

A vibrant stained glass window serves as the background. The central focus is a circular medallion containing a golden, textured figure of a person with long hair, possibly Jesus, with their hand to their face in a gesture of grief or contemplation. The surrounding glass is divided into various shapes and colors, including deep blues, bright greens, magentas, and yellows, creating a rich, multi-colored mosaic.

REID ON

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2021

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DEAR FRIENDS



As I sit writing there is a growing scene of confusion outside; the weather fluctuates from snow through sleet to drizzle seemingly not knowing what it wants to do. In other words, the weather today is confused.

Confusion should be nothing new to any of us. We see it in our daily lives through external things such as politics or closer to home in the inner turmoil that we will all experience at times. The situation we have found ourselves in during the last eleven months has compounded matters. This has led to negative outcomes for many as confusion has made it difficult to keep ourselves going in a balanced way. For some of us there has been the challenge of how to cope with lockdown, seeking to keep ourselves mentally and physically well. For others it has been trying to maintain the right balance of work, home, and relationships. Many of us have gotten things wrong; I know that I have. For me, the challenge has been balancing the demands of two congregations with other roles at Presbytery and for the central committees of the Kirk. I got that wrong with the result that my primary call to be the minister has suffered as a result; I have not been around for the parish as I should have been. For that I am sorry.

The challenge and confusion of balance is one that we all need to be aware of; there is no perfect answer nor ideal always right approach. Situations change, and so do our responses to them. Yet throughout all this, both successes and failures, there is One who does not change, One who provides a rock or anchor for our souls in times of despair and joy. Saint Paul, who knew his fair share of failure, puts it like this:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither >

> height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)

It is the love of God in Christ that gives us the strength to carry on despite the circumstances. This does not change though the world around us does. As lockdown continues and as the world tries to cope, let us learn to lean on the truth of Paul's words.

Yours in Christ, **ALEX**

A PRAYER FOR THE PANDEMIC

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time - and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social distancing, You are close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

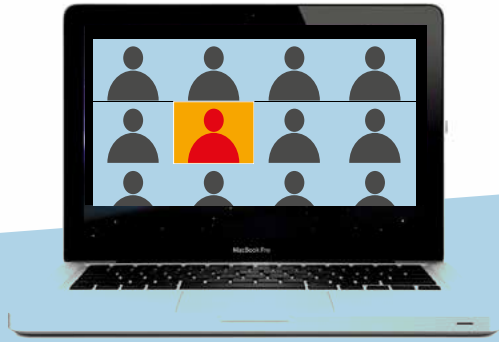
BY **DAPHNE KITCHING**

DEATHS

1st January 2021 **George Stanley Allatt** (D15) Blackford Avenue

11th January 2021 Dr **Robert (Bob) Donaldson** (D7) Marian House Care Home

24th January 2021 **Sybil Collier**, (D1) West Savile Terrace



NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

ECUMENICAL DISCUSSION GROUPS by Zoom - Lent 2021

If you have not taken part in these groups before, why not give them a try this year? Using Zoom means you do not have to leave home, you can opt out at any time, and you do not have to use internet - if you do not mind seeing the others, you can join in on a landline phone. And typically, participants find them very interesting and friendly! The groups will meet weekly on Mon & Wed evenings for 5 weeks from Mon 22nd Feb.

There will be a choice of discussion material available:

a) *Not A Tame Lion* - looking at Christianity through the works of CS Lewis. This was the material used by the groups in 2020, which were abruptly curtailed by the coronavirus lockdown; some were keen to complete the course this year.

b) One of the guides from the *Faith and Worship* series produced by John Birch. See www.faithandworship.com/shop.htm#lent

Material from this series was well received by Advent 2020 groups.

If you would like to take part, please email, or phone Ann Thanisch by Wed 17th Feb (Ash Wednesday), confirming your preference for Mon, or Wed, and for discussion material ('*Not A Tame Lion*' or '*Faith and Worship*')

ANN THANISCH annthanisch@gmail.com Tel 0781 494 9468

ALL IN THE MONTH OF **FEBRUARY**

75 YEARS AGO, on 11th Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

70 YEARS AGO, on 27th Feb 1951 that the 22nd Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to two terms in office.

65 YEARS AGO, on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

50 YEARS AGO, on 15th Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

40 YEARS AGO, on 24th Feb 1981 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

30 YEARS AGO, on 28th Feb 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

25 YEARS AGO, on 15th Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

20 YEARS AGO, on 19th Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

10 YEARS AGO, on 22nd Feb 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured, and there was widespread damage across the city.

FEB

Church LISTENING SERVICE

BY **MICHAEL McMULLIN**, MISSION DEVELOPMENT WORKER,
CRAIGMILLAR PARK, PRIESTFIELD AND REID MEMORIAL

The third of the five marks of Mission¹, agreed upon by the Church of Scotland, is 'To respond to human need by loving service'. The

present Covid pandemic has served to further highlight a problem, which the Mission Liaison Group² had agreed to focus our Mission attentions on tackling. The problem is isolation in our Church family, and wider community.

Lockdown restrictions have exasperated feelings of loneliness, powerlessness, frustration, vulnerabilities. Let's be honest, the list of these negative emotions being faced by so many of ourselves, our families, our society, can at times feel almost endless, and certainly overwhelming. So, one way of approaching this issue is to begin a Listening Service, across the three parishes, and congregations, of Craigmillar Park, Priestfield, and Reid Memorial.

When we listen well, we shall be caring for and valuing the other person.

Our aim is to offer a listening ear, about anything that is on their >

> mind in a safe and unjudgmental environment. The listener shall offer reflection on what the speaker has discussed and provide empathetic support to encourage them to find their own way forward.

Volunteer Listeners will complete professional listening training from a nationally recognised provider, so that they shall have been trained to best practice to ensure confidentiality and safety for all users. Initially we shall be running a pilot scheme which will be offering listening sessions, each 30 to 40 minutes long. After an initial session each user may be offered a suitable number of subsequent sessions. These sessions will be conducted either online, through a platform such as Zoom, or on the telephone. At this stage there are no plans to have any physical face to face sessions until it is safe to do so. We know the benefits of human contact, but just now we must accept the boundaries, and work within them. In many ways having to use online and telephone methods of communicating may actually allow us to reach some people who might not have felt ready, or confident enough, to engage with our listeners in a face-to face session.

The Church Listening Service is not counselling, we won't give advice and we won't ask questions about what is shared by the speaker. Most importantly, we won't judge and we won't interrupt.

This all sounds a bit like the initiative is all about what we won't be providing. I don't make an apology for highlighting what the initiative is not going to be. For the initiative to be effective and successful, it must be built on Christian Love and Trust, and Openness and Honesty. Outlining the boundaries of this service, from the outset, ensures each individual's expectations are set accordingly. This helps to avoid unrealistic expectations being formed, reduce the risk of dissatisfaction, and help to ensure the well-being of everyone involved.

We are looking to have training for the first batch of volunteer listeners completed by the end of February, and, realistically, to have the service launched sometime in early spring.

The training itself shall be entirely conducted online, so as to conform >

> to Covid restrictions. Each volunteer shall be asked to complete an on-line interactive training course, in their own time, at their own pace. The training consists of interactive training modules, and workshops where groups of volunteers shall work with trainers, through Zoom, to hone and build upon the skills being learned. When the trainers are satisfied that an individual is ready, they shall be given an opportunity to start listening to “real” users. Going forward, regular support and supervision will be provided for volunteers.

The well-being of the volunteers is paramount in the planning and sustainability of this initiative. Being a Listening Service Volunteer will not be suitable for everyone, and there shall be no pressure on anyone to either volunteer initially, or to continue volunteering after completing the training. The Lord never asks us to do something we are not capable of, from the skills He has endowed us with, and the experiences He has guided us through. We are probably more capable listeners than we initially imagine we are.

If you feel that you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a listening service volunteer, please get in touch. I can give you more details of the practical side of things, and we can have a chat. You can reach me by phone, 07444 082 627, or email mmcmullin@churchofscotland.org.uk. In the future, when services are back to normal, just come and speak to me.

As with all our Mission Development work, this Listening Service initiative is, of course, prayerfully supported and led. So, on behalf of all those involved now, and in the future, I ask that you keep our volunteer listeners, and future users, in your prayers.

Take care everyone, keep safe, and God Bless.

MICHAEL

¹ Church of Scotland Theological Forum, Five Marks of Mission, Finalised Report - August 2020

² The Mission Liaison Group of Craigmillar Park, Priestfield, and Reid Memorial, Churches,

OUR FUTURE CONGREGATIONS, CLUSTERS AND PRESBYTERY

The way

Over the last few months, you may have heard passing reference to something named 'Cluster Meetings'; those of you who are elders certainly will know of them.

You will also be aware that the Kirk is undergoing a period of significant review and restructuring in order to make it fit for purpose for the coming decades. Part of this restructuring is the reforming of the Plan for Presbytery for Edinburgh; the same exercise is being carried out across the country.

Traditionally, the process of planning has been carried out by a committee with little to no input from congregations until a draft version is released for discussion. In past years this has brought both upset and conflict. This time around the process has a more consultative approach. The city has been divided up into geographical clusters with minister and representatives from each local congregation being invited to take part in a series of conversations around mission in their area. In addition to the minister, our representatives are Ian Beckett, and Louise McAspurren; they were chosen based on specific skills and experiences that they could bring to the discussions. For us the cluster incorporates Priestfield, Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury, St. Catherine's Argyle, Marchmont St. Giles, Morningside United, and ourselves. >

> Our role has been to be focussed on local mission and how that factors into such at a Presbytery level. We are not tasked with reflecting on wider Kirk restructuring or creating defence strategies for buildings or congregations that are dear to our heart. Rather, we are to look beyond ourselves and toward working for the Kingdom of God in our area.

Over the past two months groups of us have met three times to look at our mission activity and our vision for the area. We have also met with both Kirk Session and Congregational Board to gain their views and questions. In the coming month we will be looking at what shape the Kirk may need to take to fulfil our hopes; this will include difficult conversations around resources including ministry. By the end of February, we will have a report ready to send to Presbytery; this will then influence how the first draft of the new plan will look. It is my hope to be able to share our report with you all once it is finalised.

This whole exercise of planning for the future, and making sure that it is properly resourced, will raise many questions. Please feel free to ask them.

Thanks, and blessings, **ALEX**

FOX

I called the RSPCA today to report I had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs. 'That's terrible,' she said. 'Are they moving?' 'I'm not sure, to be honest,' I replied, 'But that would explain the suitcase.'

COLLECTION

The church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

'Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver.'
(BBC reporter)

'I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.'

COVID, THE CHURCH, AND FUNERALS

As the pandemic continues to lead to restrictions in our activities, we cannot but notice the impact on the church. What I want to set out here are some of the things that we need to bear in mind both in our ongoing activities and our plans for eventual re-opening of our buildings.

CHURCH

At the time of writing our buildings are closed though the work of the Church has not stopped. While our worship services have moved online our practical work with the nation's most vulnerable continues, we are still feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless. When our buildings are re-opened it is likely that there will be continued limits on numbers, and a prohibition on singing and table fellowship. This is a part of our work with the government to reduce community spreading of the virus.

FUNERALS:

The restrictions around these have caused much upset over the last eleven months. There are strict limits on the numbers allowed though some smaller crematoria must reduce this further to comply with social distancing regulations. As in other indoor venues masks must be worn unless medically exempt or leading the service. What this means for our congregations is that we can no longer simply turn-up at a service but must be invited. For track and trace purposes grieving families must provide contact details for those invited.

For some, the restrictions have led to families having their loved one taken 'direct to cremation', with plans for a service to take place once restrictions are fully lifted. One positive spin-off from the restrictions is that a greater proportions of services are now made available via the internet, allowing folk to join the congregation from both near and far who >

> would not otherwise have been able to be a part of the congregation.

We all know that this is an ever-changing situation. In the meantime, we will endeavour to keep you up to date with how the restrictions impact our work. At the same time, we can both pray and look forward to the day when we may meet again, without restrictions.

Thanks, and blessings, **ALEX**

DO ME A FAVOUR?

Have you had an email from a clergyman, saying, 'Hi' and asking to do him 'a favor'? Of course, you would want to help and then begin to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking you.

This is likely to be a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money. The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if I had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell "favour" like that and not say 'hi'.

This all makes us quite cross because these scammers are playing on church members' kindness. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange. Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

If you get a telephone call or email you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check. It is a crime, so you could report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell the minister or your elder. The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your minister, office bearers and treasurer? Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.



THANK YOU

Christmas seems like a distant memory already doesn't it? Remember all the donations of gifts and money we gathered for Castleview Primary School? I'm sure you do.

I wanted to report back on the final amount of money you donated, not to mention the bags and bags of toys and games. The cash came to £375! I had agreed to go to a toy shop and buy toys with all this money, a most enjoyable task for Geeta and me. However, I decided to talk to the head teacher at the school, before I went shopping for the toys, let her know about the huge amount of money and ask if she had any suggestions to help me.

She asked if we would consider spending some on food items, as the school make up some food parcels to give to certain families at difficult times. I decided that you would not mind if some of the money was spent in this way. So, the last £100 was spent on many food items.

You will see from the letter that I received from Clare Langley, *[see next page]* the head teacher, that our donations were greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy reading it and can feel proud to have been involved.

REGARDS, **SUSAN MACKAY**

**The City of Edinburgh Council
Castleview Primary School
2D Greendykes Road
Edinburgh
EH16 4DP**

Tel: 0131 661 6429 Fax: 0131 661 9493

Head Teacher- Miss Clare Langley

E mail – admin@castleview.edin.sch.uk

Website – www.castleview.edin.sch.uk

Dear Reid Memorial Congregation,

Who would have thought this time last year we would be living in the new era of Coronavirus! I hope you and your families are physically well but are also emotionally coping in this very difficult and isolating time.

Thank you so much for the Christmas gifts and the food parcels you gave to our families. I want you to know that these were incredibly well received. At Castleview we know our families very well and we were able to target your generosity to the families who needed these the most. The parents and carers were very grateful. Sadly, this year due to the current crisis we have many families who are in a worse situation than usual.

It has been quite a journey since I wrote to you last year. In January 2020 we welcomed our families back to school and continued to do what we do best by providing excellent teaching and learning alongside nurture and support some for Edinburgh's most vulnerable. As the Coronavirus crisis began to evolve and a school closure looked imminent we did our best to prepare our families. There was a priority to give home learning resources, but our bigger priority was to hand out food parcels, toiletries and to signpost families to local support in the community. We set up a staff family communication team and staff were allocated families to keep in touch with. We recognised the need for connection.

We organised ourselves for home learning using a variety of methods to try and help as many families as possible. There was and is no one size fits all. We used phone calls, social media and the school website. Our whole school family, teachers and families learnt lots of new skills to deal with remote learning.

Our school was picked to be used as a Hub school for keyworker and vulnerable children. The team were brave and took this in their stride. Everyone recognised their role in a much bigger picture. The keyworkers we were supporting had a variety of jobs many were carers for elderly and disabled in the community, some were in food productions and some were porters at the hospitals. In April the council reviewed the Hub schools and there were then merged into larger secondary school hubs. Castleview staff continued to support doing shifts at the Holyrood Hub.

We worked hard to continue to deliver weekly food parcels and resources to support families to access learning. Our family communication team we able to sign families up for other support. For some families, particularly our single parent families, our two phone calls a week were a lifeline to just have someone to talk to.

We tried to provide as many normal school events as possible so our pupils would not miss out. Our P7 teachers were able to pull together a graduation film with clips from all the children, we did a virtual sports day, we put our P1 transition events online and much, much more.

The news that we could return to school in August was amazing. We put a lot of work into adapting our routines to fall inline with infection control. We all returned safely and have been safe since. Staff were aware that they had to be confident to reassure families. Our families were delighted to be back. So were we as a school is not a school without the children! Between August and December, we have worked hard within the restrictions. While parents and carers have not been allowed in school, we have continued to keep up our digital connection with our families.

So here we are again, January 2021 and another lockdown. In many ways we are much better prepared, but our families also know too well what lockdown was like before and how hard it was for many of them. We have families who live in the high-rise flats with no garden, many of our families have English as an additional Language and accessing learning is hard, families don't have enough digital devices for their children and families do not have Wi-Fi to access learning. I could go on.

Team Castleview is ready to help again. Our school Hub is open for our families only, which means that we can bring in our vulnerable children for education, a meal, warmth and provide respite for families.

The caring Castleview team again recognise the role we play in a much bigger picture to get through Coronavirus. We can play a part in reducing the long-term impact on families and society and can try to minimise the damage Coronavirus will have when we finally get out of this.

Thank you again for your incredibly kind gesture at Christmas. It means so much.

Stay well and kindest regards
Clare

6

BISHOP

*An exam for R.E. asked the following question: 'What does a Bishop do?'
Came one answer: 'Move diagonally across the board.'*

PRAY WITH GRANNIE!

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

STAN ALLATT

[I am deeply indebted to Stan's elder son, Ross, for permission to edit his tribute to fit within the pages of this edition of ReidOn... - Alex]

We were recently saddened by the loss of Stan, our friend and member of the congregation. At the service on 18th January his elder son, Ross, delivered the tribute. This had been written by the immediate family. Space prevents us reproducing it in whole, so what follows is a heavily edited version.

George Stanley Allatt was born in Haddington in 1934. His father's life was immersed in music; he taught piano at home, he was the music master at various schools in East Lothian and for many years was the organist at St Mary's Church Haddington; this passion for music clearly rubbed off on the young Stan. Stan described his childhood as being very happy with lots of friends. He loved living in a small town with a "community" feel.

At senior school he enjoyed Latin and Music and played rugby for the school. He was a prefect and one year became the "Dux".

On leaving school Stan got an apprenticeship to work at Blyth & Blyth Engineers, where he remained for his entire working life. He attended night school at Heriot Watt University to gain a qualification. This worked well, being able to learn the practical skills by day and the theory at night.

In the late '50s Stan had his two years of National Service, based in Gloucestershire and Lincolnshire. On time off, he would undertake scooter return trips home; these on what was then a road network without motorways.

On the romantic front, Stan had met and fallen in love with Eleanor, both a fellow pupil at Knox Academy and attendee at the St Mary's Church. They married in 1961 at St Mary's Church, a marriage that was to last over 59 years until Stan's death. They had two sons, Ross, and Chris.

While living on Observatory Road Stan embarked, almost single-handed, on an extension to convert from a bungalow by adding an >

> upstairs. This enabled him to move the model railway, another of his loves, from the attic into what had previously been their bedroom. When he wasn't dealing with matters relating to the house, you'd invariably find him under the bonnet of a car "tinkering". Stan had a particular pride in "buying British" so the somewhat dubious quality of some of their output in the 1970s no doubt afforded him plenty opportunities to have to get under the bonnet!

In later years, his attention turned more towards the garden which he lovingly tended until ill health meant it was no longer possible to do so. The herbaceous garden in the front was stunning year after year and frequently attracted approving comments from walkers heading up towards Blackford Hill.

Another love of Stan's life was caravanning. The first van was bought in 1969 and thereafter there was a van in the drive until the mid-2010s. Stan and Eleanor were members of the Scottish Caravan Club so many weekends were spent at caravan rallies held in one farmer's field or another somewhere between Moffat and Dunbar! The van was also used for summer holidays which, being creatures of habit, would start somewhere in the West side of England before heading to York for a few nights and then to Scarborough for a week. Scarborough would invariably mean a trip to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, another great love.

Another great love of his life was singing and music. For many years he was a member of the Sine Nomine Singers; he served in the Reid Memorial Choir for a long time and ended his singing days out at Colinton in St Cuthbert's Church. He was naturally a bass but would turn his hand to the tenor voice if the need arose.

Over two separate periods Stan was also involved in the fabric committee at Reid Memorial. It is to Stan's credit that difficult projects were undertaken and completed and that the building stands as proudly and safely as it did when it was built in 1935.

We're all aware that in the last few years, dementia dismantled the personality and character of the man. Hobbies were dropped, >

> memories vanished, and this cruel disease made him a stranger to those nearest and dearest to him. If there were any upside in this darkness it is that Stan would be one of the small number of people in 2020 who had never heard of Covid-19 but of course the pandemic impacted here, as his sons were unable to see him in the last eleven months of his life. Eleanor was only able to visit on a handful of occasions. But that illness was not who Stan was and it's not how he should be remembered.

What we remember today is a life that was very well lived. A life characterised by faithfulness, loyalty, consistency, love, and devotion. He lived the life he wanted to live and loved and supported his family. He was a wonderful husband to Eleanor, a faithful father to Ross & Chris, and a proud grandpa to Euan, James, and Lois. George Stanley Allatt, dearly loved and sorely missed.

AROUND THE WORD

At the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus commanded his disciples to go into the world and make disciples. Being a disciple is about learning and growing in faith and understanding, and there are many ways this may be done. One of these is through gathering and sharing around the Word of God. Starting in mid-February I will be hosting a series of short, online studies around a range of Bible passages and themes, the first of these being on the Lord's Prayer. These will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10am and repeated at 2pm the same day. All you need is a Bible and a notepad. If you are interested in joining in then please email me, and I'll provide you with a Zoom link to join in.

If you have any questions about the studies, then please just call **0131 667 1623** or email **AMcAspurren@churchofscotland.org.uk**

BLESSINGS, **ALEX**

BOOK REVIEWS

STORIES FROM THE STREETS

AN INSIGHT INTO THE WORK OF STREET PASTORS

By Luke Randall and Sue Shaw, Instant Apostle, £9.99

This book celebrates the excellent work done by the formidable army of 'Street Pastors', Christian volunteers who have become a welcome presence in their various towns and cities across the nation.

Founded on the streets of Brixton by the Revd Les Isaac, OBE, in 2003 as a response to critical social issues, there are now 270 Street Pastor groups across the UK and seven internationally. More than 12,000 volunteers have been trained to serve as Street Pastors, not only on the streets but in many other public spheres as well, such as schools and after terrorist attacks.

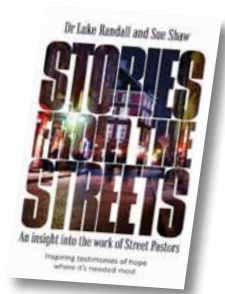
Whether offering a listening ear to a vulnerable clubber, mentoring a troubled teen, giving food to a homeless person or responding to a national emergency, Street Pastors have been credited with saving police and NHS time and money, reducing crime and improving neighbourhoods. The work is supported by churches of every denomination.

COME AND SEE

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE OF PETER

By Stephen Cottrell, BRF, £7.99

When we look at the life of Peter - fisherman, disciple, leader of the early Church - we find somebody who responded wholeheartedly to the call to 'come and see'. Come and meet Jesus, come and follow him, come and find your life being transformed. This book focuses on Peter, not because he is the best-known of Jesus' friends, nor the most loyal, but because he shows us what being a disciple of Jesus is actually like. Like us, he takes a step of faith and then flounders, and needs the saving touch of God to continue becoming the person he was created to be.



QUOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Editor: Lent is a time for taking stock of oneself spiritually. It is a time for 'walking in the wilderness' in preparation for Easter. With this in mind:

'A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of Him.' JOHN R W STOTT

'Endurance is the ability to stand up under adversity; perseverance is the ability to progress in spite of it.' JERRY BRIDGES

'It is but right that our hearts should be on God, when the heart of God is so much on us.' RICHARD BAXTER

'Jesus Christ: no other man has ever humbled himself so greatly; and no man has ever been more exalted as a result.' ANON

'Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.' JERRY BRIDGES

FALL DOWN!

One way to find out if you're old is to fall in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're young. If they panic and start running toward you, you're old.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS ON MODERN LIFE

As any member of a Presbyterian church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

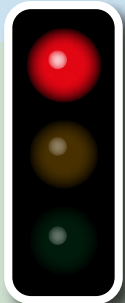
A closed mouth gathers no foot.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

22nd FEBRUARY - 7th MARCH

It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south. In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking. Yet with the help of Fairtrade, www.fairtrade.org.uk many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.



STOP!

Church LISTENING SERVICE

Did you see Michael McMullin's appeal for volunteers for our new Church Listening Service? Please help Reid Memorial's mission by sparing a little time to become a Listener. As Michael explains, it's simpler than you might think. See page 7.

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be March 2021. Please send Linda any articles or notices by **19th FEBRUARY** - see page 2 for contact details.



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