

REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE



MARCH 2021

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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?



Growing up, many of us will remember the television or cinema antics of Wile E. Coyote and Roadrunner. Originally created in 1948, they were cinema shorts designed to entertain children before the main feature. They followed the same pattern each time. Wile E. tries to get the better of the Roadrunner; the latter outsmarts the former; Wile E. meets a violent end, only to reappear in the next adventure. In one episode the Coyote pursues the Roadrunner into a train tunnel; up ahead he sees a light that he takes to be the other end of the tunnel. It wasn't; it was an oncoming train.

Life may sometimes feel as though it is a journey through a long dark tunnel, especially in circumstances such as our country finds itself in today. A second lockdown, through the darkest months of winter, saps both energy and strength of spirit. Darkness is something that most of us do not particularly like. It is a dislike, or fear, that we share with our ancient forefathers in faith. Time and again scripture speaks of being in shadow, or deepest darkness; we see it most clearly in the Psalms. For the Hebrew peoples, their image of what we would call hell was not fire and brimstone, but a land of shadows. Shadows mean darkness, yet they can only exist where there is light.

As I write, it is on the eve of the publication of the route-map out of the current lockdown. For many it will provide some light at the end of the current tunnel. Yet, as Christians, we also may rely on God and His word to offer us that light. There may be shadows, but time and again God offers us the light that will lead us out and into peace.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. - Luke 1:78-79.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

HOLY WEEK

In a change from our traditional pattern of Holy Week services, this year sees the member congregations of Newington Churches Together unite for a **service of worship on the evening of Maundy Thursday, 1st April, at 7:30pm**. This gathering will be led by members from each of the congregations. Information about accessing this service will be available in the next Reid Newsletter.

LOOKING FOR THE MINISTER?

Alex can be contacted by telephone, on 0131 667 1623 (there is a personalised voicemail, so you know you have reached the right number).

Or email: amcaspurren@churchofscotland.org.uk

Please note that Alex's day off is a Friday.



THANK YOU FROM FRESH START COOKER FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I am writing this afternoon, to thank you for your generous donation of £700 to the Cookers for Christmas Appeal 2020.

I am pleased to say that, despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, we have had our most successful year ever, and have raised an amazing £21,967.90.

This sum will go a long way to securing white goods for those who have moved into their tenancy following a period of homelessness.

If you are interested in becoming a regular giver, or if you are interested in donating funds for our various campaigns throughout the year through our virtual donations 'shop', please visit <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/> for more information.

Many thanks again for your donation and continued support, we really do appreciate it.

Kind regards,

CARRIE-ANN SCOUGALL BUSINESS MANAGER

FreshStart
Helping people make a home for themselves

KIRK SESSION DIGEST

It will come as no surprise to any reader of ReidOn... that the work of the Reid Memorial Church continues as far as Tier 4 lockdown permits. The Board and Session meet regularly, the Fabric team check the church and its surrounds to ensure the building is wind- and water-tight (and that also keeps our insurance valid), the Finance team look after our money diligently, and there are good hopes of producing an Easter card. The Pastoral Care team continues to offer compassionate help, and support. The Reid has a presence at Newington Basics Bank, has links to other similar organisations and remains an active member of Newington Churches Together.

Our Mission Development Worker has secured some welcome funding for the Listening Project (please see Michael's article elsewhere in the magazine). Our editor is also our Presbytery elder, and she keeps us in touch with Presbytery affairs.

The more formal side of church business continues as the Session attested the Safeguarding Register at our latest meeting. There were some apparent discrepancies in the Communion Roll, and these have been traced and corrected. The Session will attest this roll at our next meeting in April.

Two of our elders have retired from the Session. They go with our regret but also with our gratitude for their years of service in a variety of roles and for their faithful witness. This leaves us with a reduced number of elders, and a need to examine the requirements of the Reid for support and leadership within the congregation.

This article aims to be merely a digest of the Kirk Session minutes. If you would like to read the full minutes, please contact me by phone or by email (both addresses are on page 2 of the magazine). I would be happy to send or email you a copy of the minutes.

ELIZABETH CLARK SESSION CLERK

ALL IN THE MONTH OF **MARCH**

IT WAS 1700 YEARS AGO, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine I (Constantine the Great) decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.

1600 YEARS AGO, on 25th March 421, that the city of Venice was officially founded when its first church was dedicated at noon.

300 YEARS AGO, on 24th March 1721, that Johann Sebastian Bach dedicated six of his concertos to Christian Ludwig Margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt. They are now commonly known as the Brandenburg Concertos.

150 YEARS AGO, on 27th March 1871, that the first international rugby union football match was held in Edinburgh. Scotland beat England 1 - 0. Also **150 YEARS AGO**, on 29th March 1871, that the Royal Albert Hall in London was officially opened by Queen Victoria.

75 YEARS AGO, on 25th March 1946, that London's Heathrow Airport was opened, as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow in 1966.

50 YEARS AGO, on 8th March 1971, that the 'Fight of the Century' took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Two undefeated heavyweight boxers fought each other for the world title, with Joe Frazier defeating Muhammed Ali.

40 YEARS AGO, on 29th March 1981, that the first London Marathon was held.

30 YEARS AGO, on 21st March 1991, that the British Government announced that the controversial poll tax (officially called the community charge), which had sparked riots, was to be scrapped and replaced by a new property tax (council tax) from April 1993.

25 YEARS AGO, on 13th March 1996, that the Dunblane Massacre took place. A gunman killed 16 children and a teacher at a primary school and wounded several others before taking his own life.

20 YEARS AGO, on 8th March 2001, that British racing driver Donald Campbell's speedboat Bluebird was recovered from the bottom of Coniston Water in Cumbria. (It had crashed and sank during a record attempt in January 1967 in which he was killed.)

15 YEARS AGO, on 1st March 2006, that the *Senedd*, the National Assembly for Wales's debating chamber, was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in Cardiff.

10 YEARS AGO, on 11th March 2011, that the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of Japan took place. It shifted Japan's main island, Honshu, 2.4 metres to the east. 15,897 people were killed, 2,533 went missing, and nearly a quarter of a million were made homeless. Three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant went into meltdown, leading to the second-largest nuclear accident in history.

HOME TRUTHS

'Lockdown is making us stir crazy so it's important to talk to someone you trust. I discussed this with the microwave and the toaster. I didn't mention it to the washing machine because she'd puts a different spin on it. I couldn't share it with the fridge because he'd been acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out by saying 'the situation isn't that pressing, and all the wrinkles will be ironed out'. The vacuum cleaner was unsympathetic and told me to 'just suck it up'. The fan was optimistic and gave me hope that it would soon blow over; the toilet looked flushed but didn't say anything when I asked for an opinion. The front doorknob told me to get a grip and guess what, the curtains told me to pull myself together. I wondered if the lamp might shed some light on it. All good advice.'

Church LISTENING SERVICE UPDATE

A huge thank you, to everyone, for all your efforts, especially your prayers of support, as we start to make headway in our aim to provide a Listening Service, across our three parishes (Craigmillar Park, Priestfield, and Reid Memorial).

The first batch of eight volunteers have now begun their on-line Listening Skills Training. The feedback, so far, has been that it is both challenging and enjoyable. I'm sure the skills learned will be useful to everyone involved. Indeed, my own family has told me that since I started the training I am talking less, and listening more. Although I suspect they may possibly have been telling me this with fair sized doses of irony and sarcasm! All joking apart though, I do believe we all have it in us to be better listeners.

We hope to have this first stage of training completed by mid-March. All of us can think of a hundred and one reasons why not to do something, and put it off till tomorrow, which of course, never comes. However, if the level of enthusiasm of the volunteers in this batch is anything to go by, then I am confident we can start offering this much-needed service as soon as it is practical.

Nearer the time of launching the service, we shall be explaining where and how to access it, at what times, etc. The best way of spreading this news will always be by word of mouth. So, when it comes around please tell everyone, and not only those in our immediate Church families, who you think might benefit from using this service.

If you think that you might be interested in becoming a volunteer >

> *listener yourself, or want to ask anything at all about our plans for the Service, please get in touch with me and I will be delighted to have a wee chat.* Lastly, please keep this Listening Service Initiative, and especially all the volunteers, in your prayers.



GOD BLESS, **MICHAEL**

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INDIA INCREASES BAN ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS

Another state in India has passed a law banning religious conversions. Madhya Pradesh has replaced existing legislation with a tough new law intended to prevent Hindus changing their religion.

Release International warns that this is the harshest anti-conversion law yet to be passed in India. And there is concern it could lead towards a ban on Christian evangelism in the entire country.

The new rules mean anyone wanting to change their faith must obtain official permission 60 days in advance. The penalty is up to ten years in jail and a fine of 50,000 rupees.

Suspects can now be arrested without warrant and held without bail and the onus is on them to prove their innocence.

BISHOP

A little girl told her mother, 'We went to a Confirmation service at the Cathedral and I saw the Bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!'

LITTLE OLD LADY SEEKS HANDSOME YOUNG MAN

An advert appeared in a student newspaper of a university: 'Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student - especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D.'

It was signed: 'his mother.'



MENTAL HEALTH IDEAS

**WHAT
WILL
MARCH
BRING**

FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year.

On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

GETTING OUTSIDE

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you - and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise.

LOOKING OUTSIDE

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

LAMENT AND PRAISE

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day. >

> **JOURNALING**

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is a very powerful tool for building resilience.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically.

GRATITUDE

Gratitude is another natural drug - in a sense - that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

LAUGH, SING, MAKE MUSIC, DANCE

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.



QUOTES FOR MARCH

The hearer of God's Word ought to be like those animals that chew the cud; he ought not only to feed upon it, but to ruminate upon it.

- Augustine

Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only good for wallowing in. - Katherine Mansfield

May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore. - St Patrick



FOOTBALL CLUB TAKES **FAITH TO THE AIRWAVES**

Thousands of BBC local radio listeners across England recently tuned in to an unusual sporting-themed church service. It wasn't broadcast from a typical place of worship, a church or a cathedral, but from Wycombe Wanderers FC - a football club in the Championship, the second rung of English soccer.

Four of the team's leading players joined the Buckinghamshire club's chaplain Benedict Musola for the special act of worship broadcast across the country's 38 BBC local radio stations. Professional footballers Adebayo Akinfenwa, Jason McCarthy, Alex Samuel, and Cameron Yates spoke of their Christian faith during the 30-minute service broadcast in January.

Chaplain Benedict Musola explained how the team prayed on the pitch before matches and held regular Bible studies at their training ground. He told listeners: 'I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this role, which uniquely combines my passion for God and my passion for football.'

In 'Thank God for Football,' (SPCK, 2006), author Peter Lupson featured chapters on the Christian roots of soccer clubs including Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Everton, Fulham, Liverpool, Manchester City, Queen's Park Rangers, Southampton, Swindon Town, and Tottenham Hotspur.

Last December, League Two side Bradford City FC hosted an >

> online carol service with Bradford Cathedral. It included readings and contributions from City manager Stuart McCall, and players Billy Clarke, Clayton Donaldson, and Richard O'Donnell. The service was streamed across all the Yorkshire club's social media channels.

Commenting on the church services, Chris Burns, Head of Local Radio for the BBC, said: 'We know from personal testament just how important these broadcasts have proved to be. They have played an important role in bringing communities together virtually so no one need feel they are on their own.'

'We expanded our religious programming on the first weekend of lockdown in March and will continue to broadcast services and reflections until life returns to normal.'

PARADISE LOST?

A young mother stood in her kitchen and watched her baby screaming, her sons fighting, her daughter crying, the washing machine leaking, and the dog being sick. She sighed and said to her friend: 'I sometimes wish I'd loved and lost.'

PEACE

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners glumly filed out of the church past the minister. Towards the end of the queue was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. 'Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God.' The vicar was thrilled. 'Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why.'

'Because it endured forever.'



HYMN: THE STORY BEHIND...
**'BE STILL, FOR THE PRESENCE OF
THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE IS HERE'**

Dave Evans, the writer of both the words and music of the song, was only in his twenties when he wrote a hymn that immediately gained very widespread popularity. Published in 1986, it made it into the Church of Ireland's book *Irish Church Praise* by 1990—just four years in a church that took two hundred years to officially allow some of Wesley's hymns to be sung!

The hymn is both profound and simple. It is filled with Biblical references and allusions. Anyone who knows their Bible stories will be able to go through it line by line and be able to recognise episodes from which Evans might have found inspiration. The breadth of Biblical theology encompassed in this single song is vast. The hymnbook says it is based on Exodus 3:1-6, but it starts in Genesis and runs right through to the book of Revelation.

Dave Evans expresses a sense of God's glory. The God who 'burns with holy fire' is the God who is crowned with splendour. The song moves >

> from the experience of God in the Old Testament book of Exodus to the experience of God in the book of Revelation at the end of the New Testament: 'with splendour he is crowned' picks up a sense of God in Saint John's vision of Jesus in heaven where people are overwhelmed with a sense of his splendour.

Dave Evans' song is about the God who is encountered by Jacob and by Moses and by Elijah, about the God who walks with Peter and James and John, being with us - here - now - as real to us as he was to them. 'Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place', do we know that power? Do we feel that presence?

Indeed in 2013 *Songs of Praise* viewers voted it as their third favourite hymn of all time. 'Be Still' has also been sung in churches all over the world and translated into many languages.

*Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
With reverence and fear
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
The holy One, is here.*

*Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
With splendour he is crowned:*

*How awesome is the sight
Our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.*

*Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal,
To minister his grace -
No work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.*



FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

A happy new year to you all, it seems so long since we were all able to meet up and enjoy a cuppa and a blether. As you know, fundraising is especially important as it provides an essential contribution to the church's overall running costs. The committee recently had a zoom meeting to discuss how we might raise funds during this period where conventional events are not possible.

FUND RAISER FOR MARCH

We have composed a fun prize quiz (see below) and an entry fee of £2 or a donation would be appreciated. There are three ways to do this - either by cash, cheque, or bank transfer:

- Cash and entries can be placed into the locked post box on the gate into the cloister.
- A cheque made payable to The Reid Memorial Church, can also go into the box, or be posted to Mrs Siobhan Gilliland, 21 Hutchison Cottages, Edinburgh EH14 1PY
- Bank Transfer payable to Reid Memorial, sort code 83-18-43 Account 00245095 Reference should be *Your Surname - Quiz*.
- Your quiz answers can also be emailed to Siobhan.gilliland@gmail.com
- Closing date 31st March 2021

A prize will be awarded to the first correct entry selected. Hope you enjoy the quiz and good luck.

PROPOSED FUND RAISER FOR APRIL

We are going to run a photographic competition with 'Nature in Spring' being the theme. It can be a photograph of flowers, trees, birds, plants, and animals. More details will appear in the April Magazine so plenty time to do this. Stay safe.

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH

FUND RAISING FUN QUIZ, MARCH 2021

Name:

1. *How many dimples has a British golf ball have - 280, 310 or 330?*
2. *Where did the Great fire of London start on 2nd Sept 1666?*
3. *Where was Napoleon Bonaparte born?*
4. *In which decade did the potato famine strike Ireland?*
5. *Who led the Scottish army to victory over the English at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314?*
6. *Who was the last tsar of Russia?*
7. *The city of La Paz in Bolivia is safe from fire because of what?*
8. *By law, what is banned in Japanese restaurants?*
a) Loud talking b) Tipping c) taking photographs?
9. *In whose garden does Peter Rabbit accidentally leave his coat.*
10. *There are three native species of snake in the UK:
smooth snake, adder and*
11. *What name is given to baby hedgehogs: a) kits b) leveret c) hoglets?*
12. *Which is the biggest Island in the world?*
13. *What is the name of the Rugby World Cup?*
14. *The Gaelic for whisky is Uisge Beatha. What is its literal meaning?*
15. *How many golf courses does Scotland have? 450, 550 or 650*
16. *From the castle to the palace in Edinburgh, how many closes, wynds and courts - 64, 74, or 84?*
17. *What is the second smallest country in the world?*
18. *Where is the Bermuda Triangle?*
19. *What colour are aircraft 'black boxes'?*
20. *Which Scottish county is smallest by area?*

> Also, for fun and for tie break reasons, please complete the following Limerick...

There was a committee at Reid...

Or even just make your own Reid Limerick.

For example:

The Reid had a challenging quiz.

That got me all in a 'tis.

With my brain in full gear

I gave a great cheer.

Cause I got all the answers to this!



*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.*

SWITCHED ON

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: 'I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!'

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be April 2021. Please send Linda any articles or notices by **19th MARCH** - see page 2 for contact details.



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