



REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2023

COVER IMAGE: some of the 111 beanie hats made by the Knit & Natter group, with wool donated in response to the appeal in June's ReidOn... [see page 5]. The hats have been donated to Castleview School.



CONTACT INFORMATION

MINISTER

REV. ALEX McASPURREN

AMcAspurren@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel. 667 1623

SESSION CLERK

ELIZABETH CLARK

ReidMemorial_SessionClerk@outlook.com Tel: 667 6705

ROLL KEEPER

LINDA FARRER

Tel: 667 5129

CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL

ANSWERPHONE IN OPERATION

Tel: 662 1203

reid_memorial@outlook.com

ELDER IN CHARGE OF COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS

ELIZABETH CLARK

maretaclark@btinternet.com Tel: 667 6705

SUNDAY DUTY ROSTER

SHEILA CAPEWELL

TREASURER

JUDITH SMEATON

Tel: 662 0149

Treasurer_ReidMemorial@outlook.com

MAGAZINE EDITOR

DAVID WHITE

Tel: 667 8665

reidon.editor@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Dr MARTYN STRACHAN

Tel: 339 3217

martynpaul1959@gmail.com

HALL BOOKINGS

JOYCE ROSIE

Tel: 667 2527

joycerosie05@blueyonder.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

ANNE BLACK

Tel: 447 4149

anneblack2@btinternet.com

CLERK TO THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

SUSAN MACKAY

Tel: 667 0910

crmackay@aol.com

ORDER OF SERVICE AND INTIMATIONS

DAVID WHITE

reid_memorial@outlook.com, by Wednesday morning please.

FACEBOOK

@REIDMEMORIAL [Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh]



DEAR FRIENDS...

A channel of peace? Have you ever cried out for peace? I don't mean peace in a global sense, but that time of stillness and silence that we all need in our daily life. Those of us who are parents probably cried out this way on a regular basis. But

did our parents need to demand peace from us? Peace is one of those intangible gifts that Jesus promised to his disciples. He said that he would leave his peace, '... such as the world cannot give.' It is a quote often heard at funerals, but its application is wider. One of the gospel readings for September, though, speaks not of peace but of forgiveness. It tells of the slave who is forgiven by his master for having accumulated much debt; what was owed was cancelled. Yet the same slave goes out to one who owes him a little and treats him with cruelty rather than mercy. The master, on finding out, chastises the first slave and throws him in prison. So, what has forgiveness to do with peace?

There are times when we need to learn forgiveness before we may know peace. A few days before I wrote this, I heard on the radio a brief article on 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland. It spoke of the work done to uncover the truth of all that happened during those years. The journalist told of those who wanted to hide what was done, wanting to keep their past and their guilt hidden. Also spoken of were the people who simply wanted answers; they wanted to know the truth about their loved ones. They wanted to know so that they could complete the story and be healed. Some, a

minority, also offered forgiveness to those who had robbed them of their loved ones. What struck me was that it was those who offered genuine forgiveness that seemed to convey the greatest sense of peace. It was a peace that transcended a lack of noise or violence. It was a peace that seemed to offer strength to carry on and live. It was a peace such as the world could not give.

The well-known song, based upon the words of a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, calls us to seek to be channels of peace. It asks us to be those who seek to understand rather than be understood. Such is a truly difficult task to fulfil. We would rather be heard, and we would rather have our own way, grudges and vengeance included. It's part of being human. But can we, instead, lean on Jesus and be bearers of that peace which can only come from him?

YOURS IN CHRIST, **ALEX**

UPCOMING SERVICES...

Led by Rev Alex McAspurren unless otherwise intimated

1st Oct 11:15am **MORNING WORSHIP** led by Linda Farrer

8th Oct 11:15am **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Donations for the Basics Bank are appreciated.

15th Oct 11:15am **SERVICE OF INFANT BLESSING**

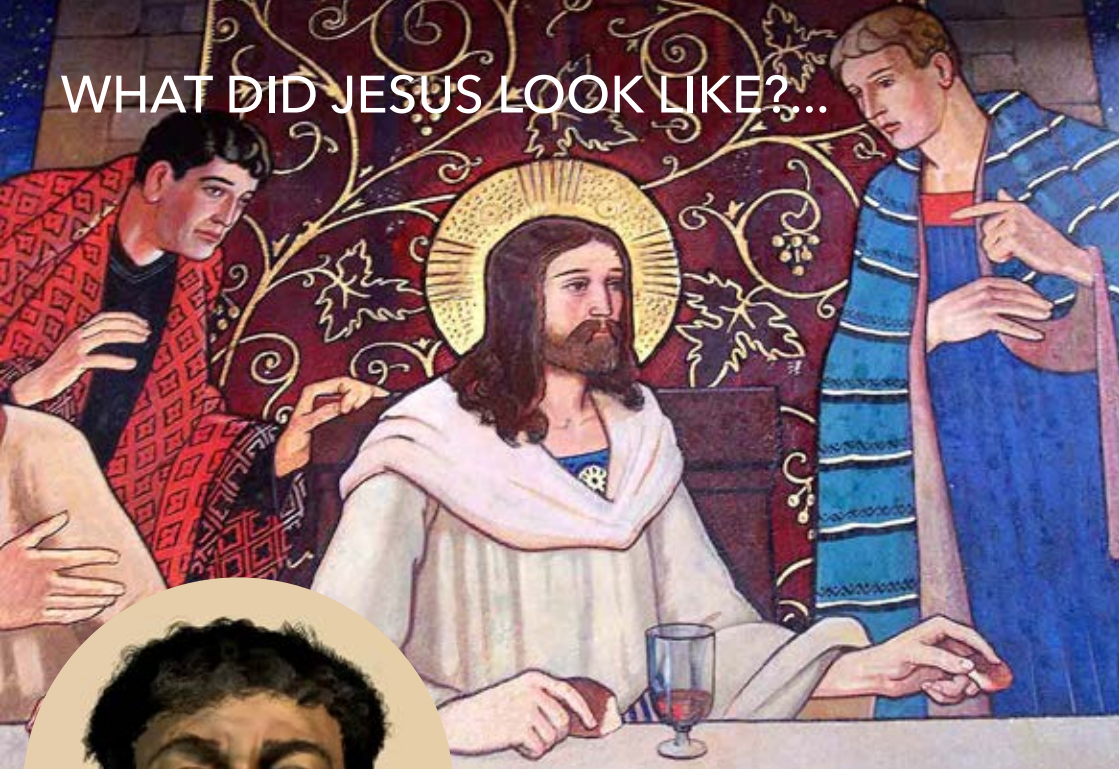
22nd Oct 11:15am **MORNING WORSHIP**

29th Oct 11:15am **MORNING WORSHIP**

5th Nov 11:15am **MORNING WORSHIP**

12th Nov 11:15am **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

WHAT DID JESUS LOOK LIKE?...



If you follow our Facebook page [and if you don't, please do - see page 2] you'll have seen recent comments in response to the Reid's altarpiece [*above*], about how Jesus looked. It's an interesting, if speculative, subject, covered by this BBC web article [*click here*], which includes the model [*upper left*] created by anthropologist Richard Neave of a possible Galilean man. The children at Sunday Club a few years back had fun with the negative image [*bottom left*]: try focusing on the wee dots in the centre of the image for several seconds, then look away and focus on a nearby white surface - see what you see!



THE REID'S STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Historic Environment Scotland contacted the minister early in July to ask for permission to photograph the Reid's stained-glass windows because 'they are concerned that the Reid Memorial will be one of the ones to be closed under the current Presbytery Mission Plan'.

Permission was readily given, and I met Mr Simon Green and a photographer on July 5th (Mr Green is the manager of the Buildings at Risk Survey Project, and an architectural historian, with an interest in the Arts and Crafts movement.) >

> I showed him over the original parts of the Reid (the church itself, the cloister area, the small hall, and the turret room.) It was pleasant to hear his professional appreciation of aspects of the Reid , and he was also delighted to find a large, framed picture of various aspects/elevations of the Reid in the Turret Room.

All of Reid Memorial's stained-glass windows were photographed internally that day, and photographed externally the following day. HES, at this stage , is interested only in the founding and opening of the Reid Memorial.

With the Board's consent, I will offer HES a copy of what is (I think) the original descriptive pamphlet, a copy of the leaflet describing the stained-glass windows and the carvings, and a copy of the photograph of the Ministers who attended the dedication of the Reid Memorial (18 in all!) but I shall point out the inaccuracy of the dating in the caption. I will pass on any information /response I get from HES.

ELIZABETH CLARK (SESSION CLERK)



Cellist Joanna Stark plays a specially-dedicated piece by Edinburgh composer Tree Burton at Craigsbank church on Doors Open Day, 25th Sept. The seven-minute piece was repeated throughout the Day, while the church welcomed visitors. Completed in 1966, like the Reid it is one of the most beautiful in Edinburgh.

MEET MURIEL...

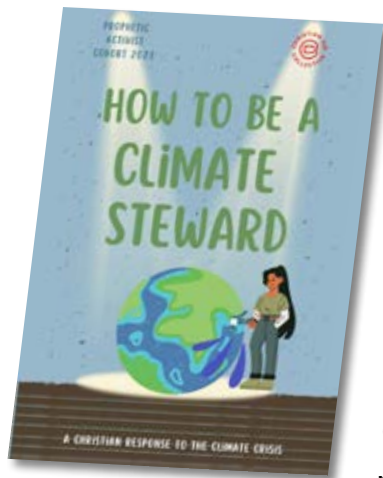


MURIEL PEARSON is the current **Church of Scotland Mission Partner for Israel and Palestine**. The Reid's World Church Committee has corresponded with her and supports her work, alongside the work of Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, Mission Partner for Edinburgh.

Following a career in teaching, Muriel was a parish Minister in Cranhill in Glasgow, and is now Associate Minister in St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias. You can read all about her work on her website [[click here](#)] and the bulletins she posts on the Church of Scotland's website [[click here](#)].

She is developing a Galilee Garden as a place for reflection in the grounds of St Andrew's, and updating the Museum/Visitors' Centre, telling the story of the Christian presence there, and working with people of peace across Israel and occupied Palestine.

From Sunday 8th October we will be joined weekly by **ANDREW CARTER**, a minister in training. This is Andrew's first training attachment, and he will be working with us part-time until after Easter. A brief biography will appear in the next edition of *ReidOn...*



CHRISTIAN AID SAYS 'MAKE THE POLLUTERS PAY' ...

On Wednesday 21st Sept, I attended a Christian Aid Scotland drop-in event

where local representatives, organisers and supporters met and enjoyed an online meeting with Christian Aid's UK Executive Officer, Patrick Watt. The timing of this was particularly apposite, coming the day after

the Prime Minister signalled his government's reversal of several Climate Emergency-related policies - a move of concern both to the charity and many who care about the planet's future. On that note, Christian Aid has just launched its *#makepolluterspay* campaign, saying, 'The climate crisis is causing devastation to people's lives. Meanwhile polluters continue to profit while communities pay the price.' It's calling on supporters to ask their MPs and MSPs to support it by writing to them or tagging them in social media posts, (which is how come they photographed me). More information and template letters are available here. They've also prepared a document (above), *How to be a Climate Steward*, available from their website [*click here*], which can help us find ways as Christians of protecting creation and each other in the Emergency.

DAVID WHITE WORLD
CHURCH COMMITTEE





UPDATE

NEWINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER (NCT) FOODBANK +...

We are no longer receiving as much food from Faithshare as before, because the supermarkets have less surplus. However our numbers are increasing again and we are beginning to run short of several items. If you could donate at least one or two of these, it would be greatly appreciated:

Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo.

Tinned: soup, meat, fruit, custard, rice pudding.

Pasta, Rice, Breakfast Cereals

If you would prefer to give a monetary donation I can accept this (in a sealed envelope) at the church, or online through Edinburgh City Mission - ref. *Newington Foodbank* +. Many thanks for all your support. Please continue to pray for the service users and helpers at this time.

ALISON MACLEOD

PRESBYTERY REPORT...

I thought that it would be of interest to the congregation to know what goes on at Presbytery meetings. I've highlighted some items that were discussed and agreed this year, that's not to say that the subjects that I've chosen to leave out are of less importance. If you'd like more details on any of the items below, please get in touch with me. The Presbytery meetings are open to all, so information can be shared.

Since the Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) was agreed in April 2023, eight ministers have demitted their charge: five are in Edinburgh and 3 in West Lothian. Some have retired, others are taking up posts elsewhere and one has left the ministry.

Five unions have been agreed by Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery (EWLP). All of the unions had two churches involved, all were vacant charges, and each union has been granted permission to call a minister. Three of the unions are in Edinburgh and two in West Lothian.

A report was presented by Rev Stewart Weaver, Convenor of the Deployment Group, that offered clarification on some issues around the implementation of the PMP.

- **Local Guidance:** notes on guidance for unions have been supplied by the national church.
- **Review of Reviewable Charges:** there are 13 Reviewable Charges in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. As the process of PMP implementation unfolds, reviews of these charges will be undertaken in order to ensure that the Presbytery Mission Plan is fully implemented.
- **Adjustments and Congregations:** documents for every union >

> need to be drawn up, discussed, and agreed. This process requires input from Kirk Sessions, congregations, steering groups, Deployment, and bodies in the national church. This process requires a significant amount of time and effort.

- **Amendments to the Plan:** at the annual development and evaluation review, the national bodies will look at the approved Presbytery Mission Plan in order to assess the progress of implementation and any necessary recalibrations. There may be opportunity for adjustments. This necessitates the full process of discussion and approval. It will therefore not be done lightly.

At the meeting on 12th September 2023, Rev Ken Brown spoke of his role as Mission Co-ordinator for EWLP. He is keen to engage with congregations to develop mission ideas and share best practice.

We were informed that there had been an increase in the number of permissions sought for the sale of manses. Many do not meet standards for energy efficiency, and water and wind-tight criteria. In some cases, it is considered simpler and cheaper to sell the old manses and buy new. Some are no longer required due to unions.

LINDA FARRER PRESBYTERY ELDER

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN UPDATE

Since our last edition there has been no further formal update to our place in the Plan. That does not mean that nothing has been done. At the time of writing, initial drafts of the revised versions of the Basis of Union, and Basis of Team Ministry have been prepared and sent to the central offices for comment. As things develop, we will keep you all informed.



Thank you to Natalie Homer for sending this photo, taken on 24th Sept, of the aurora, visible in the western sky, to the right of the Reid. Natalie leads the 85th Braid Scouts, who help us at coffee mornings and fairs.

UPDATE



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL...

Just a wee reminder for those of you who might like to participate in the Shoebox Appeal this year [see ReidOn... last month].

Filled boxes can be handed in:

- to the church on Sunday 29 Oct. & 5 Nov.
- to Blythswood Care, 47 Southhouse Broadway EH17 8AS
4 Oct - 4 Nov on Mon, Tues and Thurs - 10am-1pm
- to Barclay Viewforth Church from Mon 6th - Weds 8th Nov
between 9am and 4pm.

Remember to fill in the tear-off checklist ticking all the items you have included and Gift Aid any donation before attaching it to the front of your average-sized covered shoebox. Copies of *Blythswood News* are available on tables in church and the Welcome Table, where you can read about last year's Appeal.

ALISON MACLEOD



REMINDER OF EVACUATION PROCEDURE...

We have a Fire Safety risk assessment with an evacuation procedure in place. We are required to perform Fire Safety drills. The people on door duty will be available to guide and assist, if required.

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- Fire marshall tabards are available for door duty people
- The organist will summon the emergency services
- Evacuate the building using the closest exit to you
- Assemble at 119 West Savile Terrace at the opposite side of the road to the church
- The people on door duty will be available to assist
- Four exits from the Main Sanctuary, two at the north side and two at the south side
- There are several other exits in the corridors and halls, and you should make yourself aware of them
- Fire extinguishers throughout the buildings are mainly situated close to the exits.

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be November. Send David any articles or notices by *20th October* please. See page 2 for contact details.



REIDMEMORIAL
CHURCH • EDINBURGH

WWW.REIDMEMORIAL.ORG.UK
CHARITY No. SC014027 CCLI No. 1200303