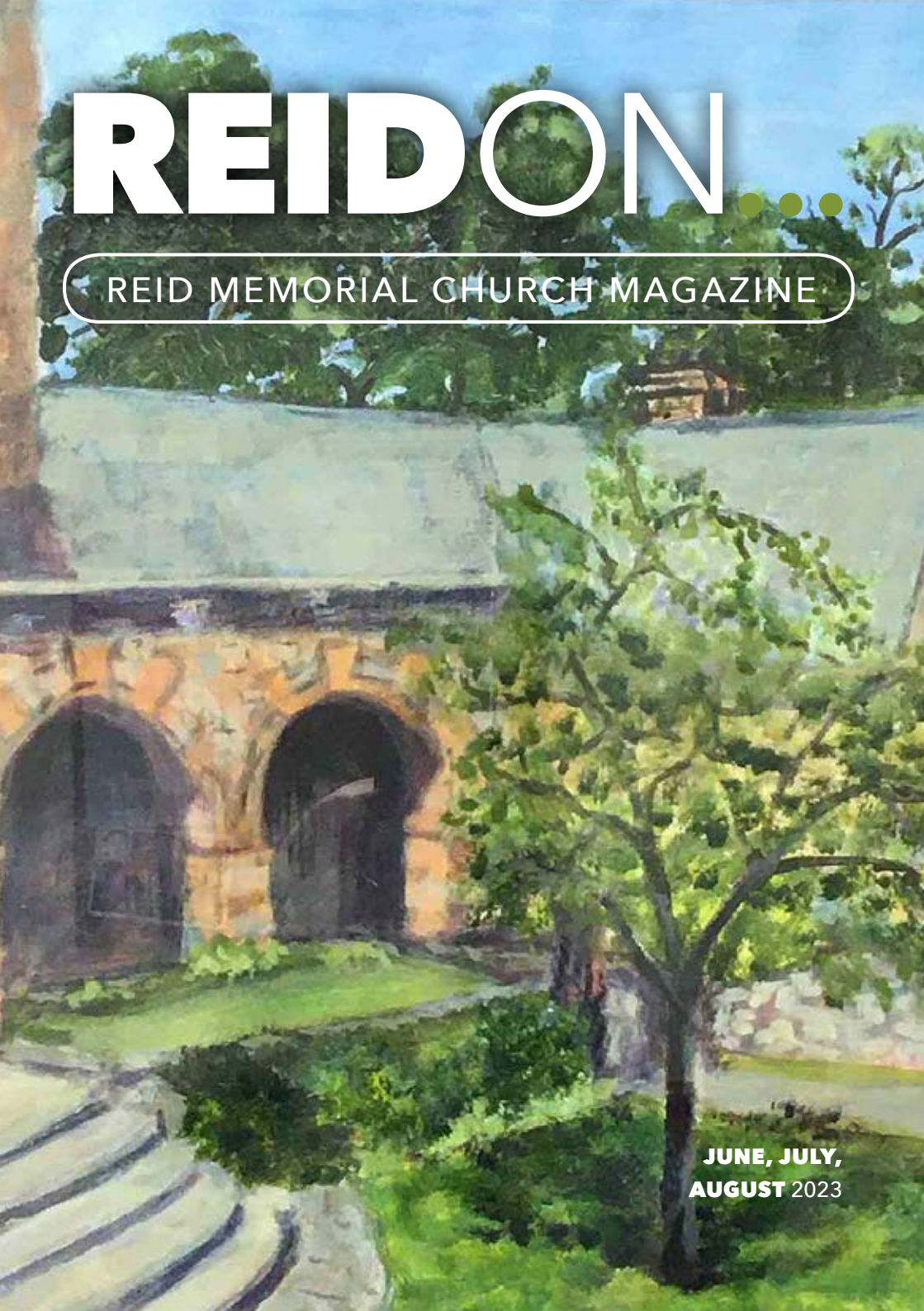


REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

**JUNE, JULY,
AUGUST 2023**



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FROM THE MINISTER

This Sunday the Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost. As we recall the events of that day, and rejoice as we do, we

also remember that some Christians see this day as that of the birth of the Church. It is a time of celebration, yet it is also a time of revelation and challenge. As we read the account of that first Pentecost, recorded in Acts chapter 2, we are readily drawn to the strange signs and wonders, especially the gift of tongues that is clearly exhibited. We may share a laugh or wry smile, too, as we read of Peter telling the crowd that the disciples cannot be drunk as it is only 9am! Through and after these verses, though, we find a community of faith that is being called to expand its horizons and reconsider who is in and who is not.

The early church was mainly Jewish in origin; likewise, the believers came mostly from the one ethnic group. The outpouring of the Spirit of God showed them that things were changing. Before their eyes men of other ethnic groups were hearing and responding to the Gospel. Not only that but they were hearing the Good News in their own languages, not in the sacred language of Hebrew. If that was not enough of a shock to the system, Peter then goes on to quote Joel, where reference is made to women, youth, and slaves. In one move God was showing the nascent Church that it was to be open to all races, genders, ages, and classes. This was God turning religion upon its head.

Today, the church continues to need reminding of this inclusive message from God. There remain traditions and congregations where people are not fully welcome because they are deemed to be the 'wrong' race or gender. It is human nature to separate out and exclude those who appear to be different from us. It is natural but it is also sinful. Pentecost points us to move beyond such natural approaches. It points us to move in a direction of inclusion through the love and grace of God.

Yet, this is not easy for many of us. Perhaps it is no accident that it is almost impossible to draw freehand a perfect circle; it is much easier to draw a line. Yet lines are what keep us apart. Circles draw us in. That is the true meaning of Pentecost. It is not the easy external signs but the internal changes that open up our hearts to the other and let them in. Such is the way of Jesus, the way of the Spirit, the way of the Father. May you know their blessing this Pentecost.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE!



The total for this year's Christian Aid Week has been calculated by Judith Smeaton, and I'm pleased to say that adding Christian Aid Week envelopes to the Just Giving page, cheques, cafe receipts, open collections, plus estimated Gift Aid the total donations amount to **£1,718.18** - a superlative figure. *Thank you* so very much, and thank you to Judith for her kind assistance.

DAVID WHITE WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE



RUSSIA IS 'WEAPONISING RELIGION' AND PERSECUTING CHURCHES IN UKRAINE

A new report claims that Russia is 'weaponising religion' in its conflict with Ukraine.

The report, by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), states that since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russian soldiers, or occupation authorities, have closed or taken over 76 places of worship, looted, desecrated, or destroyed 13 of them, and have killed or seized 29 religious leaders in occupied Ukraine.

According to the Institute for the Study of War, Russia's primary target is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), which continues to assert its independence from the Moscow Patriarchate. 34 per cent of the reported acts of persecution are against the UOC.

The report warns: "Russia will continue to weaponize the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and religion to incite social tensions in Ukraine and influence battlefield realities."

The ISW also warns that Russia may try to eradicate religious organisations that remain independent of Kremlin control. Russian forces did the same with the Crimea's Muslim Tartar population, after occupying the peninsula in 2014.

Release International urges Christians in the UK: "Please pray for the Christians of Ukraine, that they may weather the storm."

ALL IN THE MONTH OF **JUNE**

IT WAS 250 YEARS AGO, 125 years ago, on 9th June 1898 that Britain leased Hong Kong from China for 99 years, and it became a British Crown Colony. It was transferred back to China in 1997.

75 YEARS AGO, on 21st June 1948 that the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

Also **75 YEARS AGO**, from 24th June 1948 to 12th May 1949 that the Berlin Blockade and Airlift took place. The Soviet Union began a rail, road, and canal blockade of Berlin, cutting off all routes between West Germany and West Berlin. The Allies launched a massive airlift - over 200,000 flights - to take in nearly 9,000 tons of supplies each day.

70 YEARS AGO, on 2nd June 1953 that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey took place. It was the first event where the British TV audience (20 million) was greater than the radio audience (12 million).

65 YEARS AGO, on 9th June 1958 that London's Gatwick Airport was officially opened.

50 YEARS AGO, from 16th to 25th June 1973 that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev visited Washington DC and said that the Cold War was over as far as the Soviet Union was concerned. He and President Richard Nixon signed a major accord on arms limitation and the prevention of nuclear war.

Also **50 YEARS AGO**, on 28th June 1973 that elections were held for the Northern Ireland Assembly. It began operating on 1st January 1974, but collapsed in May. It was re-established in 1998 but collapsed again in 2017. It was re-established in January 2020, but collapsed in February 2022. The seventh Assembly met in May 2022, but has not been able to meet since, as the DUP refuses to assent to the election of a speaker as part of a protest against working under a Sinn Fein first minister.

40 YEARS AGO, from 16th to 24th June, that Pope John Paul II visited his native Poland. He held a private meeting with Lech Walesa, the founder of the banned trade union Solidarity. Walesa became President of Poland in 1990.

30 YEARS AGO, on 19th June 1993 that Sir William Golding, British Novelist, and winner of the 1983 Nobel Prize in Literature, died. Best known for his novel 'The Lord of the Flies.'

25 YEARS AGO, on 11th June 1998 that the UN declared an official famine in Sudan. About 250,000 people were saved by international aid, but up to 100,000 died in South Sudan. A ceasefire in the Second Sudanese Civil War was signed on 15th July but collapsed in April 1999.

20 YEARS AGO, on 20th June 2003 that the Wikimedia Foundation was founded in Florida. The non-profit charitable organisation operates several websites, including Wikipedia.

JUNE

YOUR COMMUNITY MATTERS

Grange/Prestonfield Community Council



Edinburgh is facing big changes and big challenges. Intense pressure continues for Edinburgh City Council to make ends meet.

- **Where should red lines be drawn on social care, health, housing and education?**
- **Tired of potholes, congested traffic and bus delays - what does 'city mobility' actually mean? What happens next?**
- **Edinburgh to become a 'net-zero' city by 2030: How will it be paid for? Who will pay?**
- **Your neighbourhood services are being squeezed. What would be top of your priority list?**

The Grange-Prestonfield Community Council is your voice within Edinburgh City Council. But we need your help to get your views heard by the council.

Find out more here – www.facebook.com/gpccedinburgh

Alternatively, please dial into our next monthly Zoom meeting - this Wednesday 17th May at 7pm. Details are on our website.

We need your help to get your community concerns right up to the City Council's front door.

Remember, you have to make your neighbourhood voice heard. The City Council won't always do what you believe best, but if we don't act together to tell them what we think, they can't know.

Use your community voice; you don't know where it might lead! Find us on Facebook, visit our website or send us an email:

www.facebook.com/gpccedinburgh

www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

secretary@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk



DOOR DUTIES



SUNDAY 4th JUNE

Elizabeth Clark, Sheena Richardson
In Charge Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 11th JUNE

Richard Black, Gillian Brown
In Charge Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 18th JUNE

Lesley Beckett, Sheila Capewell
In Charge Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 25th JUNE

Mary Allan, Douglas Mathieson
In Charge Linda Farrer

SUNDAY 2nd JULY

Geeta Mackay, Siobhan Gilliland
In Charge Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 9th JULY

Sheena Richardson, Richard Black
In Charge Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 16th JULY

Elizabeth Clark, Sheila Capewell
In Charge Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 23rd JULY

Mary Allan, Alison MacLeod
In Charge Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 30th JULY

Douglas Mathieson, Joyce Rosie
In Charge Linda Farrer

An email was received into the Reid Memorial email address from the solicitor and executor for the late Miss Mary Margaret Maclean who died in August 2021. A Reid On... magazine is being sent by post to this lady's address and I've been unable to establish how this is happening. Understandably, the solicitor has asked if this could be stopped as it's causing some inconvenience. If you know who is sending the magazine, can I ask that you let them know that they should no longer do so.

MANY THANKS **LINDA FARRER**



COFFEE & CRAFT FAIR

Selling refreshments, amazing crafts, books, homemade jams, marmalade and cakes. Knit and crochet, home and fragrance items, child cushion with book, baby and hamper bundles, cards, glass designs for Father's Day.

Why not come along on Saturday 10th June 9 - 1pm



CAT PRAYER

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray this cushy life to keep.
I pray for toys that look like mice,
And sofa cushions, soft and nice.
I pray for gourmet kitty snacks,
And someone nice to scratch my back,*

*For windowsills all warm and bright,
For shadows to explore at night.
I pray I'll always stay real cool
And keep the secret feline rule
To NEVER tell a human that
The world is really ruled by CATS!*

Author Unknown



REQUEST FOR WOOL

The Tuesday Knit and Natter group have accepted a challenge - to knit 80 "beanie" style hats for Castleview Primary School by the end of the October break this year.

So far, we are well on target, but our yarn supplies are running low. Does anyone have an odd ball or two lurking in a corner? DK is preferred, but thinner yarn can always be doubled. All colours are welcome, even a little bit of yarn can make a stripe in a hat! The hats need varying quantities of yarn/wool because Castleview school has the full range of primary classes, nursery to P7, so we knit assorted sizes. If we exceed the target, the extra hats will be offered to the school or to a charity. A chance to clear out some unwanted yarn? I'll be hopeful and put a labelled box at the back of the church!

ELIZABETH CLARK



DEAR FRIENDS AT REID MEMORIAL,

Newington Foodbank+ shows just what can be done when churches work together. It has a reputation for being one of the friendliest and most accepting food banks in the city. Recently we have been receiving upwards of 30 guests each week.

As demand increases and costs rise your donations in any form are always very welcome. Our guests are so appreciative of the food they receive, but more than that they can enjoy a cup of coffee in a friendly environment. The team are always happy to chat with guests, to pray and to signpost them to other sources of help.

Two new volunteers have earlier both been guests attending weekly for food and other basics. They wanted to “give something back”. Let’s call them David and Kirsten.

David had lost his job and been referred to us for help before Christmas. With three weeks to spare before taking up a new job, he was keen to volunteer at the Foodbank for those few weeks. It was great to have his help shifting tables, chairs and crates of food.

Kirsten had been attending as a guest for several weeks and, when her referral ended, asked to become a regular volunteer.

She is enthusiastic and efficient and, from her recent experience as someone in need of a food bank, she is able to offer advice to the guests about how to get the best out of what we provide.

We are so grateful to Newington Churches Together for providing a great team of volunteers from their churches, as well as donations.

There are three ways you can donate:

1. Take donations to your church for delivery to the Foodbank. Tins of meat or fish and tins of fruit are always especially welcome, as are toiletries. Shower gel, shampoo and deodorant are all considered essentials.
2. Cash donations help with the supply of fresh food to the Foodbank via FareShare and allow us to top up where gaps arise.
3. Donations online to Edinburgh City Mission help pay for the hundreds of pounds worth of goods they buy each week to supply the Foodbanks. <https://edinburghcitymission.org.uk/> You can specify that your gift is for Newington Foodbank+.

Many thanks for all your support.



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

TO RE-EXAMINE

ITS OPPOSITION TO

ASSISTED DYING

Commissioners at the General Assembly voted in favour of exploring more deeply the diverse views held by Kirk members on the controversial subject.

The Faith Impact Forum had invited the General Assembly to reaffirm the Church's opposition to Assisted Dying.

But following an impassioned debate, the majority of Commissioners backed a countermotion which expressed recognition that there is a range of theological views and ethical opinions on assisted dying within the Church.

It instructed the Faith Impact Forum, the Theological Forum, and other relevant parties to explore such views and opinions and report to a future General Assembly.

The discussion comes against the backdrop of the introduction of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill to the Scottish Parliament for debate.

SPACE AND GRACE

The countermotion was brought forward by Rev Jonathan Fleming, minister of Lyle Kirk in Greenock, following a motion initially tabled by Rev Tara Granados of Ibrox Parish Church in Glasgow.

Mr Fleming said: "I am grateful to Tara for raising this very emotive and challenging issue and to the General Assembly for agreeing to an exploration of the spectrum of views and opinions to take place and to report to a future General Assembly.

"Deeply moved by the stories of those who spoke at the Assembly, I felt compelled to bring a counter motion that allowed a window of space and grace to be created and for this to be discussed sensitively and thoroughly."

Reacting to the vote, Rev Karen Hendry, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, said: "The conversations that we had (in the General Assembly hall) were very deep and meaningful and took us to a very human place.

"Out of that we have got to a point where we can pause and think more deeply about this very important issue.

"This has opened up the dialogue, it is a very real and emotive issue for people.

"Everyone has experience of a loved one dying at some point, and this is something that is important to all of us - what does it mean to have a good death?

"This is an opportunity to take some time and reflect on what that means to us and how we develop our thinking and faith alongside that. We hope we can explore these questions with the Theological Forum and others over the months to come and bring something to a future General Assembly."

FINANCE REPORT



Judith has again produced a helpful and informative summary of accounts for the first 4 months of the year, ie to the end of April 2023.

It shows that our income is being to rise again - our overall income is up by £1000 - partly an increase in donations but mostly in hall lets and fund raising. However, there has been a sharp rise in expenses; especially in repairs at Wilton Road, Church House and various works at the Church itself resulting in a shortfall for the year to date of over £6400 - although we have still to receive the mast rental.

We need to remember that we have had 2 covid years with little expenditure enabling us to produce a modest surplus. We are now catching up with expensive repairs at all our premises and I need to ask for your continued, if not even more, generous support.

ALASDAIR SEALE

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be Sept 2023. Please send Linda any articles or notices by 19th August. See page 2 for contact details.



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CHURCH • EDINBURGH

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