

REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 2023

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BLINDED BY THE LIGHT


As many of you know, I have spent the last year undergoing a series of operations intended to save my sight.

The procedures are not painful but uncomfortable yet they do have some 'interesting' side effects all of which are very temporary. The last thing you notice is that your perception of colour has radically changed; this lasts but a couple of minutes and causes your vision to tint everything a rather pretty shade of deep pink. Before that, though, you are quite literally blind! It lasts less than one minute but for that time you see nothing but darkness. There is no sunshine, no light and dark, no vague shapes to be seen; nothing. Although used to it now, on the first couple of occasions it was somewhat sobering. When it, and the rose tinted after-effect, have passed you are struck by something else - light. Even on a dull, overcast, day you are struck by the sheer power of sunlight.

The first few weeks after Christmas are known as the season of epiphany. It is a season where we reflect upon the self-revealing of God through Jesus and where many of the readings feature light. This may be the light of the star that guided the magi, or it may be the light that the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he told his people that, 'upon you a great light has shined'. This is not the literal light of lamp or sun but the light of the presence of God. It is not a light that shines only from the outside but one that shines also from within our being. Isaiah tells us that God shines upon us and within us. >

> The light of God lets us see our self as we really are. It is the light that lets us see the path our life should take, and then illuminates our way along it. It is not a light that we are to hold on to like a precious possession; rather, it is a light to be shared. This light we share enables others to live more fully. This light is the words and actions that lead to truth, justice, and hope. It is a light that, metaphorically speaking, we should allow to blind both us and the world.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**



The way

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The service on Sunday 19th February will begin at 10:30am. This is to allow time for a Congregational meeting.

There will be refreshments and the opportunity to discuss what is happening in respect of the Presbytery Mission Plan.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2023



This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital - for all of us.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

175 YEARS AGO, on 21st Feb 1848 that the Communist Manifesto was published in London. It was written by Karl Marx, with the assistance of Friedrich Engels.

150 YEARS AGO, on 7th Feb 1873 that Thomas Andrews, Irish/British shipbuilder and businessman was born. The naval architect in charge of the plans for the RMS Titanic, he perished along with 1,500 others during her maiden voyage.

100 YEARS AGO, on 16th Feb 1923 that British archaeologist Howard Carter opened the sealed doorway to Tutankhamen's tomb in Thebes, Egypt. The following day he entered the burial chamber and discovered a wealth of treasures.

70 YEARS AGO, on 28th Feb 1953 that British scientists Francis Crick and James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

65 YEARS AGO, on 6th Feb 1958 that the Munich air disaster took place. A plane carrying the Manchester United football team ('the Busby Babes'), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport. 23 people were killed, including 8 players.

50 YEARS AGO, on 8th Feb 1973 that the US Senate established a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal. This led to US President Richard Nixon's resignation in August 1974.

40 YEARS AGO, on 8th Feb 1983 that champion racehorse, >

> Shergar, was kidnapped in Ireland and a £2million ransom demanded. The horse was never seen again.

20 YEARS AGO, on 1st Feb 2003 that the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

10 YEARS AGO, on 1st Feb 2013 that the Shard, a 72-storey skyscraper in London, was officially opened. It is the tallest building in the UK and the sixth tallest in Europe.

ANSWER TO PRAYER

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So, after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask any more.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Clark, Joyce Rosie
In Charge Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY

Gillian Brown, Douglas Mathieson
In Charge Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY

Alison MacLeod, Sheila Capewell
In Charge Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY

Siobhan Gilliland, Mary Allan
In Charge Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 5th MARCH

Geeta Mackay, Sheena Richardson
In Charge Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 12th MARCH

Lesley Beckett, Richard Black
In Charge Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 19th MARCH

Elizabeth Clark, Joyce Rosie
In Charge Stephen Thomson

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

This
Friday

REID MORNING COFFEE & LUNCH

Last Friday of the Month
10am to 2.00pm | All welcome

POP UP CAFE **POPS UP AGAIN**

*The next Reid Memorial Pop up cafe will take place on
Friday 24th February 2023 from 10am until 2pm.*

Come along and enjoy morning coffee with scones, cakes, and hot rolls, or why not bring a friend for lunch? There will be tasty dishes, offering something for everyone, including freshly prepared soups, toasties, quiche, and macaroni cheese.

Or maybe you'd like sticky toffee pudding with ice cream or apple crumble and custard. You can also take away home baking for you to enjoy later.

The cafe will take place in the small hall and entry is through the large gates off West Savile Terrace. Disabled access is available. Vegetarian and gluten free options available.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

On a cold evening on 4th December at 6pm, a group of hardy folk gathered together inside the gates at the front of the church.

We were well wrapped up against the wind and rain and carried torches or phones to see our way and to read the hymn sheets. Alex welcomed us and led us in singing a couple of carols, then we watched while the Christmas tree lights were switched on by one of the youngsters.

It was a magical event, there were around 50 adults and children there, (even a couple of babies!) Then we all made our way into the church for some mulled wine or juice and a warm Christmas pie. The church was looking beautiful with the inside tree lit, and candles twinkling in the darkness. Some of the visitors had never been inside our church before and were impressed at its beauty and our welcome. Many stayed, just mingling, and chatting.

It was a night to remember, and hopefully be repeated next year, and I'm sure we will have an even bigger audience. Thank you, Stevie and helpers, for making this happen.

Best wishes for a good new year, from **SUSAN MACKAY**

THE SLEEP OUT IS BACK!

The **BIG BETHANY SLEEP OUT** is the flagship fundraising event to support the work with preventing homelessness as well as alleviating the suffering of people who are homeless. Give up your bed for one night in solidarity with people facing the daily reality of homelessness and help raise funds towards Bethany's lifesaving work across Scotland.

The *Big Bethany Sleep Out* offers the chance to Sleep Out under the stars for the night while raising funds to support those in need, all from a safe space of your choice - either in your own home or at the sites in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

If your congregation would be interested in taking part or you would like to host a Sleep Out at your own church, please email Luana (luanaackermann@bethanychristiantrust.com) or give the team a call on 0131 561 8927.



REMEMBERING **UKRAINE** ONE YEAR ON

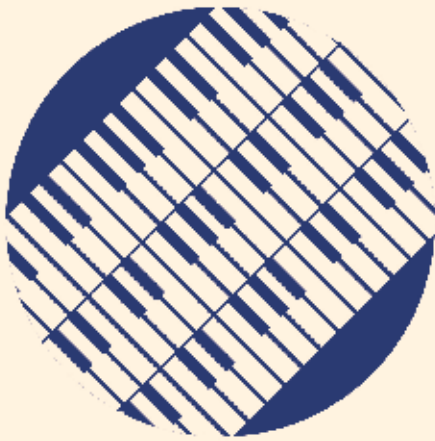
24th February is the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which has seen nearly eight million people displaced and thousands killed. This winter is the worst in living memory for most Ukrainians, with medicine, food, water, and heating in short supply. If you would like to mark the first year by helping the people of Ukraine, here are some charities from which you might choose:

The **DISASTER EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE** (DEC) is an umbrella group of UK charities. <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

CHRISTIAN AID was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Sadly, with war back in Europe, it is now back at work on the Continent. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022>

BARNABAS FUND distributes food through local churches to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions. <https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/>

SAMARITANS PURSE has been airlifting medical supplies into the country, distributed more than 45 million kilos of food, and built water systems providing more than 30 million litres of water. <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/>



NOTES

FROM THE **ORGAN BENCH**

FEBRUARY 2023

5th FEBRUARY

Before the service: Canon in B flat and Communion in G major - Alexandre Guilmant; Offering: Interlude on Winchester Old - Ivan Langstroth; After the service: Prelude in G major BWV 541 (a) - J S Bach

12th FEBRUARY

*Before the service: Benedictus Op.59 No.9 - Max Reger; Pastorale Op. 59 No.2 - Max Reger; Offering: Aria on Repton - Alan Smith
After the service: Toccata in D minor Op.59 No.5 - Max Reger*

19th FEBRUARY

Before the service: Canzona in E flat Op 78 No.8 - Sigfrid Karg-Elert; Offering: Prelude from 'A Little Liturgical Suite' - Geoffrey Atkinson; After the service: Sortie on Nun Danket alle Gott - Noel Rawsthorne

26th FEBRUARY

*Before the service: Communion in E major from the Triptyque - Louis Vierne; Preamble from Pieces en Style Libre - Louis Vierne; Offering: Aria in E flat minor - J. Stuart Archer
After the service: Chorale Prelude on Kyrie Gott Heiliger Geist BVW 671 - J S Bach*

ALEXANDRE GUILMANT (1837-1911) was organist of La Trinité in Paris and composed a vast amount of music. He was also at the forefront of the revival in interest in eighteenth century French music and he edited large quantities of it. The Canon and Communion are examples of his many works which were

specifically intended to be played as voluntaries and aimed at the parish church organist with perhaps limited instrumental resources.

IVAN LANGSTROTH (1887 - 1971) was born in California and studied first in San Francisco, then became a pupil in Berlin of Humperdinck, best remembered today for his opera *Hansel and Gretel*. He taught in Vienna, but returned to the United States to teach at Brooklyn College, New York. In his compositions he adopted many of the forms used by German composers, such as Chorale Prelude, Toccata and Fugue. This Interlude was written for the English publisher Novello and treats the well-known Carol tune sung to the words, 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night.

J S BACH (1685-1750) Among the cornerstones of the organ repertoire are the Preludes and Fugues by J S Bach. This example is written in the 'bright' key of G major, associated in German Baroque music with the mood of celebration. It fills only four landscape pages, but still conveys a sense of breadth and expansiveness. The Chorale Prelude is a bold example of Bach's work in this form and is clearly influenced by the invocation in the title of the chorale, which translates as 'Lord God Holy Ghost'.

MAX REGER (1873 -1916) was the most notable composer working in Germany in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He wrote in almost every musical form except Symphony and Opera and chamber and instrumental music bulk large, as do songs, but in this country it is for his organ music that he is best known. There are many sets of short pieces grouped together, which can be played singly or as here, as a pair. The *Benedictus* >

> forms part of what is, in effect, an Organ Mass, with other pieces entitled *Kyrie* and *Gloria in Excelsis*. The relevance to this time of year is the idea of 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord' and the rhythm of the word Hosanna is made clear in the contrasting middle section. The *Toccata* is a short vigorous piece which also has a brief quiet central section before ending in an overwhelming final cadence.

ALAN SMITH is a contemporary composer who has written a number of pieces designed for players who need repertoire which will suit small village organs, often without pedals. In this instance he has based his composition on Parry's tune which is sung to the words, 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'.

SIGFRID KARG-ELERT (1877-1933) was a contemporary of Max Reger and also wrote in many forms, but like Reger, is known in Britain almost exclusively for his organ music. His set of 66 *Chorale Improvisations* Op 65 are the most often played, at least in English-speaking countries. However, this *Canzona* is from his 20 *Preludes and Postludes* Op 78, which are less often heard.

GEOFFREY ATKINSON is another contemporary composer who has written music designed for service use. He has skilfully incorporated a number of Scots folk tunes into his compositions and even when not making use of traditional thematic material, his style is recognisably Scottish. The *Prelude* comes from the first of his *Little Liturgical Suites*.

NOEL RAWSTHORNE (1929 - 2019) was Organist of Liverpool Cathedral from 1955 to 1980 and then City Organist based at St George's Hall, Liverpool. He left a small body of original organ music, but was also a skilled transcriber for the organ. The *Sortie*

uses the chorale sung to the words, 'Now thank we all our God' and is in an approachable and extrovert contemporary style.

LOUIS VIERNE (1870 - 1937) was organist of Notre Dame, Paris from 1900 until his death. Prior to his appointment at the cathedral he had been Widor's assistant at St Sulpice. He wrote a large amount of music for his own instrument of the highest quality including six Symphonies and suites of mainly concert pieces. Like most European composers of the period, he took the harmonium seriously as a legitimate expressive instrument, something which did not occur in English-speaking countries. The *Communion* is taken from his last set of pieces for the organ, which Preamble is the first in the first book of Vierne's Pièces en Style Libre for harmonium, although the composer always intended that they should also be played on the pipe organ (*grand orgue*).

J STUART ARCHER (1866 - 1933) was organist of the Third Church of Christ Scientist in London. He was well known as a recitalist and was a prolific composer of both short pieces and concert works. Many were never published, but the *Aria* comes from a pair of pieces entitled *Aria* and *Allegro*, which were published in 1945.

CHURCH LEADERS PROTEST OVER CUMBRIAN MINE

More than 450 church leaders and Christian campaigners have recently signed an open letter to the Prime Minister, calling for a reversal on the Government's decision to open a new coal mine in Cumbria. "Coal from this mine will continue to heat up the planet, pollute the atmosphere and most severely impact those in the world's poorest countries who have done the least to cause the climate crisis."



DEAR REID CONGREGATION,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a safe, restful and joyful Christmas. Thank you so much for your very generous gifts and food items for our children at Christmas. The need to support our families this year was overwhelming and your donations allowed us to reach more families. The current cost of living financial crisis has meant that lots of charities who would normally support families are also stretched and unable to support the need. It is a tough reality for many. Please know all families were very grateful and many shared it just took that stress away - one less thing to worry about. We created food hampers and targeted specific families. This provided a good safety net over the two-week holiday period.





As usual it was a busy run up to Christmas at Castleview. Every year I think we forgot how many wonderful things we try to squeeze in while teaching and supporting excited children and some children struggling with the Christmas changes, or perhaps struggling with the thought of a stressful Christmas.

At Castleview there is no cost to the school day so the school fund all activities for our children. We kicked off the festive season with a super Winter Fair. We had a second hand toy stall and all classes competed in an enterprise 'Grow a Fiver' competition. It was wonderful to welcome so many families into the school.

We took the whole school the panto at the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh which the children loved. Our Nursery and Primary >

> One pupils lead a wonderful Christmas singalong for Parents and Carers. Our Primary Two and Primary Three performed an amazing nativity titled "A Winters Dance." It included Funky Camels, Line Dancing Shepherds and Ballet Dancing Angels. What a talented confident group of children we have.

Our Primary Seven developed a number of skills when they planned and ran a wonderful whole school Christmas lunch. All our classes enjoyed a fun Christmas party and a visit from Santa on the last week of term. Christmas in a Primary school is a very special time.

One group of learners in particular lapped up the Castleview Family Christmas. In May we welcomed 18 children from Dnipro in Ukraine who have been supported to come to Scotland by Hibernian Football club. These resilient children have settled into Castleview life. Every member of our learning community has helped to make the children feel safe and happy. I am very proud that Castleview is a community who do that.

Thanks again for your kindness and generosity. All the best for 2023.

CLARE LANGLEY HEADTEACHER
CASTLEVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

[See also rear page]





PASSING THE BATON

VOLUNTEERING
TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY

Passing the Baton is the befriending service in Edinburgh for anyone who has been homeless or is at risk of homelessness now.

Befriending is a one-to-one relationship, where you volunteer your valuable time to support & encourage someone to discover their strengths over a period of 2 to 12 months. It is a great opportunity to establish a relationship that leads to developing social contacts & interactions to encourage people to connect back into the community. Passing the Baton volunteers are required to be rooted in the Christian faith, so your congregations and communities are the best place for the befrienders to come from.

The training dates for the Spring are 8th March (2-5pm) or 15th March (6.30pm, including food) which are both in person at the office at 65 Bonnington Road, EH6 5JQ. If you'd like to sign up, please email the Passing the Baton Team (ptb@bethanychristiantrust.com)

**NB This training is specifically for people wanting to volunteer in Edinburgh.*

Image from Castleview Primary School. See page 14



The next issue of **REIDON...** will be March 2023. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 18th February. See page 2 for contact details.



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