



REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

MAY 2024

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REFLECTING ON THE REID...

I have really enjoyed my time at the Reid and Craigmillar Park. As it's been my first placement, I was new to the ministry training process and not sure what to expect, so was very glad to have such a warm and encouraging welcome. It has been great to get to know the Reid's people, its building and its character, and to be with you for the busier half of the church year, from Advent through to Easter.

I have a lot of gratitude to everyone for being so encouraging, giving useful feedback, for letting me experiment with things and indulge my passion for history. I'll particularly remember being hissed at by the whole congregation (Because, I should add, I was demonstrating an ancient Christian practice of symbolising rejecting evil by stamping on a goatskin and then having someone hiss in your face).

Part of the challenge has been working out how to balance the placement with my studies at New College, but doing so has been very rewarding to get into a regular cycle of leading worship. There's been a real joy in becoming part of a parish's rhythm, and in enabling Christians to worship together. This has helped confirm my vocation and given me experience and happy memories to take into the years ahead.

ANDREW CARTER

As I retire as an elder of Reid Memorial Church I would like to thank the Session and Board for the lovely flowers and 'Thank You' card I recently received.

In 1971 we moved back to the Grange, where Tom grew up, and we joined Reid Memorial. Ian McGregor was minister then. I joined the Young Mothers' group and then the Women's Guild and in 1983 I became an elder in the Church Session. I very much enjoyed the meetings and the companionship and have happy memories of delivering Communion cards in the Rankin district, getting to know the parishioners and members of the congregation there. It has been a privilege being an elder of the church and I made many friends over the years, but it was time to retire. Thank you for all your signatures and good wishes.

ENIZ THOMSON

THE REID BRINGS HOPE...!

Year after year, Reid Memorial Church has brought hope and practical on-the-ground assistance to many of the world's poorest people, through its Christian Aid Week collection. This year we'll continue giving, in those familiar envelopes, which will be in the orders of service on 12th and 19th May. Look out for more info by email and in orders of service.



DAVID WHITE WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE



PENTECOST...

May sees the Church celebrate Pentecost, 50 days after Easter.

Acts 2 tells of the disciples, still in Jerusalem after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, receiving the Holy Spirit, with rushing wind and tongues of fire.

This dramatic moment is the founding of the Church, and it reveals something important about the Church's character and what church is. Often when we talk about church (with or without the capital C), we think of one way of doing things, of one correct approach. We speak, both literally and metaphorically, of singing from the same hymn sheet. It's a very natural human instinct (and a natural instinct of institutions) to want things to be done in a single, set, orderly way. And there are good reasons for this: we try to be fair to everyone by treating them in the same standard way, and we express being united in church by doing things the same way together.

But in Acts 2 we see a huge variety of different people in the >

> crowd, from all over the Jewish diaspora in the Roman Empire and beyond: 'Parthians, Medes, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs' (Acts 2:9-10). The ancient world was often more cosmopolitan than we might think!

Even more incredible than the diversity of the Jerusalem crowd is how God responded to that diversity: where our human instinct is to set some kind of uniform standard, God through the Spirit allowed each of those many different groups to hear in their own tongues (Acts 2:6, 11). The Word of God was translated into something that was understandable and meaningful for them, wherever they had come from.

Pentecost stands in contrast to the story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), where arrogant humanity's unity (a unity founded on human power rather than on God) is disrupted by God dispersing them into many language groups. At Pentecost, God does not undo that division of language, but through the Spirit provides a way of drawing those groups together: unity in diversity.

If God does not undo diversity, but instead embraces, blesses and uses it, then we need to do the same in the church. We need to welcome people - each other - wherever we have come from, and make each other feel part of a greater whole while still keeping our individuality. We need to find ways of translating the Word so that people can understand it in their own tongues - or perhaps within their own worldview or from their own backgrounds. And we need to be comfortable with the idea that, even if we say or hear things differently, we're all still expressing the same Word.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ANDREW** (MINISTRY STUDENT)

DOOR DUTIES MAY...

SUNDAY 5th MAY

Lesley Beckett, Alison MacLeod
In charge: Ian Beckett

SUNDAY 12th MAY

Geeta Mackay, Elizabeth Clark
In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 19th MAY

Sheila Capewell, Siobhan Gilliland
In charge: Stevie Douglas

SUNDAY 26th MAY

Joyce Rosie, June Wylie
In charge: Linda Farrer

IMPORTANT

Remember to arrange a swap if you can't attend!



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW DARWIN PROJECT...

The University of Edinburgh is undertaking a major new project on its King's Buildings campus: its *New Darwin* project will involve the demolition of the existing Darwin Tower, to be replaced by a new research, teaching and innovation building fit for world-leading research and teaching delivered by its School of Biological Sciences.

A public planning consent session is planned for Wednesday 8th May, 4 - 7pm at the Elm Lecture Theatre, The Nucleus Building, King's Buildings Campus, Thomas Bayes Road EH9 3FG.

BRIEFING NOTES...

A photograph of an organ console, showing a keyboard with black and white keys, a stop action wheel, and various control panels. The lighting is warm and focused on the console.

Excerpted from notes from Martyn to the Reid's Fabric Committee on the work on the organ from 2022

'When the organ was built 1934-35, the electro-pneumatic action was placed beneath the chancel floor with no thought of access for adjustment. By 1997 it was becoming increasingly unreliable and as there was no appetite for removing the chancel floor, the organ builders, who were Rushworth and Dreaper who had originally built the organ, suggested a means by which the original action could be bypassed. (The same solution was adopted when the organ in the Usher Hall was restored by Harrison & Harrison in 2003. In this case the original electric action, running on 6 volts, was located beneath the choir seating.)

The technology used was Solid State, using microprocessors. >

> Some problems were encountered with what seemed to be interference from other sources of power, and at length the decision was taken to install a dedicated power supply to the organ. When this was done, all the problems stopped.

In 2013 the church's heating system was replaced. Only approximately one third of the heating system installed in the mid-1930s was still functioning. At the same time the church's wiring and electricity supply were upgraded. The dedicated power supply to the organ was not reinstated, possibly because its presence was interpreted as having been adopted because the church's wiring was, by that time, overdue for replacement. Initially there appeared to be no issues, but by mid-2017 the solid state, specifically the stop controls, were becoming at first unpredictable and then unreliable.

What was not fully understood, even by the organ builders, was that the solid-state installation has only a working life of approximately 7 years. This emerged after extensive research was carried out by the organ builders from June to December 2022 in association with the manufacturer, Solid State Logic, and the entire installation was replaced. In recent weeks there have been some further symptoms which appear to arise from the wiring for the organ running in too close proximity to other feeds to the lighting and the sound system. This is evident from the fact that when the wind supply to the organ is switched on at the console, it is audible through the loudspeakers - something which should not happen.

The organ builders requested CF Electrical of Kirkcaldy to carry out a thorough inspection of their work so that they could be satisfied that nothing they had done or had failed to do could undermine the function of the organ. In addition, the isolator >

> switch has been replaced. CF Electrical have recommended and provided a quotation for, the installation of a dedicated power supply to the organ, which, it is felt would eliminate any further problems relating to the organ and power.

I am very aware that, after 10 years (2012 to 2022) in which the organ has received only routine maintenance, a considerable amount of expenditure has been necessary during the last two years. However, we have recently received a generous donation to the Organ Fund from Douglas Bruce, a previous organist of Reid Memorial Church. Given that there is now no realistic prospect of being able to carry out the comprehensive restoration of the organ which would really be required, I have suggested to the Fabric Committee that the resources of the Organ Fund could be used to maintain the organ's reliability.

MARTYN STRACHAN

LET'S GET SUMMER COVERED...!

As you know, each issue of ReidOn... is only as big, or as good, as the content that its readers submit for publication. The next issue will, as every year, cover three months, so let's make it bigger and better, with more of what you'd like to see: just get in touch, before 24th May, at reidon.editor@gmail.com

DAVID EDITOR





Southside Faith Care

in partnership with Tap into IT Where You Are

DIGITAL DROP-IN GROUP

Need help to use the internet/iPad/laptop/mobile/other devices?

Free sessions any week from Tuesday, 23rd April, 2-4pm for 10 weeks at Priestfield Church, Dalkeith Road / 2 Marchhall Place EH16 5HW (down the road from the Commonwealth Pool).

Southside Faith Care is an Edinburgh-based charity combatting chronic social isolation and loneliness, helping to reconnect older people to their interests and community.

Tap Into IT is an Edinburgh-based charity with over 11 years' experience helping older people to access the internet and digital technology, keep in touch with family and others, pursue interests, get the information they need to stay active and involved for health, independence and choice.

Free tea/coffee, nibbles, and a good blether too. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome. Contact tel. 07478 543510

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC052304

NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER (NCT)

The daily morning services during Holy Week, followed by breakfast, in Craigmillar Park Church and Hall were well-attended. They were led by a variety of ministers within the NCT during the week, and following breakfast on Good Friday and a short reading outside Craigmillar Park Church, we commenced our Walk of Witness, (see last month's *ReidOn...*), walking on to three neighbouring churches - St Columba's, Upper Gray Street, St Peter's, Lutton Place and @Nicolson Square Gardens for a final reading/short service. Some of us handed out Easter eggs to folks en-route, some with a leaflet explaining the Easter story. Thankfully the weather was smiling for us and, after the service in the Gardens, we went to the Methodist Church for a cuppa, seat and chat.

FOODBANK+

Once again, a very BIG thank you to all who have been contributing to the Foodbank+ with food or money - all very much appreciated. We have 20 service users coming along. However at the moment our supplies are running low and we particularly need this month tinned potatoes, cooking oil, rice pudding, sugar, biscuits, tinned custard, tinned fruit and washing-up liquid. If you are able to donate one or two of these items it would be much appreciated. Please continue to pray for all the service users and also the helpers.

ALISON MACLEOD

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be June - August 2024. Please send David any articles or notices by *24th May* please. See page 2 for contact details.



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