

# REID ON



REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE



SEPTEMBER 2023



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# DEAR FRIENDS...

*None of us likes to be left out.* Rather, we all like to be included, or at least offered the choice to be involved. Think back to the anxieties of the games in the school playground when the natural leaders

chose their team members from their gathered classmates. Think of the anxieties when, you had still not been picked, as the chosen team grew. Think of the awkwardness you felt when you were the last to be chosen, and then only because nobody was usually allowed to be left out. It was a horrible feeling for all those who experienced it.

Such playground games seem vitally important at the time, but what about when it comes to more important matters of life? Think of the times when, as adults, we had not been chosen. Think of the feelings of awkwardness or anxieties that were raised. What do we do, though, when the one doing the choosing is the church? What do we do when the ones doing the leaving-out are the people of God? It is something that has vexed the church since earliest times. We see the notion of insider and outsider, chosen or left behind, in the writings of scripture as well as in the generations that followed. It is there in the schisms and reformations too. We see its presence in the matters that divide us across the church today.

In the week that this was written, the Sunday lectionary readings came from Isaiah 56 and Matthew 15, both passages that speak clearly of inclusion. They are each clear calls to the world that God leaves nobody out despite our preferences and judgements. Both readings show the inclusion of those that would have been left out

of God's people at the time. Gender, race, and religion all had their role in causing someone to be excluded. Yet, we see in the Isaiah text that God accepts all who would trust in Him, irrespective of these other things.

Who are those today who we would naturally leave out of the kingdom? Would we leave someone out on the grounds of theology, gender, race, or sexuality? Such matters are ones of justice, a subject not far from the headlines today. We are not politicians, but we are the people of God, called to model justice and inclusion to the world. So where will we begin to show this love of God, in our lives today?

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

## A CHANGE OF ERA...

*This edition of ReidOn... marks a change of era in our church magazine. Our excellent long-serving Editor, Linda, stepped down from the role over the summer and the new Editor takes up the reins from today. Over her years in charge Linda has helped transform the magazine from the more typical church affair into something attractive and good to read. She sought, successfully, to balance the serious and informative along with the occasional touch of humour. For all this we are sincerely grateful. More than that, Linda has been approachable and engaging, gifts not always found in editors.*

*Fortunately, Linda is not leaving us completely but will be around when Presbytery and FoodBank duties allow. Meanwhile, on behalf of all of us in Reid Memorial we say, 'Thank you'.*



## FROM THE EDITOR...

*This edition of ReidOn... is different to previous ones in some ways - but not that different.*

Linda stepped down as Editor after the summer issue was published, and I've volunteered to fill her Editor's shoes, after designing no fewer than 111 issues with her (our first, from Nov 2011, is pictured). It's been a long-standing pleasure working with her - we've always worked out what's needed done and got on with it without fuss - and I'm grateful to her for helping me work out how best *ReidOn...* can be kept going.

Unable to undertake both designing and editing, I had envisaged a basic, much stripped-down emailer-newsletter, but various technical issues have led to the version of the magazine you're now reading, that's hopefully satisfactory. I've kept the A5 booklet format, and though it will be a little skeletal in comparison to the two-person effort, hopefully it will still be a worthwhile read, comprising important topics now and on the horizon.

Printed versions will be available at the rear of the church, and distributed to the usual people as before.

If you'd like to give me a hand with the magazine, please let me know (email is in the *Contacts* section). And please, if you'd like to contribute anything to the content of the magazine, please just send it to me, preferably with an illuminating pic or two. Thank you for supporting *ReidOn...* for so long, and for continuing to do so.





## AND ON KEYBOARDS...

*This year marks 50 years since I became an organ pupil at St Cuthbert's Parish Church,*

Edinburgh, under the tutelage of the almost-legendary William O. Minay. I later became Assistant Organist to one of his successors and later still, Acting Organist and Choirmaster to cover an interregnum.

It was also at St Cuthbert's that I gave my first proper organ recital 24 years ago, a few weeks after becoming self-employed, and I have always thought of it as my professional debut. Thus, when the current Director of Music invited me to contribute to this year's series, I was delighted. As in our own church, the organist is hidden, but for concerts, six screens show images of the player at work - unnerving initially, but you soon forget about it. The occasion itself was most enjoyable and I would like to thank everyone who came along to support me.

# SESSION DIGEST



*Reid Memorial's Kirk Session met in July , and the following is a summary of the meeting.*

The conveners of the **Safeguarding, Pastoral Care**, and **Data Protection** committees were pleased to report that no issues on these subjects had arisen.

The **World Church** committee is hoping to establish contact with St Andrew's church in Jerusalem. This church is a mission partner for us, but contact has become muddled, and we are hoping to clarify matters soon.

It was noted with regret that Mrs **Linda Farrer** had resigned as editor of the magazine, and she was warmly thanked for her significant input over the years, and for making the magazine brighter and more appealing. The minister indicated that he had approached someone who might take it on.

Mrs Clark reported to the Session that **Historic Environment Scotland** had approached the Reid, asking permission to photograph its stained glass windows 'in the light of the proposed re-organisation of the estate of the Church of Scotland we are keen to make records of at least some of the churches that are probably to close'. Permission was given, and Reid memorial's windows have been photographed internally and externally.

**ELIZABETH CLARK** (SESSION CLERK)

# ALL IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER...

**IT WAS 125 YEARS AGO**, on 26th Sept 1898 that George Gershwin, American composer, was born. Known for his operas, Broadway musicals and film scores.

**100 YEARS AGO**, on 4th Sept 1923 that Noel Coward's musical revue London Calling! was first performed, in London. It was his first publicly produced musical work. **ALSO 100 YEARS AGO**, on 7th Sept 1923 that Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organisation, was founded. **ALSO 100 YEARS AGO**, on 29th Sept 1923 that the British Mandate for Palestine came into effect. Britain took control of Mandatory Palestine (formerly part of the Turkish Empire) until 1948, when Israel became an independent state.

**80 YEARS AGO**, on 10th Sept 1943 that the Germans occupied Rome, Italy, and took over the protection of the Vatican City.

**75 YEARS AGO**, on 9th Sept 1948 that the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (N Korea) was established, headed by Kim Il Sung.

**70 YEARS AGO**, on 10th Sept 1953 that the discovery of rapid eye movement (REM) sleep was published in the journal Science. It had been discovered in 1952 by Eugene Aserinsky and Nathaniel Kleitman at the University of Chicago.

**50 YEARS AGO**, on 2nd Sep 1973 that JRR Tolkien, British fantasy writer, poet, scholar, and educator died. Best known for his novels The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings.

**ALSO 50 YEARS AGO**, on 29th Sep 1973 that W H Auden, British born American poet, died. Regarded as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century.

**25 YEARS AGO**, on 4th Sep 1998 that Google, the internet search company, was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students



at Stanford University in California. The company was originally based in a friend's garage at Menlo Park.

**15 YEARS AGO**, on 7th Sep 2008 that the Financial Crisis erupted. The troubled US mortgage-financing giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, were put into government conservatorship under the Federal Housing Finance Agency. On 15th Sep 2008 the global investment company Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. It was the largest bankruptcy filing in US history.

## FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE...

*The committee had a meeting recently and have started to organise some events for later in 2023.*

### **POP UP CAFE IN AID OF ALZHEIMER'S**

**SCOTLAND** The cafe will resume on Fri 29th September, 11am to 2:30pm. Slightly later start as over the last few cafes we have found most customers prefer to come later and have lunch. Menus are being discussed and will be available soon. There will also be a cafe at the end of October but due to the Christmas Fair in November the next cafe after October's will be at end of January 2024. We are always short of volunteers so if you are able to give help in any way, then please let Sheena Richardson know.

**CRAFTERS CHRISTMAS FAIR** Sat 25th November 10am to 2pm, in the church. There will be a variety of stalls - a great way to find that special present and help the local crafters. Proceeds may go to a local charity but this has still to be decided. Entry is free and refreshments will be available at a small charge.

KIND REGARDS **FUNDRAISERS**





**Wednesdays 10 – 11:30am**  
**Reid Memorial Church Hall**

182 West Savile Terrace, Blackford, EH9 3HY

A friendly group of parents, grandparents, childminders,  
babies, toddlers and pre-school children

£3 per adult/family group

Every week during term time



<https://www.facebook.com/RMToddlers>

*'Reid Memorial Baby & Toddler Group is up and running again in the large hall. There is a good number of children and carers coming along. We have a good chat and play and a nice coffee too, then we finish with a sing song. If you know anyone with a pre-school child in the area, tell them about our friendly group.'*

THANKS, **SUSAN MACKAY**

# MORNINGSIDE JUSTICE AND PEACE IS MOVING TO A NEW VENUE

*Morningside Justice and Peace has been running since the 1980s, offering weekly talks on issues of social justice every Wednesday morning from October - March.*

Everyone is welcome. Many of us are seniors wanting to keep abreast of modern thought, especially on social justice. We often say the meetings equip us to join with family and friends to discuss issues of current concern.

We meet in the Eltham Suite at the Eric Liddell Community, 15 Morningside Road. This is at Holy Corner, EH10 4DP. Our meeting runs from 10:30 - 11:30 am. There are usually about 25 present whilst others join by Zoom.

We try to have topics local, national and international in equal measure. The talk lasts for 30 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes Q&A. Some people stay on for coffee. We have had talks on a huge range of topics including energy and climate change, homelessness in Edinburgh, also USA and China.

Our new session begins on October 11. We have a simple website: [www.morningsidejandp.org](http://www.morningsidejandp.org) Our past programmes are there. The new programme is almost complete.

We invite everyone to put us in their diary for Oct 11 - Dec 13. Some people come every week. Others choose by topic. Some people pay £30 for the session. Others pay £3 when they attend. We would be delighted to put you on our mailing list.

**BARBARA DARCY**

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## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL...

*Just a wee reminder for those of you who might like to participate in the Shoebox Appeal this year.*

All you need to do is cover a shoebox with Christmas paper, choose the age group (Preschool, Primary, Teenager, Adult or Elderly + Female or Male) and fill it with lovely things. I have a supply of leaflets which will be handed out in the next few weeks. This leaflet lists the items which all shoeboxes should have - marked in red. The leaflet also has a tear-off Checklist, which needs to be ticked off and attached to the front of your shoebox.

The deadline for collection of filled boxes is the last week of October/beginning of November. So you've got time to pick up some things - or get knitting as a hat, scarf and gloves are amongst the 'essential' items required. The boxes will then be distributed to children and adults in need in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine in time for Christmas.

I should have copies of *Blythswood News* too, so you can read about last year's Appeal. Many thanks.

**ALISON MACLEOD**



*A very touching short memorial service was held in the church on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm. The service was conducted by our own, Alex McAspurren. We were remembering those we have loved and lost during the lockdown and covid restrictions time when we were not able to meet as a congregation. It was a lovely service, some folk lit candles, and we ended with a nice cup of tea, of course! **SUSAN MACKAY***

# FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT...

*Fabric Committee are Hazel Melrose, Linda Farrer, Ian Beckett and Stevie Douglas. We could always do with more helpers - we have a big church. Our electrics are now in good condition and we have been issued with a 5 year EICR. Our gardens are unkempt and untidy after our Gardener resigned, and we are looking for a new Gardener. We carried out our Annual Church building inspection and some work is required.*

## **WORK PROGRESSED SINCE FEBRUARY'S UPDATE**

**ELECTRICAL** AEF carried out remedial work required to issue us with our 5 yearly **electrical inspection condition report** (EICR), the cost of that remedial work was £1,025 +VAT. There was a potentially expensive repair (re-cabling) required to fix the external light at the West Savile gate entrance to the cloisters, which we decided not to progress at this stage (the circuit has been disconnected). We replaced the **outside floodlight** that highlights the cloister steps into the garden at a cost of £140+VAT. We have replaced **motion and light sensors** in the corridor towards the main hall and the chair cupboard, as all these had issues. Cost was £250+VAT.

**EXTERIOR** Unfortunately our **Gardener** has informed us that he will no longer look after our gardens. We have been in touch with three local Gardening companies to quote for grass cutting; weed control in the borders, paths and gravel areas; trimming bushes and hedges and cut the banking once a year. Initial quotes are expensive, we have large gardens. The **loose paving slabs** in the cloisters have been fixed at a cost of £120.

**HEATING** has been gradually reduced since February to match our hall schedule. Since mid May, all heating has been turned off in all church areas.

**ORGAN:** Regular Maintenance and tuning was carried out in March and April at a cost of £564. This identified further work required on the swell and solo expression engine at a cost of £2,700.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** No issues to report.

**ANNUAL BUILDING INSPECTION:** In May, we carried out a visual inspection of our church buildings, identifying work that needs undertaken. This 6 page list will be prioritised and progressed based on urgency of work and creation of suitable work packages. 4 areas of our buildings and grounds were rated excellent (no further work required), 16 areas were rated in good condition (some general maintenance required) and 6 rated reasonable condition (work required this year)

**CHURCH, HALL AND MANSE** Presbytery 5 yearly inspection (quinquennial) was scheduled to take place at the end of March 2023 (Our last inspection was in July 2017). Unfortunately Presbytery were unable to fulfill this inspection (staff resignation) and we await a future date.

**LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS TESTS** This is still being progressed with suitable companies. We are waiting to hear from CoS whether one of the lightning conductors is the responsibility of O2 - maybe installed as a safeguard for the mobile mobile equipment in our tower.

**ANNUAL INSPECTION OF PROPERTY RECORDS** was successfully undertaken in March - not an insignificant task.



# SEECoS: AN UPDATE...

*Alex has asked for this, from the Presbytery's Deployment Committee, dated 16th Aug, to be included in ReidOn...*

**Background:** The last minute decision to delay a vote by the churches in SEECoS, planned for Sun. 30 July, has created significant repercussions. Not only is there a myriad of emotional responses, such as perplexity, disappointment, bewilderment and anger, but there are significant practical issues. Apart from the obvious decisions about next steps there is the issue of trust and support: to what extent will the churches want to work in a dedicated manner with the Deployment Committee (DC) as a result of dashed hopes and plans? It is no small matter.

In light of these concerns, it was suggested that some communication be prepared. And hence these observations.

**Summary:** After the documents on which the congregations were to vote were sent into the national bodies, a brief email was received. It suggested a change to a paragraph regarding the composition of the Kirk Session in order to bring it into line with standard phraseology. On Friday 28 July contact was made by the Office of the Principal Clerk and a video-conference meeting was arranged at short notice.

At this meeting, a number of other concerns were expressed. In many respects, these fell into three categories:

**1. Phraseology:** like the paragraph regarding the composition of the Kirk Session, some phraseology required alteration on the draft Basis of Union and the draft Basis of Team Ministry;

**2. Potential local problems:** it was suggested that some of the



wording, especially in the Basis of Team Ministry, could lead to difficulties as the union and collaborative working progressed;

**3. Wider process:** it was noted that, had the votes been taken both on 30 July and then at the end of August, the formal process for a change to the Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) would be required (which would take some time) and, as a result, there could be a situation that arises in which the PMP is altered in a piecemeal fashion. Doing so at the annual evaluation and development was seen as more sensible.

It was therefore recommended that the vote be postponed. Even although it was acknowledged that the congregations would be disappointed, it was considered more advantageous in the longer term not only for the congregations but also for Presbytery.

**What Happened?** In asking this question and searching for answers, both SEECoS and the DC may gain insights that will ensure a better outcome next time. Here are some first reflections:

**1. Capacity:** the amount of work required not only of the Office of the Principal Clerk but of the DC will inevitably lead to delays and difficulties. But, the delay in a response was certainly significant.

**2. Delay:** the initial response from the national church regarding the composition of Session was taken as an indication that no significant difficulties had been spotted in other areas of the documents.

**3. Adjustment to the plan:** The wider implications of the SEECoS vote on the process of adjusting the PMP seemed to be of some significance. The time element involved in adjusting the plan is acknowledged and, while it would have required time and patience, could have been undertaken. But the concerns regarding the piecemeal approach to adjusting the PMP were more

substantive. The Office of the Principal Clerk seemed to be looking at Presbytery as a whole and the process of adjustment as it relates to the entire Presbytery. Thus, had there not been the necessity of adjusting the approved PMP, the process would probably have moved forward. Perhaps the concerns and complications were recognised and, because thoughtful and considered responses were required, contact was made only at the eleventh hour.

In sum, then, a combination of capacity, the interpretation of responses and wider concerns conspired to suggest a postponement of the vote.

**Next Steps:** From here, there seem to be two evident next steps.

**1. Phraseology/Potential problems:** SEECoS, working with the DC and in conjunction with the Office of the Principal Clerk and other bodies, can re-visit the documents and adjust the wording according to the recommendations.

**2. Wider Process:** the DC will need to work with the Presbytery Clerk, the Office of the Principal Clerk and the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group in order to see if forward movement can be pursued despite concerns raised. It is recognised that waiting until the annual evaluation and development (otherwise known as the annual review) in the spring of next year would affect the morale and mission of the congregations. Progress sooner rather than later will help retain some momentum and therefore the DC will do all that it is able in order to proceed.

The DC apologise for the inconvenience and upset that recent events have caused. It is nevertheless hoped that the work of SEECoS can and will continue and we can work together despite the difficulties to support its excellent missional work.





# PRAISE GATHERING 2023

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

USHER HALL, EDINBURGH  
SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER AT 7.00PM

with  
The Praise Gathering Youth Choir  
and special guest  
Graham Kendrick



**TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

Please go to:  
[www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)

# FINANCE REPORT...



*Our finances continue to be pretty strong as we move through the 2023 financial year.*

While it is always sad when a member passes on, we are fortunate to have received two generous legacies recently, totalling £71,000. It is proposed to invest all of this. Our reserves were depleted a few years ago and this provides an excellent opportunity to shore them up. The Reid will always be grateful to the late Betty Paterson and Marion Graham for their generosity.

In general, our turnover is improving following two covid years of shrinkage. Excluding the legacies, our income for the year to date is significantly up at £87,000 - some £13,000 greater than expenditure although there are further property repair costs to come in. We have had a major organ repair this year pushing our costs up to £11,000 for the year to date.

Our members' and visitors' open and regular donations are broadly the same as last year but we have increases in fabric and organ donations totalling £4,000. We also have increases in fundraising (£1,500), hall lets (£1,000) and mast rental. Property rentals have remained broadly constant.

All in all, a fairly bright picture in our general income and expenditure account, while our investment account will benefit from the legacies. **ALASDAIR SEALE**

The next issue of **REIDON**... will be October. Please send David any articles or notices by 22nd September. See page 2 for contact details.



**REIDMEMORIAL**  
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

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