

REID ON

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE



MARCH 2022

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SERVICES



6th March at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Sunday in Lent: led by Rev Alex McAspurren and
Rev Dean Batchelor; sacrament of **HOLY COMMUNION**

13th March at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

2nd Sunday in Lent: led by Rev Dean Batchelor

20th March at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

3rd Sunday in Lent: led by Rev Dean Batchelor

27th March at 11:15am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

4th Sunday in Lent: led by Rev Alex McAspurren;
STATED ANNUAL MEETING

'The need of the world is to listen to God.' - Albert Einstein

'We talk about heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who belong there.' - D L Moody

'Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God.' - M D Babcock

'Seek Christ, and you will find him, and with him everything else thrown in.' - C S Lewis



DEAR FRIENDS...

Staple the Vicar!

Have you ever noticed how often when something is said what we hear is rather different? I don't mean in the sense of 'Chinese Whispers', where the request to "send reinforcements, we're going to advance" eventually reaches HQ as "send three-and fourpence, we're going to a dance". Rather, I mean where the message is so confused or indistinct that it is not clear, and so becomes misheard.

In the church where so much is changing, just as in the remainder of the world, communication becomes important. Clear communication becomes vital. It will help us see the challenges ahead. It will help us discern the path that we must tread. A week before I wrote this piece we met as a congregation on the Lord's Day; we met to worship, to share in fellowship, and to discuss the Presbytery's Proposals for our congregation. There were a great number of messages, thoughts, and feelings shared that day. It could have led to nothing more than further worries or confusion, however one clear thing stood out. There was one message that was loud and clear, giving shape and purpose to who we are. The message was this: we are family.

The sense of being family, as a part of something bigger and natural, is central to the Scriptures. Throughout their story of salvation, we see many great individuals, yet it is more than this the story of a community. Scripture tells the story of the family of God. As disciples of Jesus, we are a part of that great story. In the

challenges and confusion of the times ahead of us this becomes one thing we can hold on to almost as an anchor in the storm. Psalm 133 also tells us that this sense of family, of unity in God, is also a place of blessing. In other words, it is more than an anchor. Being a part of the family of God becomes a way of hope. Moving forward we need to hold on to that.

PAX ET BONUM, ALEX

PS. In case you were wondering ... the title of this letter comes from a line in a pop song of the '80s. It's called 'We are family'. The lyrics say, "Just let me state for the record", but what is heard is, "Just let me staple the vicar"!

SCAMS AGAIN...

Sadly, there has been a rise in the number of scams where members are being deceived out of personal information or money.

The most recent approach has been a series of emails, purporting to be from office bearers within the church. These emails have asked for personal information, monies to be transferred, or online gift vouchers to be purchased. While they may look genuine, they are not. They are designed to make you part with money, or information that could be used as a part of 'identity theft'. Office bearers of Reid Memorial will never ask you online for such information or 'favours'.

Should you receive an email that claims to be from the church, but which you are not sure of, then simply get in touch with the Minister or Session Clerk.

DOOR DUTIES



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

Daily prayer

*Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and
your hand over my mouth.*

Attitude

I said I have a can-do attitude... I never said I have a will-do attitude.

Sermon

*When a minister rehearses his sermon,
is he practising what he preaches?*

ALL IN THE MONTH OF **MARCH**

IT WAS 500 YEARS AGO, from 9th to 17th March 1522 that Martin Luther preached his *Invocavit* Sermons. He urged citizens to adhere to the core Christian values and trust in God, rather than using violence to bring about change.

175 YEARS AGO, on 3rd March 1847 that Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-born American engineer, and scientist, was born. Credited with inventing the first practical telephone.

100 YEARS AGO, on 10th March 1922 that Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and charged with sedition for his campaign of non-cooperation against the British Indian government. He was sentenced to six years in prison but released after two years as he needed surgery.

80 YEARS AGO, on 8th March 1942 that the bombing of Essen, Germany, took place. It was the first attack on a German city by the British RAF following the Area Bombing Directive of 14th February, which authorised the bombing of civilian areas.

75 YEARS AGO, on 1st March 1947 that the International Monetary Fund began operating.

65 YEARS AGO, on 25th March 1957 that the Treaty of Rome was signed, creating the European Economic Community (EEC) which came into force on 1st January 1958. It was renamed the European Community in 1993 and dissolved in 2009, having been replaced by the European Union.

50 YEARS AGO, on 24th March 1972 that the government of Northern Ireland resigned, and on 30th March 1972 that the

British government introduced direct rule of Northern Ireland from Westminster (until 1999).

25 YEARS AGO, on 6th March 1997 that Queen Elizabeth launched the official Royal website: www.royal.gov.uk

Also **25 YEARS AGO**, on 21st March 1997 that the Rev W V Awdry, British clergyman and children's writer, died. Best known as the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine.

APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

The intense conflict in Ukraine has brought misery and threat to the lives of civilians across the country, and its neighbours, with over a million people already having fled their homes to escape. Christian Aid is supporting the UK Disaster Emergency Committee Appeal for funds in a desperate situation. Donations can be made on their website, where there are prayers for those in the conflict.

DAVID WHITE WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

Image: DEC / Christian Aid / Shutterstock





WORLD WATCH LIST FOR 2022

NAMES WORST 50 COUNTRIES

Afghanistan is now the worst country in the world for the extreme persecution of Christians.

So says Open Doors, which has recently released the 2022 World Watch List, its annual ranking of the top 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.

For 2022, Afghanistan comes top because the Taliban are back in control. North Korea now comes second, followed by Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Eritrea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, and India in the top ten. >

> But the problem is worldwide. "At least 360 million Christians around the world experience high levels of persecution and discrimination," says Open Doors. "That's an astonishing one in seven of the global Christian population.

"Persecution of Christians has reached the highest levels since the Open Doors World Watch List began nearly 30 years ago."

And Open Doors warns that the Taliban victory in Afghanistan has "bolstered Islamic militants in neighbouring Pakistan and may well embolden jihadist groups in other regions. The Taliban's success encourages extremists around the world."

Certainly, Christians across sub-Saharan Africa also face increasing violence from Islamic militants. In Nigeria, more Christians are killed for their faith than in the rest of the world combined. But they are also badly persecuted in Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Mali, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso.

Meanwhile, the global Church is increasingly a refugee church, because of the more than 84 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced and are living as refugees in another country or displaced within their own country, many are Christians fleeing persecution.

Open Doors says, "Sadly, life on the move or in refugee camps is even more fragile, with discrimination, extortion, human trafficking and sexual violence. A displaced church is a vulnerable church."

Open Doors partners work with refugees in many countries, providing vital aid, shelter, and fellowship to Christians in need. If you would like to help them, or learn more about the World Watch List, visit: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>



SCOTLAND CENSUS 2022

Scotland's Census is the official count of every person and household in the country.

It usually takes place every 10 years. The census asks questions about people's age, sex, home and living situation, employment, education, and qualifications, as well as ethnicity. Every household in Scotland must complete the census and, by doing so, are helping to shape Scotland's future.

Completing the census is important because the answers provide the Scottish Government and many other service providers with the data they need to make important decisions that affect people's lives and their communities. These decisions include how money will be spent on important services like education, housing, healthcare, roads, and railways, and so much more.

From the end of February, households will begin to receive a letter with instructions on how to complete their census online.

Census Day is 20th March, but you can fill it in as soon as you receive your letter. Just make sure you answer questions with information that will be correct on 20th March to ensure that we have a snapshot of the nation on this day.

Visit the Scottish Census website or call the free helpline on 0800 030 8308 for help and guidance on the questions, or if you need support to fill it in <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>



'MOTHER CHURCH'

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

COFFEE MORNING & SPRING FAIR

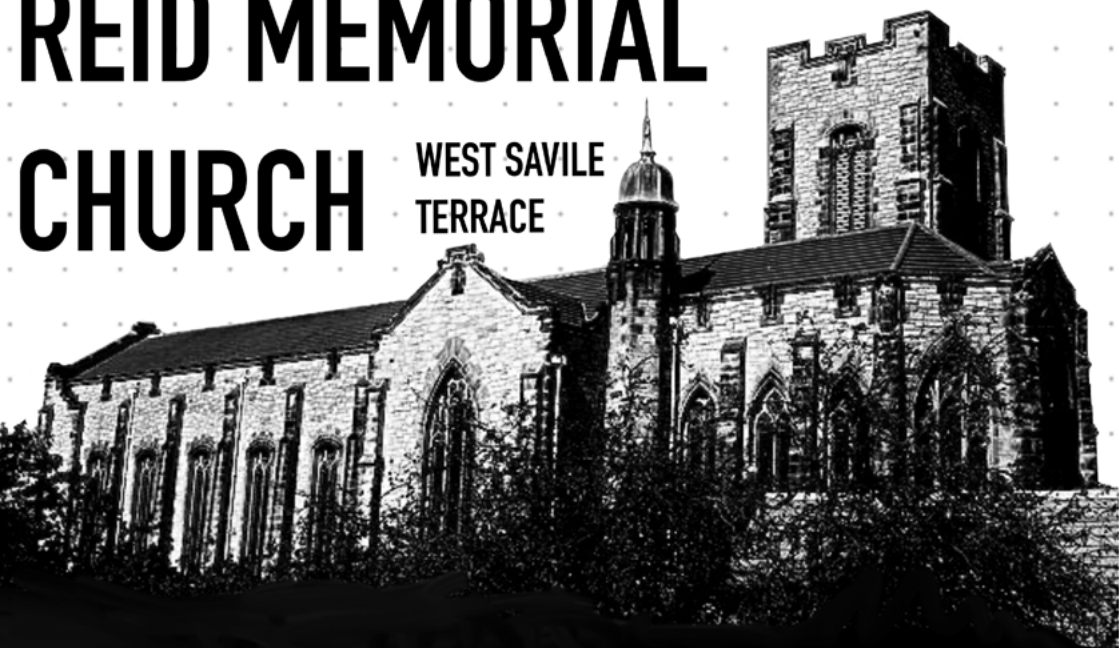
SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2022,

9AM-1PM VARIOUS STALLS

REID MEMORIAL

CHURCH

WEST SAVILE
TERRACE



SCN: SC014027

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



It is nice to see more of the congregation returning to church and to welcome some new faces. The Fund-Raising Committee have been busy planning fund raising activities for 2022, which is vital to our survival in these uncertain times. We can confirm that our first event the **SPRING FAIR** is on Saturday 19th March from 9am to 1pm. This will be held in the church and tables will be set out for tea/coffee etc. There will be a number of stall selling assorted items including crafts, Fairtrade, jams & marmalade, packs of wool, jewellery, and lots more. Admission is free but ask for a donation for the refreshments. There may also be home baking as a few of the committee are currently undertaking the food hygiene course. Please come along as your support is greatly valued.

RESTARTING POPUP CAFÉ

We hope to have our pop-up café once again, 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 before and sold lots of filled rolls, soup, teas, coffees etc. And also sold over 200 books.

EDINBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The ESO have kindly agreed to stage a dress rehearsal in the Reid on Wednesday 1st June 2022. This is a concert not to be missed so put the date in your diary. It will be in the evening and actual times will be announced later.

PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY

We are planning this in June, date to be confirmed. The actual format is still being discussed but it definitely will be an event not to be missed.



FUTURE EVENTS

The committee have a meeting on 1st March to discuss the above events and also other events later in the year. As the restrictions ease, it will extend our options for planning fund raising activities and we will keep you updated with any new event dates.

FAIRTRADE

Due to lockdown most of the food items went out of date and had to be disposed of. I still have some gifts and have recently purchased some non-perishable stock which will be on my stall at the Spring Fair along with my jams and marmalade. The jams etc are situated at the back of the church. The stall is usually manned every Sunday but there is an honesty box for other times. This has proved to work very well and raised a lot of funds for the Reid.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: 21st FEBRUARY - 6th MARCH

Fairtrade Fortnight started on 21st February. The Fairtrade Foundation has a fortnight full of events as part of their *Choose The World You Want* Festival and you can get involved. Farmers around the world are already facing the effects of the climate crisis, but there's hope. Join the global community for a free festival of online events (plus a few in-person events, too) to educate, entertain and inspire us all to choose the world we want to see. From Q&As with Fairtrade farmers taking on the climate crisis, to creative crafting sessions and cook-alongs, the festival has something for everyone. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want>

The Reid congregation has always been very supportive, and we thank you for your past generosity. We hope you will be able to come along to our 2022 events and help make them a success.

Stay safe! REGARDS **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**



ORIGIN OF THE **YELLOW RIBBON**

We are loved with everlasting love! One of the greatest and most comforting doctrines taught in the Bible is the love of God for His people. John emphasises the great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: 'God is love' (1 John 4:8). Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us. And we can go further and put it in personal terms as Paul did. 'He loved me and gave Himself for me' (Galatians 2:21).

How can we illustrate the illimitable love of God? One such illustration was told by the Rev John Wilbur Chapman of Indiana, an ordained Presbyterian minister who in 1893 went into full-time evangelistic ministry.

One evening Chapman was travelling by train in a rural part of Kansas. The other passenger in the carriage was a young man >

> who kept glancing out the window and then covering his face with his hands. Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man confessed that many years before he had run away from home and 'sown his wild oats.' He had not written to his parents at all, until a few weeks before, telling them that he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents' forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

"Sir," he said to Chapman, "the train will soon pass my home but I'm afraid to look. If there's a yellow ribbon on the tree, I'll get off at the next station and go home. If there's no ribbon, I'll just travel on. But I'm too afraid to look out for the tree." So, Chapman offered to look for him.

"You can open your eyes now," he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. 'All is well,' said the evangelist. 'There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there's far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores, and scores of them. Your parents love you that much, they want you to come home.' If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.



Looking for someone to listen?

lend an ear

The telephone listening service provided by trained volunteers from Craigmillar Park, Priestfield and Reid Memorial churches. Safe, confidential, non-judgmental.

07789 024 011 Thursdays 10am to 6pm

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



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