

REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE



MAY 2022

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SERVICES



1st May at 11:15am

MORNING WORSHIP, EASTER 3

Led by Rev Dean Bachelor

8th May at 11:15am

MORNING WORSHIP, EASTER 4

Led by Rev Alex McAspurren

15th May at 11:15am

MORNING WORSHIP, EASTER 5

Led by Rev Dean Bachelor

22nd May at 11:15am

MORNING WORSHIP, EASTER 6

Led by Rev Alex McAspurren

29th May at 11:15am

MORNING WORSHIP, EASTER 7

Led by Rev Dean Bachelor

NEW DOG BREEDS

With all the new crossbreeds appearing, would you fancy one of the following?

Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso: a dog that folds up for easy transport; Pointer + Setter = Poinsetter: a traditional Christmas pet; Pekingese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso: an abstract dog [more >>]





DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO?

So begins a film theme from the seventies; it's about relationships yet it has a certain relevance to our spiritual journey as a congregation. Presently, we do not know

where we are going. There are various suggestions and much talk but no destination. This lack of knowing is disconcerting; it is discomforting. We become dizzy as we explore both this way and that. This search for direction saps our energy. Others around us seem to have a sense of direction leaving us both bewildered and frustrated. What way are we to go?

The path we travel as a congregation may feel a lonely one, yet we are not alone. There are other congregations who do not know where they are heading. If we were to look back into our own story, we would find that we have been on difficult paths before. Our congregation were transported here from the Mound in 1936. That congregation, too, must have felt great anguish and pain as they moved to a new location. Some would have continued to where we find ourselves today; others would have taken another journey.

Further back in our faith history are the people of Israel. Wandering Sinai for forty years they knew from where they had come but not where they were headed, just like us. As they journeyed trust was placed in God. In return He provided them with a beacon to follow; by day, a pillar of smoke, while by night one of fire. Eventually the Promised Land would be reached. On the journey circumstances became distractions, and at times >

> open rebellion. Yet, still the people arrived in a new land where once more they would adapt and rebuild. I wonder what we could learn from them?

Today we do not have the good fortune, as did the Israelites, of two clear guides but we continue to trust in the same God. Perhaps we too need to learn, like them, to deepen our trust in Him. Maybe then we will begin to see the signs that will lead us onward in our journey. It will not be easy; at times we will lose heart, but both the journey and the destination will bring their own blessings.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022 GOES LIVE!

As mentioned in last month's *ReidOn...*, look out for Christian Aid Week envelopes in Orders of Service on 15th and 22nd May; please, fill them to overflowing with all you can spare in cash, and place in the buckets provided. Alternatively, bring them back the following week similarly overflowing, or join others donating online by going to ***the Reid's JustGiving page (click here)***. THANK YOU!

DAVID WHITE WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE



DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 1st MAY

Alison MacLeod, June Wylie
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 8th MAY

Siobhan Gilliland,
Sheena Richardson
In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 15th MAY

Lesley Beckett, Geeta Mackay
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 22nd MAY

Richard Black, Joyce Rosie
In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 29th MAY

Siobhan Gilliland, Sheila Capewell
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

Mary Allan, Gillian Brown
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 12th JUNE

Lesley Beckett, Elizabeth Clark
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 19th JUNE

Douglas Mathieson, Sheena
Richardson
In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 26th JUNE

Siobhan Gilliland, Joyce Rosie
In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 3rd JULY

Mary Allan, Alison MacLeod
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 10th JULY

Geeta Mackay, Lindsay Wood
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 17th JULY

Lesley Beckett, Richard Black
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 24th JULY

Elizabeth Clark, Gillian Brown
In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 31st JULY

June Wylie, Douglas Mathieson
In charge: Stephen Thomson



ALL IN THE MONTH OF **MAY:**

IT WAS 150 YEARS AGO, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 YEARS AGO, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel Dracula was published.

100 YEARS AGO, on 27th May 1922 that Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. (Died 2015)

90 YEARS AGO, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

50 YEARS AGO, on 28th May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 YEARS AGO, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War. British victory.

25 YEARS AGO, 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

15 YEARS AGO, on 3rd May 2007 that three-year-old Madeleine McCann went missing while on holiday with her parents in Praia da Luz, Portugal. Despite long-running investigations costing millions of pounds, she has never been found. Her disappearance is the most-reported missing person case in history. >

> **10 YEARS AGO**, on 18th May 2012 that social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.



LONGEST OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOK HAS BEEN RETURNED - 313 YEARS LATE

*If you have ever been late in returning a library book, take heart: the 1704 copy of **The Faith and Practice of a Church of England Man** was recently handed back to Sheffield Cathedral.*

A handwritten inscription inside reads: "This Book belongs to ye Lending Library in Sheffield Church 1709." It left the library just over 300 years ago.

Sheffield Cathedral's Reverend Canon Keith Farrow said that the family of a deceased woman who lived locally had asked in her will for it to be returned. "Now it's come back home. It's a joy to have this little jewel back in the cathedral."

With overdue fines of 50p a day, librarians could have charged the family more than £54,000 for the book – which itself is worth about £300. The canon joked: "We might have got a new roof or something. But I did promise I wouldn't charge them."



TEDDIES FOR UKRAINE

(See front page): this little group is on its way to Dnipro Kids with thanks to all knitters. Any others will still be collected at back of Church as plenty more are required.

Many thanks to everyone taking part. [Editor: I've been supplied with a crochet pattern for the Teddies. As it's a poor-quality photograph, it couldn't be reproduced for inclusion in ReidOn... If you would like a copy, just ask and I'll photocopy it. Linda.]



Knitting Pattern

- Double knitting wool
- Main colour for head and paws
- Trouser colour
- Jumper colour
- Scarf colour
- Size 10 (3 1/4) needles



Method

- Cast on 10 stitches in main colour. Knit 10 rows
- Change to trouser colour and knit 30 rows
- Knit another leg
- Then knit across all 20 stitches and work a further 16 rows
- Change to jumper colour and knit 24 rows
- Change to main colour and stocking stitch (one row knit one row purl) for 6" (15 cm)
- Change to jumper colour and continue to knit in the reverse order.
- Stitch down the sides of the head

Arms

- With jumper colour pick up 8 stitches each side of the neck join (16 stitches)
- Knit 20 rows then change to main colour and knit 10 rows for paws, repeat for the other arm

Scarf


- Cast on 75 stitches, knit 4 rows. Cast off loosely
- Weave in all loose ends and sew up the teddy leaving an opening in the crotch for stuffing
- Sew across the top corners of the head to make ears before stuffing. Stuff your teddy with clean, new polyester stuffing (BS1425/BS5852)
- Run a thread through the knitting to make a neck and draw it in, knot the ends and weave in the excess
- Embroider a smiley face. Use small stitches, (back-stitch and stem-stitch) and ensure all the ends are firmly finished
- Sew the scarf to the back of the neck of the teddy



THINE BE THE GLORY

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but instead was written by Handel for his opera 'Judas Maccabeus,' first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran 'See the conquering hero comes,' for Handel's opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and



sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!).

Secondly, the words. They were not written until 1884, which was 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Revd Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in *Chants Evangeliques*. Soon it found its way into English - translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming those words with that music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. By 1904 it was being translated into other languages.

The theme of 'battle' is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world's most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending St Paul's Cathedral. So, it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

[See also article on the same hymn, ReidOn... April 2021]



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2022

Collect stamps now to support pastors in Lebanon



During the 2021 financial crisis pastors in Syria and Lebanon donated half of one month's salary to start a fund to support the neediest families.

Please put all your used stamps in the special post box at the rear of the church.
THANK YOU! LINDSAY, WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/churchofscotland
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'WITH GRATITUDE'

'(If you could please forward this to whomever it most concerns, I would be grateful!)

I'm an actor, shortly departing for the USA, and wanted to share my gratitude for an experience I had at the Reid Memorial church on Easter Night. I was walking around the quiet lanes of the city with the sole purpose of getting lost in contemplation, that evening.

In passing the Reid Memorial church, I noticed the gate was open, and a sign affirmed welcome by stating the Garden was open and to come in. While dubious that such a beautiful building would entrust its enclosed beauty to a stranger in such a mistrustful age - that aforementioned beauty trumped my generational suspicion.

I found - by a bench within - a note above an array of painted rocks, tasking the reader to take one if it so called to them. I did and took the stone with me.

Then, while sitting on a bench thereafter and admiring the grounds, a meow stole my attention to the right. A black cat came down the ramp and proceeded to sit with me in the silence and the drizzle of the night. It never left my side for the better part of an hour. Even greeting my girlfriend when I called to introduce her to this curious creature who had come to greet me in this curious place. (Timiki, I learned after disturbing the residents of the house as I left, to ensure the cat did in fact belong to them and wasn't another stray who roamed!)

To me, spiritual experiences are at their best, organic, such as finding a garden in the night, in beautiful light. It is a memory I won't soon forget. Thank you for facilitating it by merit of a welcoming attitude in a guarded time.'

Yours sincerely, **KIERAN FLITTON'**



THE ASCENSION

This month at Ascension Day, we remember Jesus ascending to 'God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). It's a somewhat neglected Christian festival, taking place on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. However, this phrase is used in three different contexts in the New Testament.

SITTING AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Jesus occupies a position of power and authority at the centre of the universe, 'exalted to the right hand of God' (Acts 2:33). This position was secured by His death and resurrection, enabling us to experience the life of heaven, including eternal life, forgiveness, healing and the power to transform lives and communities. Is this our expectation and experience?

STANDING AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Our experience of heaven is only partial because of the presence of suffering and disappointment in our lives. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, saw Jesus 'standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56), when being stoned to death. Do we see that Jesus is on the throne and has a purpose for our lives, even when we are going through setbacks and difficulties? As a result of Stephen's death, the church grew and the apostle Paul was impacted. Where do we see the fruit of the suffering in our lives?

PRAYING AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Finally, we are told that Jesus is 'interceding for us' at God's right hand (Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is on our side at the heart of the universe and fully knows our needs when praying for us. He is for us, even when we feel defeated by the wrong things in our lives. How does this help us now?

So where has Jesus gone? Because He is in heaven, the Ascension opens up the possibility that we can experience the life of heaven, both now and in eternity.

[See also article on the same subject, ReidOn... May 2021]

ELECTION DAY CAFÉ



This will be open on Thursday 5th May from 8am to 4pm in the Small Hall and Library.

Due to election restrictions, the only entrance to the café is by the double doors at the Small Hall. On sale will be coffee, tea, soup, bacon or egg rolls, home-made scones, wrapped biscuits. Juice for children. Café users can use the toilet in the choir corridor.

Join us for refreshments when you come to vote or just enjoy a 'cuppa' and a blether. Marmalade will be on sale and books will be on display and can be taken for a donation of £2. As some access to the buildings will be restricted due to polling station protocol, please respect the signage.



We would welcome any book donations before then. Leave them in Church on Sunday's or in the large Hall corridor.

THE KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

We will re-commence on Tuesday, April 26th, at 10am in the Green Room of the Reid Memorial Church, and every Tuesday thereafter. (We normally take a break in the summer.) All knitters, natterers, and all handicraft workers welcome!

ELIZABETH CLARK

MEET THE TEAM

Over the last couple of months we have got to know Dean as he works with us over the coming year. In May we will be joined by another new face. Carol will be with us on a part-time basis for around six months as she explores her call to ministry within the Kirk. The next edition of the magazine will see them both contribute something about their faith journey.

These two new faces will not be the only changes to the team leading worship. Over the coming months, and throughout the summer, we plan to expand the involvement of the congregation in the leadership of worship. Training will be available where we can learn about the different parts and forms of worship. This will, hopefully, take us to the point where we have our own worship team who will lead us on a regular basis. If you have ever wondered about helping to shape or lead worship, then please speak with Alex.



REID MEMORIAL **BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We are happy to say this group will meet in the large hall on Wednesday mornings starting on 11th May from 10.00 -11.30am. It is a friendly group for parents, grandparents, childminders, babies & pre-school children.



OPEN
**COMMUNITY
SINGING**
GROUP
ocsg.org/

As of October 2021, we have been holding weekly sessions in the Church (except for the weeks when we had to be cautious and not meet because of increasing Covid numbers in the Lothians).

We had been established for a number of years in the Eric Liddell Centre but once restrictions on group meetings were lifted, we realised the need to look for another venue - one that offered adequate ventilation for group singing. We held a successful trial session in the Church and have since become firmly established there, appreciating the wonderful acoustics that it offers.

We sing a huge variety of material - rounds, part harmonies, folk, indigenous songs from around the world, lullabies, old time favourites and original pieces created by

our much loved and appreciated Song Leader, Penny Stone. Penny is a member of the Natural Voice Network so also introduces us to numbers written by her NVN colleagues. Look at the Latest Songs page on our website to see the breadth of what we cover ocsg.org/latest-songs/.



Everyone with a desire to sing is welcome - whether untrained or musically adept. For people who want to sing but are a little scared or hesitant, the group will suit you well. There are no auditions, there is no music to read (teaching is by ear or call-and-response) and there are no restrictions on voice parts - Penny positively encourages us to try different harmony sections. Above all, our emphasis is on enjoyment and the benefits that singing with others can bring - and we laugh a lot.

Sessions are weekly on Thursday evenings. As of 28th April, after an extended Easter break, our sessions will be 6.30 - 8.30pm. So that we can set out the seating (we sing in a wide circle) with safe social distancing for singing, we operate a booking system which works by replying to a weekly email. So, to come and join us all you need to do is to be added to our email list by contacting us at opencommunitysinginggroup@gmail.com. Session charges range from £5 to £8 - more details on our website. Do please come and give us a try.



>> **NEW DOG BREEDS** *continued*

Terrier + Bulldog = Terribull: a dog that makes awful mistakes
Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador: a dog that barks incessantly
Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere: a dog that's true to the end.



ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU/ ELPCSG



There have been many tributes to this great man including an article on the ELPCSG website. That acronym does not roll off the tongue easily, but it stands for Edinburgh and Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group.

Desmond Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997. Born in a poor African township, he had suffered from polio as a child, which left his right hand misshapen, and then he developed TB as a teenager. His mother was subjected to physical abuse by his father. Yet he was still the 'impish priest', who wore a T-shirt with ARCH on it! He identified with the common people - the rainbow people - but could also deal effectively with those in authority. When Nelson Mandela came to power in 1994, his good friend Tutu told him, 'You have stopped the gravy train of politics, but only long enough to get on it'. The Cabinet took note, and all accepted a drop in salary. Tutu said he was not defying the government but was >

> obeying God and his teaching. There is a full obituary on the ELPCSG website.

Approximately one in eight men will suffer from prostate cancer, but treatment is improving all the time and many sufferers will die with it, not because of it. The problem is getting younger men to be aware of the symptoms and to get tested when they reach the age of 50, as the sooner it is detected the more effective will be the treatment.

The ELPCSG is a well respected Support Group for men diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. It runs a very popular and effective 'buddy' service whereby newly diagnosed men are put in touch with a friendly understanding man who has had a similar diagnosis and treatment and who will openly describe their experiences of all the issues involved. It is a self help group, not a research or medical group, which works closely with other cancer specialist organisations including The Maggie Centre, Macmillan Cancer Support, Prostate Scotland, NHS Scotland and Prostate Cancer UK

Full details can be found on the website and the contact number

Editor: this article was sent by Ian Hay, a member of the Reid congregation. If you would like to contact Ian for further information, I can put you in touch. Linda

Picture credit Jens Astrup/Oxfam International



CATS

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern - because they are both him.





DEMOCRACY ON YOUR DOORMAT

Following Murphy, Sod, and Pottinger, I'd like to bequeath to future generations an axiomatic law, in my name. It goes like this: *that householders are the people least likely to know what it's like to use their own letterbox.* I say this after years of gamely stuffing leaflets and flyers for a certain political party through people's letterboxes, with 'success' only achievable in assault-course terms. After prodding entryphone buttons that are seemingly unconnected to anything, arguing with self-appointedes who won't let me on the stair 'because everyone here's already decided how we're going to vote', or 'my wife and I have had quite enough of the election', encountering letterboxes too small or unyielding to admit *anything* through (or if they do, they'll remove my wedding ring, if I can extract my fingers, say before their dog does that job), any top-skin remaining on my hands is a considered bonus. Don't people wonder why everything landing on their doormat is a snarl of knotted, torn paper? Well it wasn't before it had to be rammed through their letterbox.

On 5th May the Reid will again host the Polling Station: please vote, unselfishly - people have sacrificed much so we can do so. But spare a thought for the 'leafletters' - easily spotted, nursing their grazed knuckles. **DAVID WHITE**

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



ESO CONCERT 1st JUNE

Sadly, we have cancelled this concert. After discussions, it was decided that at this time it would not be advisable. We hope that it can take place in the future after COVID restrictions and infections are at a reduced level and that more people would feel comfortable attending. We thank the orchestra for their offer. They will be performing on the Saturday 4th June at Greyfriars Church for those who would like to attend.

COMMUNITY / JUBILEE TEA 11th JUNE

We are busy putting together ideas for the celebrations on this day. The theme will be red, white, and blue with platinum crowns or dress. We are open to any suggestions of entertainments, music, or activities, if you have any ideas, please talk to the committee members. Further details later.

'THE REFUGEE'

Nigel Beeton writes: 'Now our thoughts are overshadowed by the terrible situation in Ukraine. I looked at the masses of people on the station platforms, and I thought, "only a couple of months ago, each one of those people had a life, a home, a shop to buy food, perhaps somewhere to grow daffodils, maybe a church to worship God, and their own hopes and dreams for the future. Now they are just part of a mass of people shuffling towards a westbound train.' >

*All that I was, I no longer am
All that I have, I hold in my hand
My home, my love, my world are all gone
One among thousands, I shuffle along.*

*Only last week I knew who I was
All that has gone, and only because
Someone in a land a long way away
Turned life into hell one terrible day.*

*He started a war, his heart icy cold
He rained down his hell on the young and the old
I ran for my life for I had no choice
And nobody heard the fear in my voice.*

*everything's gone, and all that is 'me'
Summed up in a word - the word 'refugee.'
I have no control, no say in my fate
Just one in a crowd, I stand, and I wait.*

*Waiting for what? The future's unclear,
For armed men have taken all that I held dear
Along with my hopes, and all I had planned
All swept away by the tanks in my land.*

*One thing alone puts a smile on my face
A far nicer stranger has come to this place:
A bed for the night? A cup of hot tea?
And - best of all - someone who sees me as me.*

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be April. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 20th May. See page 2 for contact details.



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