

REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2024

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DEAR FRIENDS...

'We're doomed!'

Love it or loathe it, most of us will be familiar with that TV series, 'Dad's Army' and the character of Private James Frazer.

In church terms he is what we would, perhaps, describe as a Jeremiah figure with his near constant refrains of "Rubbish!", and "We're doomed!". Played by the great character actor John Laurie, his catchphrase is one that seems apt for the age we are living in. This is especially true if we read popular statements concerning the changes in our Kirk.

Yet, the nay-saying message of gloom is not solely that of the prophet Jeremiah nor today's gloom merchants. It belongs, too, to the person of Jonah - that character who flees from God, gets thrown overboard from a ship, and spends three days in the belly of a great fish, also conveyed a message of doom. *'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!'* (Jonah 3: 4)

Yet, the prophet's message had a remarkable effect upon his audience. They realised the error of their ways and turned from them. They saw the truth of their doom-laden course and set out to correct things. As a result, the course of history changed, and Nineveh was not overthrown.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. (Jonah 3:10)

Unlike Nineveh, the ways of the Kirk may not have been evil, >

> but we have lost both our sense of purpose and our drive. Without a change of course, and a refocusing of our energy, we would be doomed. By changing, the Kirk may be saved. None of this, though, is easy either to hear or to see. We love our traditions and our buildings though, if nothing was to change, we would lose more than is currently forecast. Perhaps, like Scotland in 1560 and Nineveh at the time of Jonah, we need a Reformation. Yet, by making these sacrifices now, we will continue to serve our people and our nations as we have done since the Reformation.

Perhaps the current cloud on the Kirk's horizon does have a silver lining.

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

DOOR DUTIES...

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY

Gillian Brown, Geeta Mackay

In charge: Susan Mackay

SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY

Alison MacLeod, Sheila Capewell

In charge: Lindsay Wood

SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY

Douglas Mathieson,
Sheena Richardson

In charge: Stephen Thomson

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY

Elizabeth Clark, Siobhan Gilliland

In charge: Stevie Douglas

IMPORTANT

*Please remember to
arrange a swap if you
can't attend*

Fresh Start

helping people make a home for themselves

2023 COOKERS FOR CHRISTMAS



*I am delighted to report that this appeal has raised just over **£1,000** which has now been sent to Fresh Start. They have emailed to thank us for our generosity. I would also like to add my thanks to all who donated to this very worthwhile cause. This money will help provide white goods for people moving from homelessness into their first flat/house, or for people who are struggling. The sum raised is a wonderful amount, particularly in view of the cost of living crisis and the increased demands on our purses over the festive period. This money will make such a difference.*

THANK YOU **LINDSAY WOOD**

*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 (email is in the **Contacts** section). And if you'd like to give me a hand with getting the magazine together, please let me know.*

DAVID

SAFEGUARDING IN THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND...

For several years now the Church of Scotland has had a very active policy about Safeguarding people who might be vulnerable in a Church setting.

I have been the Safeguarding Co-ordinator for more years than I can remember! My role is to support and advise the Minister, Session and Board if they are faced with concerns about anyone in the church, children or adults, particularly if the person is perhaps at risk of abuse. That could be physical or sexual abuse or perhaps a vulnerable person being exploited by someone else financially.

The Safeguarding Team at 121 have developed a range of training courses that ALL SESSION AND BOARD MEMBERS need to participate in.

In the future Board and Session members will be Trustees and they will have responsibilities in relation to safeguarding people within the Church. This does not mean they would have any investigative role, as my task would be to listen to concerns discuss with the Minister and another Trustee and if necessary pass on information or concerns to the statutory agencies.

I hope that the trustee training will help people to feel more confident about safeguarding, and everyone needs to know they will not be expected to carry responsibilities on their own.

ANNE BLACK SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR



THANK YOU FROM CASTLEVIEW SCHOOL...

Hello Susan,

From all at Castleview can you please pass on a massive thank you to all members of the Reid Memorial church.

We are blown away by the generous food and toy donations that have now gone to a number of our families to help make this time of year a little bit more special for them. These families are very grateful and we could not do this without this invaluable support.

From everyone at Castleview thank you once again and we wish all health and happiness for 2024.

*Kindest regards, **Katie Maxwell***

Acting Headteacher, Castleview Primary School

[Sent to Susan Mackay, December last year]

GEORGIA ON MY MIND...

Did you know there's another Reid Memorial church, in Augusta, Georgia?

Check out *their website* and you might find a lot of similarities: slightly older than ours, it's a traditional community Presbyterian church with a large organ and weekly worship, with Communion once a month, dance lessons in the hall etc. and, like here, plenty of smiling faces 😊. They're on Facebook too: @reidmemorialchurch





**NO FAITH
IN FOSSIL
FUELS**

Myriad faith groups including TearFund, Christian Aid, The Salvation Army and Christian Climate Action have joined forces for the *No Faith in Fossil Fuels* Lent Vigil - a ten-day-and-night event, set to take place in Westminster, home of the UK Parliament. Christians from across the UK will be gathering from Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb, launching with a service at St Johns Church Waterloo at 2:30pm and closing with a service outside Downing Street. **Click here** for more details, and how to get involved from home.

FIVE TIPS

TO HELP YOU READ YOUR BIBLE...

Wanting to work reading the Bible into your daily routine? It's a great new year's resolution, but not always easy to keep up in practice. St Ninian's Church Stonehouse has some pointers:

Create a routine:

set aside a specific time each day for Bible reading to establish a consistent habit. Whether it's in the morning, during lunch, or before bed, having a designated time helps integrate reading into your daily life.

Use a study guide or plan:

explore Bible study guides or reading plans designed to provide structure and insights. These resources can help you navigate the content, understand its context, and reflect on its meaning.

Start with short sessions:

begin with manageable portions of the Bible, such as a chapter or a few verses, to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

Gradually increase the length as you become more comfortable and engaged with the text.

Join a study group:

sharing your reading journey with others can provide motivation and accountability. Joining a Bible study group to discuss passages with can help your understanding and make the experience more enjoyable.

Reflect & apply:

take time to reflect on what you've read and consider how it applies to your life. Journaling or discussing your thoughts with others can deepen your understanding and foster a meaningful connection with the Scriptures.



Southside Faith Care

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC052304



MEN'S GROUP

We are starting up something new.

We need your help to do that.

MEN TALK with men, for men

- meet new people, make new friends
- enjoy shared interests, and new ones
- enhance your health and wellbeing

Come along
Be part of it
Shape what happens



FRIDAYS, 10-12 NOON
STARTING: 12 JANUARY 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL: 07478 543510

FOLLOWED BY SOCIAL LUNCH AT PRESTONFIELD GOLF CLUB



The Lounge, Priestfield Church,
2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW

southsidefaithcare@gmail.com

www.southsidefaithcare.org.uk



UPDATE

FOODBANK HELP...

Edinburgh City Mission is running out of funds for the food bank; grants awarded a few years ago are steadily depleting.

Donations in support of this necessary work may be made in the following ways:

Contributions by bank transfer should be to: account name: *Community Church Edinburgh*, sort code: *802260*, account number: *10789765*, reference: *Foodbank* - this is essential.

Cheques can be sent to: *Community Church Edinburgh* (again essential that they are marked **FOODBANK**).

Kings Hall, 41a South Clerk St, Edinburgh EH8 9NZ.

ALEX

DAILY READINGS

Our friends at Liberton Kirk maintain a thoughtful and gentle daily Bible-reading page on their website. Updated automatically on your browser every day, you only need to visit once and keep the tab open, to access easily.



Image: 1853 engraving by Cibera. Credit - Alamy

Who was Saint Valentine?

We can't be sure quite who St. Valentine was, as we know of two Christian martyrs of this name who died in 3rd century Rome; while the Roman Catholic Church continues to recognise St. Valentine as a saint, the name was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 because of the lack of reliable information about him. He is the patron saint of lovers, people suffering from epilepsy, and beekeepers.

Some accounts hold that St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician, who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Claudius II Gothicus, about 270. He was buried on Rome's *Via Flaminia*, and Pope Julius I is said to >

> have built a basilica over his grave, but other accounts have him as the bishop of Terni, Italy - again martyred, also in Rome, whose relics were later taken to Terni. But it's possible these are versions of the same account, and refer to only one person.

Legend has it that Valentine signed a letter 'from your Valentine' to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness. Another common legend has it that he defied the Emperor Aurelius' orders and married couples secretly, in order to spare the husbands from having to go to war.

Again uncertain, but it is thought that a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375, *Parliament of Fowles*, was the first writing to link courtly love with the St. Valentine's feast day, which had existed after Valentine had been nominated by the Christian Emperor Constantine to replace the Pagan wolf-god Lupercus, whose feast had been celebrated in mid-February. Lupercus was prayed to by Pagan shepherds to protect their sheep, and his feast of thanksgiving had also become a celebration of fertility and the coming of Spring.

THE FINAL WORD...

We're all used to saying *Amen* at the end of a prayer - it can be almost like pressing *Send*. We often see it in agreement with a prayer, such as Comments in the Kirk's daily Facebook posts (see right). It's maybe a good idea to remember the word's original Hebrew meaning - think of it as an affirmative 'Definitely', 'Absolutely', 'I really mean this', or of course, as *The Message* contemporary Bible has it, 'Oh, Yes!'



IN THE FRAME...

The second of ReidOn... 's series of pictures by local art galleries: **The Stick Factory** on Mayfield Road is showing work by local artists, including painter John Nowak, whose acrylic, 'Cranberry' is pictured. Mike Usher, who runs the gallery, framing and gift shop is himself a painter. The gallery can be found on Instagram at www.instagram.com/stick_factory/



Southside Faith Care

Come in out of the cold to warm up and bide a wee while here...

...wrap your hands around a hot cuppa ... and enjoy... a bit of a blether here too



**drop
-in
TUESDAYS
1pm - 4pm**

We really look forward to seeing you!

**The Lounge
PRIESTFIELD CHURCH
2 Marchhall Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 5HW**

ALL WELCOME

www.southsidefaithcare.org
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC052304

NEWS FROM **MORNINGSIDE JUSTICE AND PEACE**

Every Wednesday morning, a talk and discussion on an issue of social justice. Why not come along? 10:30 - 11:30am. The Eltham Suite, The Eric Liddell Community. www.morningsidejandp.org £30 for the 10-week session or £3 when you attend.

BARBARA DARCY b.darcy20@gmail.com

7th Feb **Mike Wedderspoon**, Director of Strategic Engagement and Delivery, The Scottish National Investment Bank: *'The Scottish National Investment Bank - Investing with impact for social change.'*

14th Feb **Dr. Ben Coulson**, Lecturer in International Relations, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh: *'Are Russia, China, Iran, North Korea the new Anti-Western Axis?'*

21st Feb **Ruth Evans**, Advisor, Community Ownership Support Service, Community Ownership Development Trust Association. *'Community Ownership - how does that work?'*

28th Feb **Eurig Scandrett**, Senior Lecturer in Public Sociology at Queen Margaret University and Chair, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign: *'What next for the Palestinians?'*

6th Mar **Lindsay Beevers**, Professor of Environmental Engineering, University of Edinburgh: *'Flooding - causes, problems and solutions.'*

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be March 2024. Please send David any articles or notices by *23rd February* please. See page 2 for contact details.



REIDMEMORIAL
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

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