

BEST WISHES **LIFE AND WORK TEAM**

PROPOSED CHANGES AT REID MEMORIAL

The way

Friends, the letter that began this edition of Reid-On referred to the recent proposals to come from Presbytery. The main one that impacts upon us is the proposed union of ourselves and Morningside Parish. This would also mean dissolution of the linkage with Craigmillar Park. It makes difficult reading for many, whether in pew or in pulpit. As a congregation we are required to explore these proposals and look to how they could be implemented. If we find that they are not practical nor appropriate we are required to submit alternative ones. Whatever the shape of the final plan, when it is drafted, every congregation in the city will be entering some form of union.

Keeping folk informed has been challenging, and has not been helped by gossip, rumours, and items in the Edinburgh Evening News. With that in mind it is intended to take further steps to keep the wider congregation not only informed but engaged with the process. It is important that everyone knows what is actually proposed, and what we may do in response. >

> *In general terms, here is what is proposed:*

PROPOSAL:

- a reduction of Parish numbers from approximately 80 to 27;
- a reduction in ministry numbers from 78 to 48; and
- all congregations to be involved in unions to achieve these reductions.

GENERAL TIMEFRAME:

- October 2022 - draft plan for Edinburgh to be completed
- December 2022 - draft plan to be submitted to 121 for approval;
- December 2025 - final date for implementation of plan.

A more detailed timeline is soon to be published, outlining the steps and forms of consultation to be undertaken between now and October of this year. You will have noted that the church building hasn't been mentioned. The future of all of Edinburgh's churches and manses is as yet undecided.

WHAT WILL WE DO:

- a letter to all congregants outlining proposals and our next steps;
- a service and congregational meeting, on Sunday 20th February at 10:30;
- further gatherings for consultation and discussion as the plan and our ideas develop.

As we move ahead, irrespective of the direction of travel, it is vital that we seek to move together. It will require that we become a little more gracious, patient, and understanding than normal as we are surrounded by much grief. Please pray for both the congregation and its office bearers as we seek to work with Presbytery's Proposals.

REGARDS AND BLESSINGS **ALEX**

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



CRAFTERS FAIR HELD ON 4th DECEMBER 2021

This event raised a staggering £950 and a big thank to everyone who helped make this event a success. Thanks to those who gave donations, to the people who helped with the advertising and set up before the event, to those who manned the stalls and served the teas and coffees on the day and to everyone who helped with the clearing up on Saturday and Sunday.

A special thanks also goes to the 85th Braid Scouts who helped serve teas and coffees, and manned the competitions stall. The scouts were very organised and a tremendous help. It was lovely to see younger community members coming along and hope to continue our relationship with them.

Also thanks to everyone who came along on the day, despite the cold, wet weather. The committee look forward to organising more events next year when the weather is warmer and restrictions have eased.

AUTUMN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Congratulations to Sheila Capewell who was the winner of this competition (see cover). I am sure you will agree that Sheila has captured the aspects of autumn. Our thanks to Sheila who generously donated her prize money to the church. >



> The Fund-Raising Committee met up to discuss potential fund raising for 2022. At the moment there are still restrictions, but these are slowly easing. We hope to hold our first event, a Spring Fair on Saturday 19th March from 10am (details will follow). We discussed other events and future dates and will announced these once confirmed.

RESTARTING POPUP CAFÉ

We hope, once again to have our pop-up café as restrictions allow. The first one will be on the May Election Day, Thursday 5th May from early morning to afternoon. The café was popular and did well selling lots of filled rolls, soup, teas, coffees etc. Over 200 books were also sold.

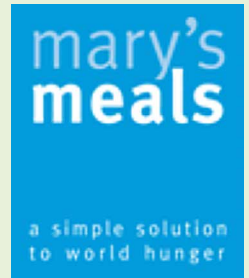
HOME BAKING

At the moment the rules say we can't sell home baking unless the individual has a Food Hygiene Certificate and a few of us signed up to this and are waiting to do this. Once we have this, we can restart our bake Sundays and have home baking at events. Something to look forward too.

Hopefully once restrictions ease, we can have more events and will keep you updated with new event dates. We continue to have jams and marmalade for sale at the back of the church. The stall is manned every Sunday but there is an honesty box for other times. During 2021 these sales totalled over £800.

The Reid has a very supportive congregation so let's make 2022 a great year and hopefully welcome some new people. Stay Safe.

REGARDS **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your precious gift of £322.50, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children.

As part of our *Double The Love* campaign, your kindness will have twice the impact. Until 31 January 2022, donations made to our appeal will be matched by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6 million.

This means we can feed even more children - including those affected by natural disasters, conflict, and the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Patience is only five years old, but she already has hopes of becoming a doctor so that she can help others. She attends Msekera Primary School in Zambia, and her daily serving of Mary's Meals helps her to concentrate in class.

She says: "I like the porridge at school so much. We eat in the classroom during break. My favourite thing about school is writing. I love writing and learning."

Please do spread the word about our Double The Love campaign, so that we can access all of the available funding and reach more hungry children, like Patience, with Mary's Meals.

Together, we are bringing the hope of a brighter future to so many little ones. I thank you, with all my heart, on behalf of the children who eat Mary's Meals.

Yours sincerely,

DANIEL ADAMS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARY'S MEALS



Dear Reid Memorial Congregation,

Happy New Year!

December and Christmas feel like a long time ago. I hope you and your loved ones had a safe and happy festive break and you are recharged for what 2022 will bring. One just has to be optimistic that 2022 will bring the end of the pandemic. It feels right now that we may be nearly there.

I am writing to thank you for your incredibly generous donation of toys, gifts and food for the Castleview Family at Christmas. We used your donations to provide food hampers for some of our vulnerable families. These were very much appreciated. Parents and Carers were noticeably touched by the kindness. Three weeks break from school can be a long time if your child is in receipt of free school meals. For the first time we made the decision this Christmas holidays to open our well established and well used weekly foodbank in the week between Christmas and New Year. This was well attended, and families were very grateful. Perhaps a nod to financial situation many, through no fault of their own are finding themselves in.

The toys and gifts donated helped us to provide Christmas presents for many families, some of which have more than four children. For me it feels like in today's society we can lose track of the meaning of Christmas and the chance to stop and spend time with family. Sadly, the power of media has meant that there is a focus on the latest gadget or what a Christmas dinner should look like. I think it is important to remember how many people will see >

> the advertising campaigns and know they can't provide that. Some may even beat themselves up about it. The advertising campaigns mean expectations for children are raised as they are unaware of financial strains in families. It is such a difficult time for so many. So thank you for your kindness to help ensure all children have gifts and joy on Christmas morning.

As we all move through 2022 at Castleview we will continue to ground our education in our values of, Joy, Respect, Honesty and Kindness. We will continue our focus on sustainability. These alongside resilience are for me the greatest things we can teach our children. To prepare them for a successful and happy future.

Thanks again and all the best for 2022,

WITH LOVE **CLARE LANGLEY** (HEADTEACHER)

FROM **FRESH START**



Dear Judith,

I am writing to acknowledge, thank you and the congregation at Reid Memorial Church for your kind and generous donation of £322.50 made to Fresh Start Cookers Appeal. We understand that these are troubling, difficult times for all and really appreciate your continued support. Your donations allow us to continue to carry out our work to help vulnerable people in Edinburgh who have experienced the trauma and disruption of homelessness to have a fresh start in life and to help those who are struggling at this uncertain time.

On the behalf of Fresh Start, thank you so much for your support and we hope you are keeping well at this time.

Kind Regards, **LEANNE SOWERSBY** PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

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an
ear**



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From 1919 and 2019, two of a series of fascinating aerial pictures charting the development of the University's King's Buildings campus over a century; these are showing in an open-air exhibition, on the hoarding surrounding the building work at the centre of the campus.

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be March. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 19th February. See page 2 for contact details.



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