

REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022

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DEAR FRIENDS WE'RE ON A ROAD TO...

*For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11).*

Life, love, and relationships may all be said to be journeys. Sometimes the path is clear and simple; at other times it may be a long and winding road, seemingly to nowhere. For Reid Memorial, as a congregation, we have been through some challenging times in the last three years. Since arriving in post in the summer of 2019 we have been through a pandemic, threats of war, a financial crisis, and are now on our fourth Prime Minister. Add into the mix the current crisis within the Church of Scotland, and the challenges to our own existence as a congregation. It has been a challenging time. It has not been easy. Yet, in some ways, we have become stronger, more resilient in our shared journey of faith.

Our shared journey does not yet have a destination, but now we have companions on our mystery tour. Together with our new friends from the South-East group of congregations we are looking to forge a new path, one that will see us reach out more effectively to our neighbours in this part of the city. Together we have plans for mission, and across the group there are the gifts and skills to do this. Over the coming months we will work more closely together, sharing the skills we have. This is something that has already begun.

>

> The plan from Presbytery is to see all these congregations form one new parish. Unlike 'traditional' unions it will have several centres of worship including our building. From union we will see our current parish area designated as a 'Local Mission Church.' This will allow for focus on mission and enable us to access additional resources to assist with this. Quite how we get from here to there remains to be seen. The legislation and guidance for this is both new and untried. As one of our elders put it, "we will be guinea pigs." This, though, should not make us feel fearful but excited and encouraged as we seek to revitalise our church and congregation.

The last three years have been both strange and challenging; so, too, will the next few years. The difference will be that we can travel on in hope. Forty years ago, there was a successful pop song entitled 'Road to Nowhere' however our path is not that one. We are on a road to somewhere, our destination set by God. Along that road we will be sustained and challenged to grow in faith. It may not be clear where our destination will be; the path may be difficult to see or walk. However, we are not alone; we have travelling companions around us, and our God working within and without us.

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11).

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

'Sometimes people think of church as being like a giant helicopter. They don't want to get too close in case they get sucked into the rotas.' - Milton Jones

ALL IN THE MONTH OF

NOVEMBER

IT WAS 175 YEARS AGO, on 4th November 1847 that Scottish obstetrician James Young Simpson discovered the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. He helped popularise its use in medicine.

125 YEARS AGO, on 15th November 1897 that Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, British politician was born. He was the Minister of Health 1945-51 who led the establishment of the National Health Service.

100 YEARS AGO, on 4th November 1922 that British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen. On 26th November he reached a second sealed doorway and discovered the famous treasures.

80 YEARS AGO, on 5th November 1942 that the WW2 Second Battle of El-Alamein ended. British troops led by Generals Alexander and Montgomery defeated Rommel's German forces in Egypt. On 10th November, Winston Churchill announced: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

75 YEARS AGO, on 20th November 1947 that the marriage of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, took place at Westminster Abbey in London.

70 YEARS AGO, on 1st November 1952 that the USA carried out the first successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb, in a test on the Pacific island of Elugelab, Marshall Islands. The island was completely destroyed and no longer exists.

60 YEARS AGO, on 20th November 1962 that the Cuban missile crisis ended, and US President John F Kennedy lifted the military blockade of Cuba. >

> **40 YEARS AGO**, on 2nd November 1982 that Channel 4 Television was launched in the UK.

30 YEARS AGO, on 11th November 1992 that the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

ALSO 30 YEARS AGO, on 20th November 1992 that the Windsor Castle fire broke out in a private chapel and spread to a large part of the building. Damage was extensive and took five years to repair, at a cost of £40 million. Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time to help raise the money.

15 YEARS AGO, on 19th November 2007 that Amazon released its first Kindle e-book reader.

AUTUMN

*He arrives in a coat of many colours,
Flame, gold, russet and brown,
Autumn appears with dancing feet
Crunching on leaves the wind has blown down.
Rustling and bustling, friend with the wind,
Whistling and blowing and whooshing around,
Creating a carpet of multiple colours,
Teasing the leaves as they fall to the ground.
Mellowing fruits and ripening corn,
Autumn's bounty for us to share,
Our God of provision, providing, sustaining
Whatever the season, His presence is near.*

BY **MEGAN CARTER**

PRESBYTERY PLANNING UPDATE

24th OCTOBER 2022

This is an outline of where we are at present as the Presbytery seeks to find a path to the future. Much of this is liable to change in detail as the situation develops.

THE PROPOSAL (GENERAL):

1. Union with parishes of Gracemount l/w Liberton, Liberton Northfield, and Tron: Gilmerton and Moredun. (known as SEEG)
2. Will be governed by a Kirk Session only and formed from all the existing ones including ours. Due to Church Law, there will be no congregational Board in the new arrangements, though much of their work will be executed through committees that will act in an advisory manner.
3. SEEG have made it clear that they want to continue to see our building used for worship and mission.

THE PROPOSAL (DETAIL):

1. Redesignation of The Reid as a 'Local Mission Church.' Focus on mission.
2. Review after pre-agreed period - possibly three years.
3. Ministry provided by the team of three full-time, and two unpaid staff. >

> 4. Management of the Mission Church would be by a 'Leadership Team' appointed from the Kirk Session and Presbytery in equal numbers.

FINANCE:

1. The Reid's assets, fixed and moveable, will be under the stewardship of the new Kirk Session.

MINISTRY:

1. A team comprising two full-time ministers, one Pioneer Minister, and two Ordained Local Ministers. The latter are unpaid.

2. My post is due to be reviewed by June 2024 and as was planned from the outset, will end soon afterward.

Much of the process and structures required for this new 'super-parish' to operate are, as yet, untried. This explains why some of the language being used is tentative or vague. This vagueness though, may give us the opportunity to form the parish in ways more appropriate to our context than conform to a standard template.

Further updates will follow as the situation develops.

BLESSINGS, **ALEX**

SERVICE OF **REMEMBRANCE**

Our Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 13th November at 10:45am to allow for the two minutes of silence at 11:00am (SEE OPPOSITE). This year, we will be worshipping with our friends at Craigmillar Park Church, 2c Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh EH16 5PG.





THE TWO MINUTES **SILENCE**

In the month when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the Two Minutes Silence is a significant act of remembrance. The silence provides an opportunity to remember those who have suffered in war and how we can work for a peaceful world. However, we can also find ourselves thinking about lunch or whether we've switched off our phone?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes of silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). When observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we call to mind those who have laid down their lives. >

> In our busy lives, where so much clamours for our attention, silence gives us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. This is not just for Remembrance Sunday, as Jesus often withdrew to find silence to seek God (e.g.: Luke 5:16). Let's use silence in our lives as space to seek God's will and offer ourselves to Him, just as those who gave themselves in conflict through the years.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'



The boys had been up in the attic together helping with some cleaning. They uncovered an old manual typewriter and asked their mother what it was. She briefly explained, but they were still puzzled as to how it worked.

So the mother rolled some paper into the typewriter and began striking the keys, leaving black letters of print on the page.

"WOW!" they exclaimed, "That's really cool... but where do you plug it in?"

"There is no plug," she answered.

"Then where do you put the batteries?" they persisted.

"It doesn't need batteries either," she continued.

"Wow! This is so cool!" they exclaimed.

"Someone should have invented this a long time ago!"

Grandad's Typewriter

My Grandad had a typewriter
Imperial, I think
Used to command his empire
With black typewriter ink.

He wrote his lengthy letters
On subjects to him dear
Then sealed them, stamped them, sent them
To places far and near.

He was quite heavy fingered
Those keys he'd really pound
The house's very timbers
Vibrated with the sound.

It went on for long hours
And we'd hear everything
And at the end of every line
A little bell would ring!

He sent them to the mission field
And to our poor MP
He sent them off to strangers
And to his family.

So, then he'd watch the postman
And how his wrath would burn
If his poor correspondents
Replied not by return!

I never thought I'd miss it
But, looking back, I do;
A sound, like many others,
That wove my childhood through.

What sounds today, I wonder
That do not bring us bliss,
Will soon be just a memory
That we might really miss?

SUZANNE DALZIEL

How did you know Suzanne? There are many ways that you could have known her, all of them good. Were you family? Friends? Colleague? Did you worship together? Perhaps Suzanne was a mixture of all the above. However, you knew her, what perhaps matters more than how is that you did, and that knowing her enriched your life.

So what may we say about her? What follows is not a definitive biography but a series of brief snapshots. Perhaps you feature in some. Perhaps they recall other tales of your own.

Originally to be named Susan, her mum's choice, on arrival at the registrars her dad thought it would be nice to name her after her mum instead and so our Suzanne was legally named Agnes. Eventually she would be come to be known as many of us knew her. Educated here in the city an early character trait was soon to develop for she was always in trouble ... for talking in class. Suzanne would leave school to go straight into work, indeed she went to the first job interview in her school uniform. Over her working life she was employed by a wide range of businesses and establishments. These included a brewery, the Castle, and George Heriot's School. There is one employer, though, that matters more than the others and that was a well-known printers and publishers.

If you went to school in Scotland in the seventies and eighties there is a good chance that you encountered the work of the firm of 'Pillans & Wilson.' Its import was not what they did but that they had social events. It was to one of those that one of Suzanne's colleagues brought a friend... Ali, who would become her >

> boyfriend and then husband. That was forty years ago this month. They married two years later and, twenty years after that, had the marriage blessed at Reid Memorial Church. At the end of the service, they played Strauss's Blue Danube; the sound of the organ filled the church and people were dancing in the aisles. We leave this place today to the same piece.

A part of Suzanne's life had always been the church. As well as the usual activities of Sunday School, Brownies, and Guides in her youth she was also engaged in the operations of the building and its activities in adult years. Indeed, she was part of the Board and the Fundraising group. Hymn singing was one of the things she enjoyed on a Sunday, particularly if it was one of her favourites. That said Suzanne did sometimes feel like apologising if she got a little carried away.

Suzanne also loved holidays. These would often be to places in the sun, and included such exotic locations as Spain, Tenerife, the Maldives, Hong Kong, Bali, and Barbados. Her trusting nature and love of surprises could also lead to some entertaining adventures. For her 60th birthday Ali decided to surprise her, and so booked a holiday to a destination new to them. He had organised everything while she remained oblivious. It was only when they needed to pack and make their way to the airport that she realised what was happening. But it was only when, finally, at the departure gate that Suzanne finally twigged that Ali was up to something. As it dawned upon her, she asked, "where is Margarita?" (Don't worry as I had to look it up too; it's Venezuela.)

All of these things are good things, yet they were not what was most important to Suzanne; you were! You, her friends from >

> all social classes, and from all stages in her life. People were what mattered most. She was particularly fond of her four godchildren, Alex, Katie, Holly, and Carys. They were dearly loved, and Suzanne was so proud of all that they had achieved and done in their still young lives.

Suzanne was always outgoing and loved company and making new friends. She always tried to include everyone and endeavoured to make them comfortable. She liked nothing more than entertaining at home, going to friends' homes, or out for meals. Family Christmases in Dundee, or them coming to Edinburgh the next year; all were a source of joy for her. There were also the weekends away; Friday night drinks with the girls after work; 'shopping' trips to Glasgow; barbecues in the summer, which due to the weather were not always a success. Lately the night-time dinners turned into breakfasts at Dobbies, or meeting friends for coffee.

In better times she and Ali would sometimes on a Friday night after work, lock the doors, make a meal, sit at the table, and put the world to rights. This invariably led to music being put on, and loud, and the pair of them dancing the night away, just the two of them. They loved their parties for two.

These are but snapshots of a life; it is only together than we can tell the full story, and it is one that should be told. It is a story that speaks of someone who was bright and brought good cheer; it tells of someone whose beauty of personality arose from deep within; it declares the life of someone who knew truly the meaning of fun and love. This is the story of Suzanne.

AMEN

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FOR THE CHILDREN AT
CASTLEVIEW PRIMARY 2022

Well, here we are again! Who would believe it's only a few weeks till Christmas?

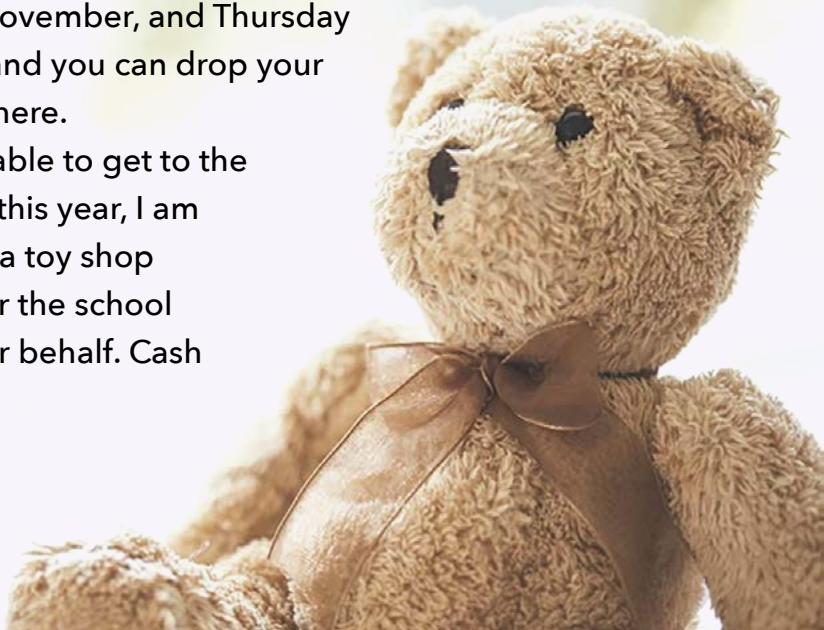
For several years now, we have donated toys to Castlevue Primary School. The headteacher and staff are delighted to receive our contributions that they can pass on to the families who are grateful for a bit of extra help at this time of year.

Each Christmas seems to be harder for some families.

Members of the congregation who wish can buy gifts for the school children and put them in a bag with some wrapping paper. They can then be dropped off at the church door any Sunday morning during November, until 4th December.

I intend to sit in my car at the church gate on a couple of afternoons for an hour, between 2 and 3pm on Tuesday 29th November, and Thursday 1st December and you can drop your gifts off to me there.

If you are unable to get to the shops for a gift this year, I am willing to go to a toy shop and buy gifts for the school children on your behalf. Cash or cheques >



> (made payable to Reid Memorial Church) can be placed in an envelope marked "TOYS." The envelopes can be handed to me or handed into the church. Donations can also be paid directly into the church bank account (RBS 83-18-43 Acc. 00245095). Please add "TOYS" into the reference field. At the end of November, I will make an exciting trip to a toy shop to spend your money.

As I did last year, I may use some of the money for treats to go into the special food parcels that are made up for some of the families.

If there are any questions, please phone me, Tel. 667 0910.

Things can be difficult for folks at Christmas, but let's try to make it a little better for the children at Castleview, as we did last year.

Thank you in anticipation.

BEST WISHES **SUSAN MACKAY**

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Geeta Mackay, Sheila Capewell
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Mary Allan, Siobhan Gilliland
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER

Lesley Beckett, Richard Black
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Joyce Rosie, Elizabeth Clark
In charge: Stephen Thomson



BUDGET FAILS TO TACKLE GLOBAL COST OF LIVING CRISIS SAYS CHRISTIAN AID

The Government's Autumn Statement has been criticised by Christian Aid.

Pete Moorey, the Head of Campaigns and UK Advocacy at Christian Aid, says: "The cost-of-living crisis is devastating for the poorest people in the UK and globally. For millions of people living with drought and struggling to buy food in East Africa and in many other parts of the world, it is catastrophic.

"We should not have to choose between responding at home and fulfilling our responsibilities to the world's poorest people facing extreme hunger."



'Have you declared your own climate emergency?'

This was a question put to me by a friend recently. Surprising in one way - while I'd often reflected on my pitiable personal response thus far to climate change, I'd thought that such Declarations were the preserve of governments, councils etc., not individuals. After some thought, I cleverly replied, 'Pardon?'

You'll maybe remember Scotland was the first country in the world to declare its Climate Emergency in 2019, followed at length by the UK and thousands of other jurisdictions across the world, each pledging to examine how it can best tackle climate change - undoubtedly the most pressing global challenge to God's creation.

But over years now, we can see it isn't even beginning to work. Ahead of this month's annual COP meeting, the UN General Secretary has reiterated that climate disaster is not a future challenge, as it was in the late 1980's when we first grew to realise the problem. It's been happening for some time now: flooding in Pakistan, wildfires in Australia and California, water shortages in England etc., and no reduction in the atmospheric CO₂ levels that are accelerating global warming - the chief cause of climate change. In short, it's too late to fix.

That doesn't mean there's nothing we can do - quite the opposite. As a church we can begin to take a look at where we can make a difference to how we operate, assessing what environmental damage we can mitigate. Alex has asked Alison Macleod and me, as World Church members, to take a look at the issue alongside other church members, which we'll be doing as an ongoing project. In August the Chaplain of Eco-Congregation Scotland, David Coleman, visited to take a service, and wrote in September's *ReidOn...* And we can all do now what my friend had undertaken to do - examine how we can reduce our own contribution to climate damage in our everyday lives.

2022 CHRISTMAS

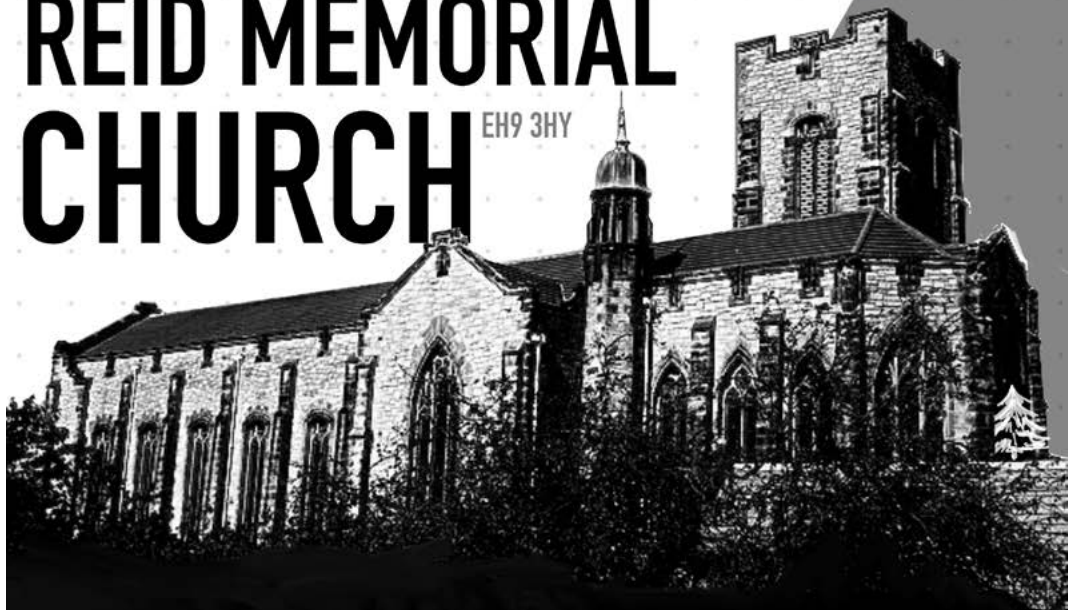
CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER,

9AM-1PM FREE ENTRY | £2.50 MINCE PIE &
TEA/COFFEE

REID MEMORIAL
CHURCH

EH9 3HY



SCN: SC014027

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Many of you will have bought CrossReach cards or calendars in the past. I have just received the 2022 catalogue and hope some of you may be interested in ordering some cards or calendars. I will put the catalogues at the back of the Church very soon. I am happy to arrange to get the cards and calendars for you and bring them to Church or drop them off at your home.

Purchasing cards helps CrossReach to provide caring services to many people of all ages. I hope you can help them in their work by buying some cards and calendars.

THANK YOU **ANNE BLACK** 0131 447 4149

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



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