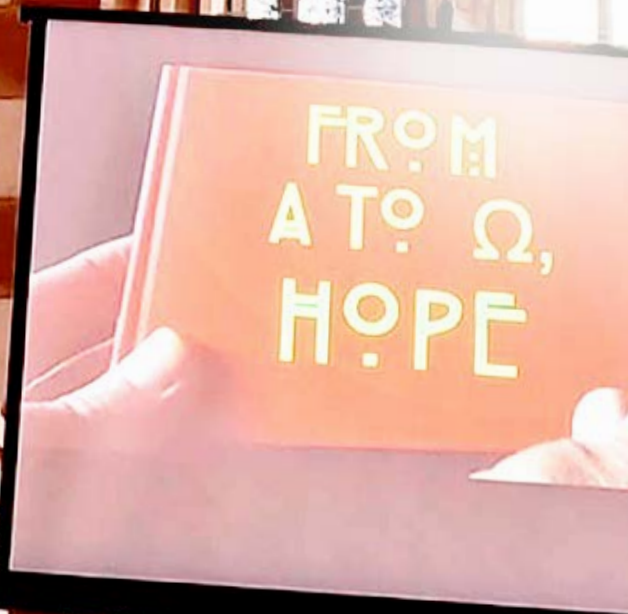


REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2022

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**'IN THE
DUST
OF THE
RABBI'**



Please join me (Rev Dean Batchelor) as we take a closer look at what it means to follow the Rabbi - Jesus. We will explore this through a five-week video-based series by Ray Vander Laan titled 'In the Dust of the Rabbi'.

You can be part of this series either on a Tuesday 7pm at Craigmillar Park Church or on a Thursday at 2:30pm at the Reid (starting 6th and 8th September).

Our time together will last about 70 minutes comprising of a 25 minute video, 30 minute discussion and 15 minutes tea/ coffee and conversation.

Please sign up in the foyer of the church so that I can prepare for you.

A man walked into a minister's study and confessed: "I think I'm addicted to Twitter." The minister looked at him and replied, "Sorry, I don't follow you."



WAITING FOR A TRAIN?

How often do you find yourself waiting? For a train, perhaps? What about something that you are expecting in the post? What about something more exciting such as a holiday? Whatever it is, and whoever we are, we do find ourselves waiting quite a bit. Perhaps more important is the question, 'Are you any good at waiting?' In other words, 'Are you a patient soul?'

As a congregation we find ourselves doing a great deal of waiting at present. We have ideas, plans, and projects that we wish to see begun or completed. We have dreams, too, that we must wait to see if they become reality. Then there is the Presbytery Planning process that requires us to wait at every step and turn. (More about that will be said elsewhere in this edition.) I wonder if it is harder to wait for outcomes with this matter that it is for other ones. It seems, as a part of the body of the people of God, that we must always be waiting.

Waiting, though, should be something that comes naturally to us. Whether or not we consider ourselves to be patient, Christians should be experts in the matter of waiting. It is something that is written through what we may call our spiritual DNA. From the earliest days of the people of God they have had to wait. While enslaved in Egypt they had to wait for God to answer their cries and set them free. While awaiting Moses to bring them the Law they had to wait; in fact it was such a wait that they feared that he had

died upon the mountain. Time and again throughout their history they had to wait for God to rescue them. Eventually this wait would be for the Messiah, Christ Jesus himself. Even the early church was not exempt from lessons in waiting. At the outset they expected the ascended Jesus to return in their lifetimes, yet that did not happen. Then they had to learn that his return would come at the right time, by the design of God, rather than by what would work best for them. The people of God, throughout both Testaments, had to learn to wait.

Does this experience of the people resonate with us today? Does their waiting make sense to us, or is it even applicable in our time? I believe the answer is that it is right for us to learn to wait. The need for instant answers or solutions is, perhaps, a curse of modern society. We have learned to expect everything, and to expect it now. But this is not the way of God. This is the God who commands us to wait, because His sense of time is not as is ours. The writer of the second letter of Peter reminds us that, 'with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day' (2Pet 3:8). The writer, here, was not innovating but picking up on a tradition that can be found, among other places, in the Psalms, 'a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night' (Ps. 90: 4).

Perhaps it is time for the people of God to once more buck the trend of popular culture. Let us learn to be patient and learn to wait. For in His good time, He will reveal to us the plans He has for us.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

ALL IN THE MONTH OF

SEPTEMBER

IT WAS 1900 YEARS AGO, from 13th September 122 to 128 that Hadrian's Wall was built in northern England. It ran for 80 miles from coast to coast and marked the northern limit of the Roman Empire. The Roman Emperor, Hadrian, wanted to separate the Romans from 'the barbarians.'

200 YEARS AGO, on 11th September 1822 that the Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject. He died in 1642.

100 YEARS AGO, on 13th September 1922 that the highest temperature ever recorded in the world was reported to be 57.7 Centigrade (136 Fahrenheit) in Al'Aziziyah in Libya. (Unofficial record).

80 YEARS AGO, on 10th September 1942 that the British Royal Air Force launched a massive air raid over Dusseldorf Germany.

70 YEARS AGO, on 6th September 1952 that the Farnborough Air Show crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people. Stringent safety measures were introduced to ensure it could never happen again.

65 YEARS AGO, on 2nd September 1957 that the Everly Brothers best-known song 'Wake up Little Susie' was released.

50 YEARS AGO, on 5th September 1972 that Palestinian terrorists invaded the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany during the

1972 Olympic Games and took 11 members of the Israeli team hostage. All the hostages were killed, as well as five of the eight terrorists and a German police officer, when a rescue attempt failed.

40 YEARS AGO, on 14th September 1982 that Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly the American film and TV actress Grace Kelly, died in a car crash, aged 52.

30 YEARS AGO, on 16th September 1992 that the Black Wednesday sterling crisis took place. The UK crashed out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM), raised interest rates from 10% to 15% and spent billions of pounds buying up sterling that was being frantically disposed of on international markets.

25 YEARS AGO, on 5th September 1997 that Mother Teresa, Macedonian-born/Albanian India nun and humanitarian died. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was beatified in October 2003.

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 9th September 1997 that Sinn Fein formally renounced violence and committed itself to resolving the troubles of Northern Ireland through peaceful means. This eventually led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 11th September 1997 that the people of Scotland voted in a referendum to establish their own parliament. (Opened 1st July 1999.)

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 18th September 1997 that the people of Wales voted in a referendum to create the National Assembly for Wales, with devolved powers from Westminster. (Opened May 1999.)

ALSO 25 YEARS AGO, on 29th September 1997 that British scientists announced that they had established a link between BSE (mad cow disease) and the human brain disease vCJD.



FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR SUNDAY

Folk in churches sometimes imagine EcoCongregation Scotland to be a dictatorial and directive organisation.

Not guilty! We aim to inform, challenge, and encourage churches in the discovery of what it means to be 'Church' in an age of multiple, interconnected, chronic, and global crises. The impact of such tends to be brutally abrupt rather than conveniently gradual. To be the church you are, as authentically as possible. And that's a message in love, with no big sticks. About 'bringing folk round', (including ourselves) rather than making enemies extinct, or getting paralysed with guilt.

The first stage is awareness: that the crises are neither future nor somewhere else, nor 'simply natural'. The insistence, until now, on presenting these crises like any another 'issue' or problem which can be "fixed", has not prepared us well. Climate Crisis isn't the elephant in the room - it's the Room. Full of elephants! For which our faith, given half a chance, is well prepared. That's how it originated.

The choice of 'climate denial' needs to be treated not as a valid variant opinion, but, like racism, completely unacceptable for any



faith group. The similarities are clear: it's stupid, it's genuinely harmful to others. It seeps into the institutions we rely on, with its relatives: incrementalism and institutional inertia, fed by procrastination masquerading as wisdom. When we recognise emergency, different decisions and ways of decision-making become appropriate. That can be liberating, even reassuring in a way. What is it we really don't need to worry about anymore?

But all of this makes sense in the context of the community of hopes and fears and joys that is a church. A community actively reliant on grace. In which, certainly, the visible, high-profile aspects can be a model, both for the local community and for members of that community itself, in our buildings, grounds, our use of energy and ways of cutting that down too. The model should welcome, rather than eradicate wildlife, on whom, it turns out, we depend after all. The good things we've kept out of sight for fear their goodness might be off-putting. All of this works better if we encourage each other, in daily life, in our homes and workplaces, to put it prayerfully into practice.

And guess what? You'll have fun too!

DAVID COLEMAN

CHAPLAIN@ECOCONGREGATIONSCOTLAND.ORG

WAITING FOR A PLAN?

You may be aware that the proposed union of Morningside Parish and Reid Memorial is now officially off. To the leadership of both parishes, it was a proposal that made sense only upon a map but in no other way.



The Deployment Group of Presbytery has listened to our fears, and our hopes, and suggested that we enter conversation with our neighbours to the south-east. Since then, groups from our congregation have met at various times and places with representatives of these neighbours. They have come to see The Reid, and we have met with them at two of their buildings. We have had deep and thoughtful conversations that

have not avoided the difficult questions. The major challenge that we face together is the limited provision of ministry resources. This restriction could impact severely upon our ability to conduct missional work in the new entity that may be formed. Our congregations have differing traditions and theologies, yet they are not incompatible. We have differing approaches to mission and resourcing, yet they could be held to be complimentary. What has been clear throughout is mutual respect and openness. It is also clear that we all are motivated by a strong desire to engage meaningfully and purposefully with our communities.

As I was writing this, the latest update from the Deployment Group dropped into my email inbox. This confirmed that the first draft of the Presbytery Plan should be available at, or shortly before, the next meeting of Presbytery on September 13th. When

published, I will arrange to have it quickly made available to as many of our people as possible. In the meantime, let us pray for each other, the people and leaders of the South-East Edinburgh Group of Churches*, and the members of the Deployment Group. Together we all face a challenging time ahead, yet together we can work through it.

*Gracemount linked with Liberton, Liberton Northfield, Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun)

ALEX

OBSERVATIONS ON OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

Prayer is the breath of the new-born soul, and there can be no Christian life without it. - Rowland Hill

Freedom comes by filling your mind with God's thoughts. - Erwin Lutzer

God works in us and with us, not against us or without us. - John Owen

The world is only a passage-room to eternity; the world is to us as the wilderness was to Israel, not to rest in but to travel through. - Anon

OBSERVATIONS ON DAILY LIFE

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. - Dorothy Nevill

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with knowledge that you are never alone. - Audrey Hepburn

GARVALD TOOLS WORKSHOP DONATION REQUEST

We are looking for donations of hand tools to refurbish in support our charity partners, Global Concerns and Tools for Self-Reliance. Collectively, we send furniture and carpentry kits over to Malawi in Africa. They are given to new trainees who make use of them to start their own businesses, which often transform their lives and the lives of those around them.

We are asking anyone with possible donations to email a few pictures of the items so we can make sure they are tools we can actively use for the Malawi project.

kevinmurray@garvaldedinburgh.org.uk or call 0131 516 5114

Tools we are currently very keen to collect include:

Saw sets, Secateurs, G/F clamps, claw hammers, Wood handled Saws, 5m tape measures, Plough planes, smoothing and jack planes, spoke shaves, hatchets (small axes), Mortice gauges, carpenter's squares, wood handled saws and oilstones.

Tools we are overstocked on currently;

Screwdrivers, plastic handled saws, socket sets, spanners, wrenches.

We are also always interested in certain models of Singer Sewing machine but due to the wide variety it would be best to send photographs of any machines you have to the above email.



GARVALD EDINBURGH

DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

Elizabeth Clark, Gillian Brown

In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

Sheena Richardson, Richard Black

In charge: Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER

Douglas Mathieson, Joyce Rosie

In charge: Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Geeta Mackay, Sheila Capewell

In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER

Lesley Beckett, Siobhan Gilliland

In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER

Mary Allan, Elizabeth Clark

In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER

Gillian Brown, Alison Macleod

In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER

Douglas Mathieson, Sheena Richardson

In charge: Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER

June Wylie, Richard Black

In charge: Linda Farrer

DELIVER US

I had been teaching my four-year-old daughter the Lord's Prayer. Then one evening at bedtime she attempted it solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "And lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"

STAMP APPEAL

The World Church committee would like to remind you that the Reid continues to collect used stamps to support the Guild's annual appeal. This year, the money raised will go to support pastors in Lebanon who have donated part of their salaries to help their neediest families in congregations that were hit by the financial crisis of 2021.

The other stamp-related matter is to remind you that the Royal Mail hopes to withdraw all non-bar-coded stamps from circulation by January 2023. According to Royalmail.com, current stamps can be exchanged for new bar-coded stamps of the same value by sending away with a form obtainable at the Royal Mail's delivery offices.

Can I stress that ordinary stamps are still legal? But, if you want to be prepared early for the festive season at the end of the year, you might like to consider swapping your plain stamps for bar-coded ones. (And you can help the Guild's appeal both ways!) At the moment, bar-coded stamps are a bit unusual, and after January 2023, "plain" stamps will be the unusual ones!

ELIZABETH CLARK WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE



The Church of Scotland

STAMP APPEAL 2022

Collect stamps now to support pastors in Lebanon



National Evangelical Synod
of Syria and 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
 [@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

ODDS AND ENDS AND BITS AND BOBS WANTED

I noticed this post on Facebook from Edinburgh Fabrics on St Patrick's Square.

'We get asked a lot for items to donate to schools and nurseries. We donate a lot of odds and ends of fabric from our home sewing and the shop to local nurseries and schools. They also really appreciate things like thread spools, old zips, odd buttons, wee bits of elastic, ribbons, bias binding, end of wool anything that children can be creative with.

If you normally throw these things away please consider taking them to your local school or nursery. With such tight budgets I'm sure they wouldn't turn you away and we can all do our bit to reuse items that normally would be binned.'

I also keep the little bits of ribbon or cord that attaches the tags on new clothes, ribbons from gift boxes etc but I never really know why I keep them (three full shoeboxes now!).

The Reid collects Christmas gifts for the children at Castleview Primary School. Castleview is in one of the most deprived areas of the city and, especially this year, the school budgets are really stretched. I contacted the Headteacher, Clare who said that they love arts and crafts and would be delighted to receive any items.



I don't really want to mention the 'C' word in September word, but Castleview will be looking ahead quite soon and working with the children to create crafts for Christmas. Do you have any bits of tinsel that never quite make it to the tree, left over ribbon, bits of Christmas fabric, and decorations that could be used for making cards and other festive items? If so, please look them out.

I'll put a box or bag at the back of the Church (probably until mid-October) for any items you can give.

THANK YOU **SHEILA CAPEWELL**

'ENGLAND'S ROSE'

This month marks 25 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6th September 1997.



Prince William has described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in His purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral.

Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

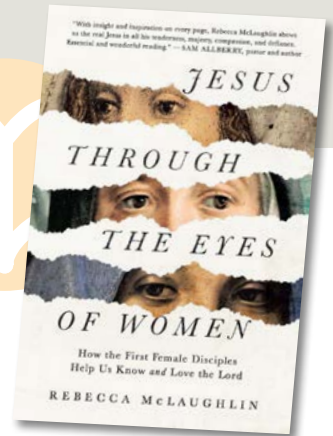
'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

BOOK REVIEW

JESUS THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN

How the first female disciples help us know and love the Lord

By Rebecca McLaughlin, 10ofthose, £9.74



If the women who followed Jesus could tell you what He was like, what would they say? Jesus's treatment of women was revolutionary. That's why they flocked to Him. Wherever He went, they sought Him out. They came to Him for healing, for forgiveness, and for answers. So what did women see in this first-century Jewish rabbi and what can we learn as we look through their eyes today?

This book explores the life-changing accounts of women who met the Lord. By entering the stories of the named and unnamed women in the Gospels, this book gives readers a lens to see Jesus as these women did and marvel at how He loved them in return.

THE RHYTHMS OF CREATION

*The rhythms of creation -
The never-ceasing beat
Of seasons in rotation
As cold gives way to heat;
We know, when it is raining
The sun will dry the rain
And when the moon is waning
It soon will wax again.
The farmer drills his acres
When springtime rains shall fall
Then gathers wheat for bakers
As sunflowers grow tall;
In spring, the fruit trees,
blooming
Attract the busy bees;
As autumn clouds are looming
We pick from loaded trees.*

*The Lord, our Great Creator
Allowed us, by His grace
To be the regulator
Of earthly time and space
But mankind has been greedy
In burning coal and oil
So farmers now are seeding
In dry and desert soil.
The rhythms of creation
Are wand'ring from their beat
Increasing suffocation,
Of fire, flood, and heat.
Lord, teach us new behaviour
To spend, with care, our days:
Dear loving Lord and Saviour
Forgive our foolish ways!*

BY **NIGEL BEETON**

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be October. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 24th September. See page 2 for contact details.



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