

# REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

**MARCH 2024**

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# DEAR FRIENDS...

***We are not gods, we are God's!***

***Believe it or not, that statement comes not from some great work of Christian***

***theology.*** Rather, it comes from graffiti on an

electrical cabinet on a street on the south side of

Edinburgh. It seems a simple sentence, yet it is also one of deep profundity and is relevant to the world we live in today.

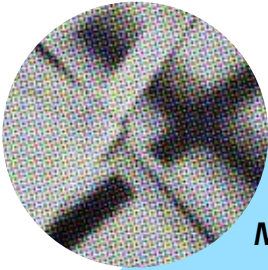
Everything from mainstream politics, popular philosophy, and advertising through to the subjective world of social media tells us that we are the centre of the universe. We are told that everything needs to be based on our desires, our happiness, and our values. It is as if they believe the universe revolves around the individual. That is, perhaps, okay if your name is Zaphod Beeblebrox and you exist only as a character in fiction of Douglas Adams. That character though, who did believe that the universe revolved around him, exemplified the spirit of that age and this one. In other words, our world wants us to perceive ourselves as gods. The writer of that line of graffiti clearly thinks otherwise.

As this edition of *ReidOn...* is published we will be approaching Easter. It is a time, a festival, of great joy. It is also a celebration of the justice and mercy of God. Through the resurrection of Jesus, God calls us once more into His presence. Through that same act, He also opens a path for us to approach Him. In this we are reminded that we are His, we are God's. It is a message that appears regularly throughout scripture, especially in the Prophets and the

letters of Paul. Clearly, the writers of scripture believed it. It is as we accept that truth and as we begin to live it that we also begin to realise that it offers us both real hope and real strength.

In a world dominated by so many personal 'truths' we need the foundation that only God can give. Living in the truth that we are God's will enable us to resist the temptation to follow the world into believing that we are gods. We will find ourselves in accord with the writer of the graffiti. We will find ourselves living in Truth.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**



## **HOLY WEEK BREAKFAST SERVICES**

*Monday 25th through Friday 29th -  
Newington Churches Together are hosting their  
annual series of Breakfast Services, led by a range of  
Christian leaders from across our part of the city, taking  
place at Craigmillar Park church at 07:45 each day, and  
lasting 15-20 minutes. There is a light breakfast available  
after each time of worship and reflection. Following breakfast  
on Good Friday we will be meeting outside Craigmillar Park  
Church at 9.30am where a short reading will be given before  
we commence our Walk of Witness, walking on to three  
neighbouring churches: St Columba's Upper Gray Street,  
St Peter's Lutton Place and @ Nicolson Square Gardens  
for a final reading/short service. Some of us will be  
handing out Easter eggs along the way. Why  
not come and join us? [see overleaf  
for other services]*

# DOOR DUTIES MARCH-APRIL...

## **SUNDAY 3rd MARCH**

Gillian Brown, Sheila Capewell  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 10th MARCH**

June Wylie, Elizabeth Clark  
*In charge: Lindsay Wood*

## **SUNDAY 17th MARCH**

Lesley Beckett, Douglas Mathieson  
*In charge: Ian Beckett*

## **SUNDAY 24th MARCH**

Alison MacLeod,  
Sheena Richardson  
*In charge: Stevie Douglas*

## **SUNDAY 31st MARCH**

Joyce Rosie, Sheila Capewell  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 7th APRIL**

Geeta Mackay, Gillian Brown  
*In charge: Susan Mackay*

## **SUNDAY 14th APRIL**

Siobhan Gilliland, Richard Black  
*In charge: Linda Farrer*

## **SUNDAY 21st APRIL**

Elizabeth Clark, Sheena Richardson  
*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 28th APRIL**

Douglas Mathieson,  
Siobhan Gilliland  
*In charge: Lindsay Wood*

## **IMPORTANT**

***Remember to arrange a swap if you can't attend!***



## **PALM SUNDAY**

*Marking the beginning of Holy Week, the Sunday before Easter will be 24th March. 11:15*

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*Our popular service of a simple supper and Holy Communion: 7pm on Thursday 28th March. Look out for a sheet nearer the time, so we know numbers for catering.*

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

*10:30 at Craigmillar Park Church.*

## MARGARET COCHRAN

*A service to mark the life of our dear friend Margaret Cochran will take place in the church on Thursday 7th March at 2pm.*

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

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## FABRIC COMMITTEE...

*Stevie and his team have been working hard on the Reid's behalf: he will be submitting a full report to the annual Congregational Board meeting, but here's a brief summary:*

It has been another tough and busy year for Fabric. On top of the normal demands of maintaining a grade A listed building we had:

- Our 5 yearly electrical inspection condition report (EICR), with all the required remedial work
- Significant issues with our church radiators
- Our long-term Gardener resigned and we needed to find and re-appoint new gardeners
- Our Quinquennial inspection
- Challenges sourcing suitable companies to carry out lightening conductor inspection and repairs
- The increasing use of our church and halls as a rental space, increasing our day-to-day activities.



*Israelis mark the 100th day since the atrocity on 7th October*

*As you'll know from past issues of ReidOn..., **MURIEL PEARSON** is the Church of Scotland Mission Partner for Israel and Palestine. She and Rev Dr Stewart Gillan have recently returned there, and we follow her mission at the World Church Committee. To summarise her latest newsletter:*

While in Scotland Muriel spoke to groups and churches and led worship online with the congregation of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias. But tensions continue to run high across the region with daily encounters between the Israeli Defence Force and Hezbollah. While the images on the news of destroyed buildings and people picking through rubble by hand looking for survivors are horrific - an endless stream of misery reported on by Gazan journalists who have seen 82 of their number killed since hostilities stepped up - Israel's news is full of reminders of the atrocities experienced by Israelis at the hands of Hamas, designed to stoke determination to continue the war.

UN and World Health officials and others talk about the scale of need and the impossibility of responding. The situation is polarised and it is hard to see a constructive way forward addressing the fears and needs of both Palestinians and Israelis. There are, however, some refreshing and encouraging voices. *Rabbis for >*

> *Human Rights*, who have themselves been affected by October 7th, have remained determined to behave with humanity, based on the Biblical injunctions to 'Love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with God'.

UK organisation *Together4Humanity* held events for people to come together to 'Build Bridges'. They say 'We're building a movement for everyone who believes in the importance of standing together for humanity, and uniting against hate.' And as Christian Aid's prayer puts it, 'Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts.'

**LINDSAY WOOD** WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

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## WHEESHT...

*Pictured is Lawrence Foster, conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra at The Barbican, London, performing American composer John Cage's 1968 three-movement piece 4'33" - during which,*



as you might know, the performers remain silent and the only audible sounds are the surrounding random ambient noises, buzzing, breathing, throat-clearing etc. It's an absorbing and unique piece, different every time it's performed, inviting the audience fundamentally to *listen*. The Bible has plenty of advice about staying silent, [see link] among the most-quoted being Ecclesiastes 3: 7 - 'a time to be silent and a time to speak', Psalm 37:7 'Be silent in the LORD's presence and wait patiently for him.', and Zephaniah 1:7 'Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign LORD'. More interesting maxims about silence can be found *here*.



## IN THE FRAME...

The third of ReidOn... 's series of pictures by local art galleries: **Morningside Gallery** is showing its Spring Exhibition until 11th March, including work by Shona Barr, whose piece 'Summer Colours' is pictured. The Gallery can be found at 94 Morningside Road and [www.morningsidegallery.co.uk](http://www.morningsidegallery.co.uk)



# Southside Faith Care

Come in out of the cold to warm up and bide a wee while here...

...wrap your hands around a hot cuppa ... and enjoy... a bit of a blether here too



**drop  
-in  
TUESDAYS  
1pm - 4pm**

**We really look forward to seeing you!**

**The Lounge  
PRIESTFIELD CHURCH  
2 Marchhall Crescent  
Edinburgh EH16 5HW**

**ALL WELCOME**

[www.southsidefaithcare.org](http://www.southsidefaithcare.org)  
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC052304

# Southside Faith Care

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC052304



## MEN'S GROUP

We are starting up something new.

We need your help to do that.

### MEN TALK with men, for men

- meet new people, make new friends
- enjoy shared interests, and new ones
- enhance your health and wellbeing

Come along  
Be part of it  
Shape what happens



**FRIDAYS, 10-12 NOON**  
**STARTING: 12 JANUARY 2024**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**CALL: 07478 543510**

**FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL LUNCH AT PRESTONFIELD GOLF CLUB**



**The Lounge, Priestfield Church,**  
**2 Marchall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW**

[southsidefaithcare@gmail.com](mailto:southsidefaithcare@gmail.com)

[www.southsidefaithcare.org.uk](http://www.southsidefaithcare.org.uk)



## FOODBANK+...

Firstly, a very *big* thank you to all who have been contributing to the Foodbank+ with food or money [see *ReidOn...s passim*] all very much appreciated. The list of items required for March is: **sugar, instant coffee, tinned vegetables, tinned veggie meals, pasta sauce, soup, shampoo and shower gel**. Please continue to pray for all the folks who come along for help and also to the helpers.

**ALISON MACLEOD**

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## THE REID RECEIVES A GENEROUS LEGACY...£

*Readers will be pleased to learn that another member has been kind enough to remember The Reid in their Will: Henry Philip, who sadly passed on last spring, has left us a very generous legacy of £10,000. Henry was a long-serving and diligent member of the Church and was Session Clerk for many years. A full obituary will appear in a later issue.*

**ALASDAIR SEALE**

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be April 2024. Please send David any articles or notices by **15th March** please. See page 2 for contact details.



**REIDMEMORIAL**  
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

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