

THE PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Issue 2 . August / September 2024 . Distributed free



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UPDATES AND INFORMATION

• CLUBS AND GROUPS •
THE LITERARY SOCIETY • GREEN STROLLERS
COLINTON GARDEN CLUB • GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

• THE SWING CAFÉ •
OPEN TO ALL

• BLYTHSWOOD CARE •
2024 SHOE BOX APPEAL



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Rev. Matthew Ross

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Website

Please note a new website is
under construction

THE PARISH PUBLICATION

Magazine Editor

Kath Hay

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If you would like to submit an article for consideration for inclusion in the magazine, please provide an unformatted Word document (**not** a PDF) together with hi-resolution JPEG image(s) which should be attached separately

Article: 500 words max

Notice: 150 words max

**Deadline for the
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Articles can be sent to the Editor at the email address above, or contact the Church Office Please note that all articles are subject to editing.

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WELCOME to the summer issue of the magazine for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish.

And I think it might be time to get your diaries out, as there are a large number of events coming up during August and September. Our community is lucky to have so many societies and groups organising outings, meetings and talks. For example, the Colinton Literary Society is thrilled that one of their Guest Speakers for their Autumn session is Sir Alexander McCall Smith.

Edinburgh's many festivals are now underway and I was more than intrigued to learn about superb music and poetry

events happening as part of the Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts, taking place from 11th to 17th August.

We now have a new Church Officer for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish and there are some photographs, plus background information, on a special gathering to commemorate Norwegian Day. Also, a Summer Solstice Street Party raised money for Médecins Sans Frontières and a lovely poem can be found on page 11.

I do hope you will find time to sit back and enjoy reading all our articles.

Felice, Editrice



Kath Hay
Editor

GREETINGS FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTERS



Greetings in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope that you are having a good summer.

As we write, Matthew and his family are on a working holiday in Switzerland, looking after the Church of Scotland congregation in Geneva and Susan has been dealing with the services at both Colinton and Juniper Green churches.

The united congregation of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church is now fully operational, with a single Kirk Session. We give thanks for the Christian witness of Colinton Parish Church and Juniper Green Parish Church across many years. Far from being consigned to history or merely being a legacy, the work



and witness of both congregations form a solid basis for the future. Culture and current events are transient, but we are called to have confidence in the everlasting and constant presence of God:

“Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.” (Isaiah 55:13)

In the coming weeks and months, a Nominating Committee will be formed to propose a nominee to be your new Minister. Please do give prayerful consideration to serving on it. Discerning the right person to be your new Minister will be an important task for the future of this



newly united congregation and the Christian witness to the parish. Both of us can see huge potential but are aware of the challenges that face the new Minister - particularly in reaching out to young people.

Many thanks to everyone who helps with activities in the Church, in all the different ways that you do. If you can help with teas or coffees on a Sunday, volunteering at The Swing Café at Colinton, taking part in Messy Church or anything else, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

***We wish you God's blessings,
Rev. Susan Galloway and
Rev. Matthew Ross
Locum Ministers***

The Union of Colinton and Juniper Green churches came into effect on 1st July 2024, with the new name Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church of Scotland.

Rev. Matthew Ross, who has been the Locum Minister at Colinton, and Rev. Susan Galloway, who has been Locum Minister at Juniper Green, are continuing to work with us. The Rev. Ian MacDonald, Minister at Holy Trinity Wester Hailes, has been appointed as Interim Moderator of our new Kirk Session with effect from 1st August. The first meeting of the new Kirk Session will be held on 13th August when office-bearers will be appointed and we will agree on the various committees of the Kirk Session.

Ian MacDonald will remain our Interim Moderator until we recruit a new permanent

UPDATE ON THE UNION OF COLINTON AND JUNIPER GREEN



IAN MORRISON

Minister. A Vacancy Advisory Committee has also been appointed by the Presbytery. The new Kirk Session will need to meet that committee, prior to progressing with other activities relating to the vacancy.

Both congregations have adjusted well to the new church service times. Services at Colinton take place at 9:45am each Sunday (except the last Sunday of even numbered months) and services at Juniper Green are at 11:15am each Sunday (except the last Sunday of odd numbered months). There are joint services on the last Sunday of each month. On odd-numbered months this will be at Colinton with a 9:45am start, and on even-numbered months at Juniper Green with an 11:15am start.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

MUSINGS *GEMMA KING*

I wonder what events, if any, you are planning on going to during Edinburgh Festivals in August. Maybe you already have a huge list in hand and lots of tickets booked - or maybe you are planning on avoiding the city centre entirely.

This year I will, once again, be working as a steward at the Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts. This is a small sub-festival which will run from Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th August. There will be music, poetry, architecture, visual art, dance and film events in seven different churches in the city centre. All these events engage with sacred or religious

themes and offer space for reflection on God and religion.

One event I am particularly looking forward to is the launch of *Scottish Religious Poetry from the Sixth Century to the Present* - edited by my doctoral supervisors, Alison Jack and Linden Bicket, along with one of their colleagues and Gaelic specialist, Emma Dymock. This is an updated edition of a book which was published about twenty years ago by the poets Meg Bateman, Robert Crawford, and James McGonigal. It is a wonderful collection of poems which demonstrate the richness and diversity of the Scottish religious experience.

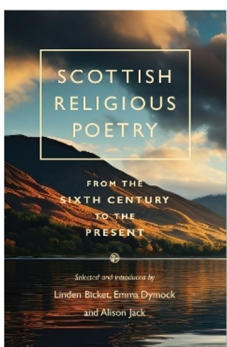
I really enjoyed hearing some of them being read aloud at the first launch reception, held in July. There is something about hearing poetry read aloud that makes it come alive. Christine de Luca, one of the poets featured in



Gemma King

the anthology, also has her own event taking place during the Festival called *Refuge and the Road Home*. This is a really beautiful combination of poetry and flute music. To see what's on in this Festival go to:

www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org/festival-2024-programme.html



WELCOME to the new Church Officer for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish

Following interviews with candidates applying for the post of Church Officer, we are pleased to announce that **Hugh McCreadie** has been appointed as our

new Church Officer. Hugh will be joining us on Tuesday 20th August. In view of the Union with Juniper Green, the role of the Church Officer has been slightly amended from that of the role previously filled by Alasdair Mackenzie, and will now include activities taking place at Juniper Green Church.

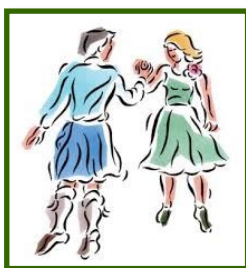


COLINTON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Come and join us in some lively Scottish country dancing this Autumn. We have superb music, an excellent teacher and lots of fun! The Autumn session will begin on Thursday 12th September and continue every fortnight, finishing on 5th December when we hold our party. We meet in St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, from 7:45pm - 9:15pm. The cost is £5.00 per night and you just pay on arrival.

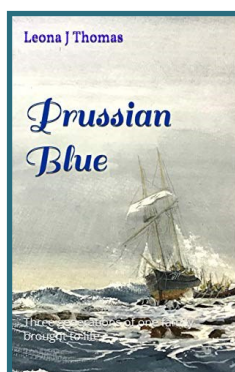
Come on your own, or with a partner, and you'll be made very welcome - we're a very friendly bunch.

For more information, please contact us on 07751 186 359 or 07483 814 988



LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After a busy session, the Badminton Group is taking a summer break and will re-start on 18th September. We meet on Wednesdays at 10am in the Juniper Green Church Hall and play for fun. We also include a short break for coffee and a chat. New players are always welcome and if anyone would like further information, contact Linda Sharp on 0131 453 4985.



CHRISTMAS 2024 is coming

Oh no it's not
Oh yes it is!!

It may be August, but Christmas is only 20 weeks away and it is time to look out your shoeboxes as we will once again be supporting the

**Blythswood Care
2024 Shoe Box Appeal**



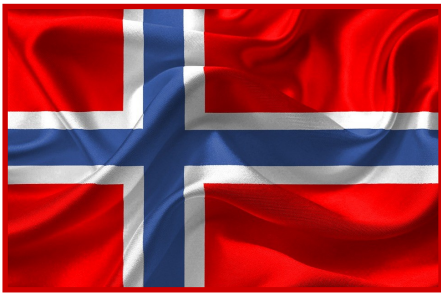
Details of the appeal will be publicised in due course but to get things started, a knitting group is meeting during the summer to knit scarves, which will go into the boxes. The group will meet every other Thursday at 2pm in Hall 3, Juniper Green Church, beginning on 8th August, then 22nd August. All are welcome to come along to the hall, so bring size 8 needles and some double-knitting wool and a very easy pattern will be provided. Or, if preferred, you can knit at home.

For further information please contact
Margaret Woodrow on 07982 463455
or Irene Falla on 0131 441 2792

GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

A warm welcome awaits you on Thursday 5th September at 2pm in Hall 2 at Juniper Green Church. The Guild meets each fortnight. Do come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship, friendship and fun. Our programme is very varied and, of course, includes a cup of tea. On 5th September, Leona Thomas will be telling us about her novel, *Prussian Blue*. We look forward to seeing members, friends and visitors at the start of the session. If you would like further information, please contact Margaret Woodrow on 07982 463455.

A CELEBRATION OF NORWEGIAN DAY



Earlier this year, a gathering took place in Colinton churchyard in celebration of Norwegian Day.

In 1812, Norway gained independence from Denmark and a new Constitution was signed on 17th May that year. However, there was an on-going link with Sweden which lasted until 1904. These days, Norwegians celebrate each year with children's parades and parties, as well as brass bands and music.

The photographs below show those who attended a special gathering in Colinton and include the Consul General of Norway, Mona Rhone (the lady in the costume standing beside Rev. Matthew Ross); Professor Julian Jones, Honorary Consul General; Elaine Edwards from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and War Graves researcher, Beverley Thom.



Images: Morag Hay



Thank You!

Thank you to the Kirk Session and Congregation of the former Juniper Green Parish Church for the generous vouchers and patio rose given to me on my final day as the church's Operations Administrator. It is very much the end of an era for me, having been, firstly, in the role of Church Secretary from 2006 – 2012 and then the Operations Administrator and Secretary from 2014 – 2024. The Rev. Susan Galloway said some very kind words about the work I did, but it has been a team effort!



I am only leaving paid employment though and, for the time being, will remain an Elder and the Property Convener for the Juniper Green buildings. I am also on the Communications Team for the new congregation. If you would like to be part of the Property Team for JG buildings or the Communications Team, please get in touch!

Thanks again - Alison

alison.m.robertson@gmail.com

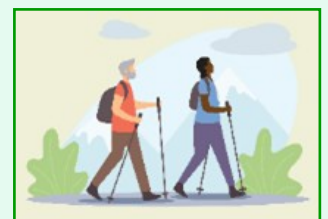
THE GREEN STROLLERS

On 18th June a group of Strollers met at Juniper Green Church and walked to The Swing Café in Colinton, where a snack lunch was enjoyed, before heading home. The weather since then has had quite an impact on our activities, with two walks having to be cancelled.

Our next walk will be on Thursday 1st August, at which time we hope for clear skies and sunshine. Details of this walk and others will be given prior to the walks and also in the intimations.

Future dates for your diary are:

- 23rd August
- 14th September
- 6th October
- 21st October
- 12th November
- 4th December



*Keep Strolling!
Jeanette*



The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

After a very successful Winter season, the Colinton Literary Society is preparing for a new series of talks, which will start on 16th October and continue on Wednesday evenings until Spring 2025.

We are looking forward to presenting an exciting and varied programme, which has something for everyone. As you would expect, there are a number of literary talks and we are very excited to announce that on 6th November, well-known author, **Sir Alexander McCall Smith**, will talk about the influence that location has on the writing of his books. Kellan MacInnes will speak on his book *The Wild Swimmer of Kintail* and at the end of our season, Hanna Dyka will talk about Ukraine's poet **Pavlo Tychyna** and his Scottish connections. There is also plenty for people interested in history. The

Scottish Enlightenment is the subject of the talk by Professor David Purdie, while Donald Smith celebrates the 900th Anniversary of the establishment of the city of Edinburgh as a burgh. Other Guest Speakers will cover topics such as the harrowing story of the Gallipoli conflict; cultural and political issues; descriptions of some fascinating royal letters; the causes and consequences of the Scottish Reformation; the work of renowned artist Phoebe Anna Traquair; the history of Edinburgh's theatres; Scotland's changing landscapes.

There will also be three musical evenings - one from the *Glencairn Ensemble*, a second from the *Dovecot Singers* which will focus on Robert Burns, and the third from David Lyle and soloists presenting Gilbert and Sullivan's opera, *Trial by Jury*.

The Autumn programme starts on 16th October 2024 and events will take place every Wednesday evening until the 27th November. The Spring 2025



Sir Alexander McCall Smith

programme will run from 15th January to 5th March.

We meet in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, Edinburgh, EH13 0DE. Tea, coffee and wine is served from 7:30pm, with the talk starting at 8pm. Tickets are £3 at the door or £15 for a whole winter of talks (cash or cheque payments only). Now there's a bargain! We look forward to seeing you later this year.

Colin Fischbacher
Programme Co-ordinator



MESSY CHURCH ASKS "WHO IS GOD?"

Messy Church will return after the summer break on Saturday 7th September, when we will ask two very big questions **Who is God?** and **What is God like?**

To help us to answer these questions, we will think about God as our Creator as we make something out of clay, think of God as the light in the dark-

ness as we paint, and remember that He holds the whole world in his hands as we sing.

Did you know that the Nile crocodile has the most powerful bite of the animal kingdom and yet it has tiny bumps along its jaw line which are more sensitive than human fingertips? In the same way, God can be all powerful but is also very gentle and we will find out more as we also learn all about crocodiles.

Please do come and join us in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, (pictured on the right), from 2:30pm - 4pm, for crafts, games, music, lots of fun and

refreshments, as we find out more about who God is and what He means to us.

If you would like to be there, please sign up by e-mailing: church.office@colinton-parish.com or you can scan the QR code below. Remember children - you must bring an adult with you!

If you cannot come in September, do join us on the first Saturday of the month: 5th October, 2nd November or 7th December. We very much look forward to meeting you!

Alison Downie



SCAN ME

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB



Pictured above are Members of Colinton Garden Club at the Malleny Gardens Plant Fair, which was held on 29th July. The team was busy giving out information about the Club and chatting to a lot of people. Such a lovely day.

Garden Club meetings are held in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, at 8pm on Mondays. **New members are always welcome.**

Website: www.colintongardens.org.uk

Riccarton House visit in June, pictured right. Images by Editrice

Programme 2024/2025

- 23rd September Peter Hart of Kirklands Garden, Fife
- 5th October Plant Sale
- 28th October Lynn & Keith Young: Flowers of the Swiss Alps
- 25th November Kath Hay: The Rise of Rhubarb
- 9th December Christmas Party
- 27th January Dick Alderson: Dalgety Bay Community Woodland
- 24th February Members' Evening: Presentations from Richard Ennos, David Bryce and Cliff Dalley
- 24th March Kevin Frediani: University of Dundee Botanic Gardens
- 28th April AGM and Crafts Competition



the colinton & merchiston community choir

Our Community Choir continues to thrive. The eight Summer Sessions held in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Colinton, were a great success, with 66 people signing up for this new venture. With our inspiring **Director of Music, Tim Coleman**, and well-known **Accompanist, Morley Whitehead**, we had great fun learning a variety of classical, popular and folk songs, with a break each evening for tea, coffee and biscuits. We then ended with a little concert for family and friends. It was all most enjoyable and we have had very positive feedback.

OPEN REHEARSAL MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

We are a non-auditioning Community Choir and all are welcome to join us for an open rehearsal at the start of our new term on Monday 9th September in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School, at 7pm for 7:15pm start. No previous experience of choral singing is required and there is no pressure to join

the choir. We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall until 9pm - but it is not a problem if you can't be there for 7:15pm or have to leave a little early.

The choir has a mixed range of ages and runs social events so that we can all get to know each other better and make all new members welcome.

Our **Christmas Concert** this year will be held on **9th December** in the Memorial Hall. We will be singing the delightful ***A Light in the Stable*** by Alan Bullard, which tells the Christmas Story through a blend of original settings and well-known carols. We will also sing other carols with audience participation. Please do save the date and note that yes, it is on a Monday evening.

As always, we thank Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall and access to their Music Library.

For more information about our choir and directions to the Memorial Hall, or if you wish to contact us, please consult our website:

www.colintonchoir.org

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

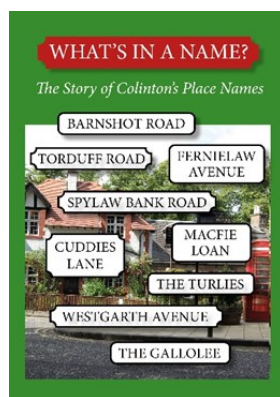
Although our next meetings do not start until Monday 7th October, we have had a busy spring - and what we loosely call summer! John Rees has been working on our new and improved website, which will soon be completed with much more information about our Society and its activities.

On our archive front, we are continually updating it with new materials donated by local residents. In-fact, writer Lynne Gladstone-Millar has very kindly donated a considerable amount of material on the WW1 training trenches in Dreghorn Woods, which, as you may remember, she was instrumental in having Historic Environment Scotland (HES) designate as a Scheduled Monument.

Some members of the Society have also been researching the



origin of our place and street names with a view to publishing a book. You may remember our first publication which was titled *Colinton Characters* (still for sale in the Post Office). Well, stand by for our second one! Do you want to know more about our area and old Estates? Do you know the



origin of your street name? If not, you can find out soon. Yes, we are about to go to print and the book will be available soon, both in local shops and via Amazon. Of course we will also have the book for sale at *Art in the Park*, which will take place on the 31st August, or the 7th September, depending on the weather.

Liz Windle has arranged our programme of Guest Speakers. Our next session starts on the 7th October when Bruce Keith will be talking about *Scotland beneath the Surface*. And for something completely different, one of our members will present a talk, in Colinton Library, about *Bletchley Park* the important WW2 code-breaking centre. If you are interested, please come along as we think you will be surprised. The date is yet to be arranged - but watch out for the announcement!

Derek Douglas
Archivist,
Colinton Local History Society

**The 5th Redford Loan
Summer Solstice Street Party
raised almost £700 for
Médecins Sans Frontières.
Well done everyone!**



RESOURCES AND EVENTS TO INCLUDE DISABLED PEOPLE

There's lots on offer to support Christians in Scotland who are disabled and to help churches in Scotland include disabled people! Here is a selection for you.



Scottish Churches Disability Group (SCDG)

A Scottish charity that shares information on its Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ScottishChurchsDisabilityGroup/ including photos like the one above, which is in a wheelchair-accessible church garden in Edinburgh. They also publish a newsletter every couple of months. Their current newsletter features an article about spiritual care in care homes and invites readers to respond to three questions. If you are interested in doing this, please contact the newsletter editor, Barbara Graham: barbara.graham74@btinternet.com

Through the Roof

A UK charity supporting people in local churches who want to help their churches to include disabled people. The disability inclusion champions in Edinburgh and the Lothians (called 'Roofbreakers') meet a few times a year to support each other. For details please visit <https://throughtheroof.org/stores/edinburgh-and-the-lothians-roofbreakers-network/>

Through the Roof also runs a Disability Awareness Sunday each year, at which the Colinton congregation took part last year. It will be held on 22nd September this year and will help local churches to find out about disability and how to include disabled people. To support local churches, Through the Roof is offering a free resource pack and postcards. You can request these at: throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/



Prospects Across Scotland

A Scottish charity which supports Christian adults with learning disabilities

and helps local churches to include them. They run a faith activity group in Edinburgh for those adults with learning disabilities. For details please visit:

www.cce.community/what-we-do/beyond/prospects/

Autism awareness training is also provided via Zoom. The next group meeting is on 20th August in the evening. For details please visit:

www.eventbrite.com/e/autism-in-the-church-family-tickets-936474449287. To see what else Prospects Across Scotland offers, please visit: www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk

Torch Trust

A UK charity which supports Christians with sight loss and helps churches to include them. There is a fellowship group in Edinburgh. For details please visit: torchtrust.org/living-with-sight-loss/torch-fellowship-groups/

A new podcast called 'Walking by Faith' is being launched and will run during the summer. It will explore what God's love means to people who have lost their sight, and the practical things that have supported them in their faith journey. It will be available at: torchtrust.org/living-with-sight-loss/radio-podcasts/

They also run an annual Sight Loss Sunday, which will be held on 13th October this year. For resources, including prayer points, please visit: torchtrust.org/sight-loss-friendly-church/sight-loss-sunday

Music Sessions for adults with learning disabilities

Graeme McDonald, a community musician, runs music sessions in Edinburgh for adults with learning disabilities. Until September, the sessions take place on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am to 12noon at St James Church, 11a John's Place, Leith EH6 7EL. Each session costs £7. For further details please contact Graeme at: graememcdonald@gmail.com or by phone on 07310 064 474.

Signs of God

A UK charity which supports Christians who



use British Sign Language (BSL) and promotes the use of BSL in Christian settings. People in local churches are trained to learn Christian signs in BSL. Churches can request a workshop by contacting Signs of God via their website:

www.signsofgod.org.uk/contactus



Open Ears

A UK charity which provides fellowship for people who have hearing loss and anyone else who is sympathetic to the needs of those people. A prayer calendar is produced each year. If you would like to use it, please visit:

www.openears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Prayer-Calendar.pdf

You are also welcome to contact Open Ears and you can find out more on their website at:

www.openears.org.uk/contact/

Morningside Hope

A project run by Morningside Parish Church for people with dementia and their carers. It consists of music sessions, art workshops, exercise classes, games afternoons and dementia friendly concerts. Spaces are currently available for people who are interested in these activities. There are also two



concerts taking place during September. The first is a piano recital on 1st September, from 2pm-3pm. The second is a Santiago Pilgrimage Concert on 14th September, from 2pm-3pm. All the Morningside Hope activities, including the concerts, take place at Morningside Parish Church on Braid Road/Cluny Gardens, EH10 6BQ. For

further details of any of the Morningside Hope activities, please contact the Morningside Parish Church's Pastoral Assistant, Jacqui Lindsay, on 07834 364 628 or by email on pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

PARISH REGISTER

Celebration

Isabel and Gordon Campbell are both celebrating their 90th birthdays this summer

Baptism

Poppy Elizabeth Deeming
June 16th

Funeral

Doris Alexander (known as Sandy)
4th June, aged 96

Chris McBain
29th June, aged 99



OLD FRIENDS NEVER DIE

Dennis Seatter

I am now 90 years old and recently I have attended two events where, sadly, I was told that some friends were no longer with us. Back home and, looking through past correspondence, I found this poem (below) which had been given to me by a caring Aunt when I was going through a difficult time:

DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

Death is nothing at all. It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and
you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly
together is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes
that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it
always was. Let it be spoken without an effort,
without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am
out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near, just round the corner.

All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting
when we meet again!

Henry Scott-Holland
1847 - 1918

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