

# THE PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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## THE PARISH PUBLICATION

SESSION CLERK UPDATE AND INFORMATION

### CLUBS AND GROUPS

- THE GREEN STROLLERS • THE LITERARY SOCIETY •
- COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY • GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP •

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

- CHRISTIAN AID • CHAS • LOVE FROM JAMIE •
- BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL •



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Rev. Ian MacDonald

**Locum Minister**  
Rev. Matthew Ross

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**Website**  
A new Parish website is  
under construction

## THE PARISH PUBLICATION

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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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## CHURCH GROUPS

<b>Colinton Literary Society</b>	Colin Fischbacher
<b>Green Strollers</b>	Jeanette Campbell
<b>Guild of Friendship</b>	Margaret Woodrow
<b>Ladies Badminton Group</b>	Linda Sharp
<b>Leprosy Mission</b>	Rita Brownlie

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**KATH HAY**  
**EDITRICE**

**WELCOME to the festive edition of our magazine.**

We celebrate this special time with a Christmas Carol Service at Colinton Church and then Christmas in the Park returns to Spylaw Park, where Santa will make a special visit.

Alasdair Mackenzie has uncovered some very interesting facts about the Dreghorn Mausoleum, Rev. Matthew Ross explains the background to the new logo for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish

Church and Rev. Ian MacDonald talks about hopes and dreams at Advent.

There is no doubt that all our local community groups and societies have not only experienced a great start to their Winter sessions, but are also looking forward to more fascinating talks and events in the New Year.

I hope you can stay warm and also sit back to enjoy reading all our articles.



**Felice, Editrice**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ**

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

These words from Isaiah 9:6 were written many centuries before the birth of Jesus, in prophecy of his coming.

The message of peace that Jesus brings is both timeless and very timely, given current instability and conflicts around the world. As I write, the situations in Ukraine and Russia, and in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, remain unresolved. The cycle of death and destruction is utterly contrary to Jesus’ call for “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).

The birth of Jesus took place in a land which was riven with instability. The murderous commands of King Herod, the vassal king under the Roman occupation, contrast acutely with the message that Christ came into the world to proclaim. Jesus himself experienced refugee status, being taken by Mary and Joseph to safety in Egypt, prior to the death



**MATTHEW ROSS**

of Herod, before it was safe to travel back to Nazareth. The gold given by the Magi must have been vital in sustaining Jesus, Mary and Joseph during those years in Egypt, away from the income generated in the carpenter’s shop in Nazareth.

More than two thousand years on, the world is still not free of such hatred – but the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, proclaims a different and better way. I pray that this will guide and challenge thinking in 2025.

You are welcome to come to the Services during Christmas and Advent at Colinton and at

Juniper Green and Service times are listed on page five.

Between July 2023 and the summer of 2024, I worked part-time for the University of Glasgow. Should you be interested in reading the final report from the research project on which I was working, it is now available online at: <https://eprints.gla.ac.uk/334245/2/334245.pdf>

2025 will see the nomination and election of a new Minister for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. Please do think carefully and pray if you feel called to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please also pray for the important work of the Committee.

I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2025.

**Rev. Matthew Ross**  
**Locum Minister**







## SO LONG...FAREWELL...

the first time, with an equal amount of excitement and trepidation, but I need not have worried because, from the moment I stepped through the doors, I was welcomed by all of you and made to feel at home.

It was a real joy to be involved in *Walking Together* with Colinton and Juniper Green, on our shared journey to become Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. The many meetings and discussions were a wonderful opportunity to make friends and get to know one another. The gatherings allowed us to share fellowship and helped us to see that we shared more things in common than perhaps we realised. This paved the way for a strong and harmonious union of God's people.

It has been an enormous privilege and pleasure to lead worship and to serve as Locum Minister as Edinburgh Pentlands was inaugurated and began its mission and ministry. I enjoyed

leading worship and joint services in both beautiful church buildings.

Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement and also for your patience when perhaps my passion tended to let me get carried away and my prayers and sermons were longer than intended!

Thank you to all who organised such a fantastic send-off following my final service and to all those who attended. I was delighted, yet humbled, to see so many of you. Also, a most sincere 'thank you' from the bottom of my heart for your good wishes and your many gifts. I was very touched by your kindness and by your great generosity.

Now that I have taken my leave, I do not say 'goodbye', but wish all of you a very fond farewell. I look forward to the day when our paths cross again and, once more, I may join with all of you in fellowship and in worship.

*Thank you and may  
God bless you all*

*Rev. Susan Galloway*

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this I will have taken up my new post as Locum Minister at Currie Kirk.

However, I wanted to take this opportunity to bid farewell to everyone at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church and to say a most sincere and heartfelt 'thank you' to you all.

It is often said that time flies when you are enjoying yourself and I can certainly testify to that, as I have loved every moment of my time with you. I can barely believe that it has been two years since I arrived at Juniper Green for

## THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

In 2020, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland endorsed the Five Marks of Mission, agreeing that for the Church to be fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these five marks must be evidenced at local, regional and national levels. The Five Marks of Mission will be also used by the Presbytery in reviewing the ministry and the life of every congregation every five years. The Five Marks of Mission are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Where can we, as a congregation and as individuals, contribute to developing these aims? In looking ahead - and in conjunction with a new



Minister - Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church (and all congregations of the Church of Scotland) will need to engage with, and seek to promote, all five.

Have a close look at the new logo of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church (above). In addition to the Cross at the centre and a representation of the Pentland Hills in dark blue, there are five bright colours in the arc of the new logo. These five colours are linked to the **Five Marks of Mission**. May they inspire us in our Christian witness, outreach and service.

*Rev. Matthew Ross*



## FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Some points of interest from the Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Kirk Session meetings in October and November

### Electoral Roll

Prior to the election of the Nominating Committee to seek a new Minister, we need to finalise the Electoral Roll. This will comprise all those previously on the Colinton Roll, the Colinton Adherents Roll, the Juniper Green Roll, the Juniper Green Adherents Roll and the Juniper Green Supplementary Roll, together with any regular worshippers who complete applications to be added to the Adherents Roll as a result of the edicts read in Church on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November. At the time of writing, four people have been added as adherents and three more applications are in process.

### Vote on departure from the Church's practice in relation to human sexuality in respect of the current vacancy

As part of the preparation for the election of the Nominating Committee, the Kirk Session voted on whether or not to depart from the Church's practice in relation to human sexuality in respect of the current vacancy. The Kirk Session voted in favour of this, which means that applications for the current vacancy can be considered from, amongst others, individuals who are in a same sex civil partnership or a same sex marriage.

### Parish Profile

A subgroup from the Kirk Session is now actively preparing the Parish Profile in support of the vacancy. This will be considered in detail at the Kirk Session meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December at which at least one Vacancy Advisory Committee member is expected to attend. Completion and agreement of the Parish Profile is required before a date can be finalised for the election of the Nominating Committee.

### Election of Nominating Committee

The election of the Nominating Committee will be intimated by edict at Church Services on the two Sundays prior to the election. The election will take place no earlier than Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, but looks more likely to be in February or March.



### The Colinton Dell path

I attended a meeting, with representatives from some Colinton organisations and the local Council, to discuss what was to be done to enable the path through Colinton Dell to the north of Colinton Church to be re-opened. I'm pleased to say it is now open.

### Planning Application for additional car parking at Colinton Church

Our application for additional car parking spaces in the grounds between Colinton Church and the Manse has been submitted and is currently being considered by the Council.

### Website Progress

A new website for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church is still under construction. We hope it will be completed by end of 2024.

### Purchase of a new Manse

The Kirk Session has authorised the group looking for a new Manse, to bid for one more suitable for a modern Minister.

### Christmas Arrangements

The Kirk Session has approved various arrangements taking place around Christmas, including:

- Christmas Fair at Juniper Green on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Carol Service at Colinton at 6:30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Eve Services at both Colinton and Juniper Green at 6:30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December. These services will be family-oriented
- Watchnight Service at Colinton at 11:30pm, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Day Service at Juniper Green at 11:15am

### Administrative Assistant

In view of the increased workload resulting from our Union, the Kirk Session has approved the recruitment of a part-time Administrative Assistant to assist Lindsey Rowlands in the Church Office.

### Inclusion Policy

At the November Kirk Session meeting the following Inclusion Policy was approved:

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.  
(Galatians 3:26-28)*

Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church believes that all are created in God's image and that, through Christ, we are all the children of God. We follow Jesus' example and welcome all into our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, wealth, social background, or political beliefs. All are welcome to worship, serve and participate fully in the life and ministry of the congregation. Living out our Christian calling, we:

- welcome the presence, gifts, and companionship of all on the journey of faith
- embrace our diversity in all its forms and celebrate our unity as the body of Christ
- provide a safe place for all to explore Christian faith through prayerful and considered study of scripture
- deepen our relationships with one another and with Jesus Christ
- stand against discrimination including racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia

*Ian Morrison*  
Session Clerk

## BLYTHSWOOD CARE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

A huge 'thank you' goes to everyone who has supported this year's appeal. 136 shoeboxes were filled by members and friends of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church and these boxes are now well on their way to their final destinations in various parts of Eastern Europe.

Your support for this worthwhile cause is greatly appreciated.

*Margaret Woodrow  
and Irene Falla*



I am pleased to report that, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, I sent a cheque for £61.00 to The Leprosy Mission. Many thanks to members of our Guild, the congregation and to anyone who has given me a donation for this worthwhile cause. It always surprises me how many blue boxes are handed in, especially knowing that so little loose change is available these days. The total sent from the beginning of January until October was £239.00. On behalf of The Leprosy Mission and myself... **Thank you.**

*Rita Brownlie  
Leprosy Mission*



## The 'Lit'

### Colinton Literary Society

*Colinton Literary Society, founded in 1903, is an Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church organisation*

#### 2025

- 15 Jan Gallipoli:** Brigadier Ian Gardiner explains about this crucial battle during the First World War
- 22 Jan Roots of the Reformation:** Will Sanders takes a close look at the establishment of Protestantism in Scotland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- 29 Jan Burns in Context:** David Dow and the Dovecot Singers explore the life and times of Scotland's national poet
- 05 Feb Edinburgh - the Silent City:** Stuart Montgomery presents a portrait of Edinburgh in lockdown
- 12 Feb Stories of Changing Landscapes:** Jamie Crawford uses landscapes to tell a story of transformation
- 19 Feb The Royal Letter Book:** Louise Gardiner explores Royal correspondence in 14<sup>th</sup> century England
- 26 Feb Trial by Jury:** Conductor David Lyle and soloists present Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-popular one-act opera
- 05 Mar AGM** followed by a talk from Hanna Dyka who introduces us to the work of **Pavlo Tychyna**, one of Ukraine's leading poets

### AN INVITATION TO THE LIT

The 112<sup>th</sup> season of Colinton Literary Society is well underway. Meetings take place in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, Edinburgh EH13 0DE.

**Membership** is only £15 per person for the full programme of 16 meetings. Visitors are welcome, at a charge of £3 per meeting. Card payments are accepted but cash or cheque is preferred.

**Coffee, tea and wine** served from 7:30pm.

**The talk or event** commences at 8pm.

Our programme covers both literary topics and those of general interest, plus occasional musical evenings. We aim to provide our members and guests with an attractive selection of subjects. Proposals for future talks can be sent to the Programme Co-ordinator at any time.

**Programme Co-ordinator** Colin Fischbacher  
cmfischbacher@yahoo.co.uk / 07986 268 592

**Secretary** Sally Fischbacher

**Treasurer** Katie Davidson

**Committee** Kay Dalley, Vasily Demyanov,  
Kath Hay, Joe McGeogh,  
Bob Mylchreest, Gemma  
Roper-Caldbeck, Lorraine  
Veitch-Rutherford

**Hon. President** The Parish Minister

**Hon. Accounts Examiner** A. W. Murray

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

This year, the offerings received at the Christmas Eve services at Colinton and Juniper Green will be donated to three different charities. One international, one national and one local.



### International

**Christian Aid:** For more than 70 years, Christian Aid has worked hard to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. The organisation works in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, standing up for dignity, equality and justice.



### Local

**Love From Jamie:** Founded in 2023 by Martin Elliot, one of our Elders and his wife Fiona, in memory of their son Jamie. Love From Jamie provides support to families going through the most difficult time as they deal with the death of a child. Whilst unable to take away the pain families go through, the aim is to ease some of the financial pressure that comes with taking time off work, the expense of counselling appointments or funeral costs.

### National

**CHAS:** Children's Hospices Across Scotland which, with our support, can provide unwavering care at every step on the hardest of journeys. CHAS is committed to helping children and their families make the most of their time together, creating joyful memories which will last a lifetime.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CHURCH WEBSITE



Development of the new Church website has been underway since the summer and we are reaching the end of that process. The new site will be an information-hub for our Church life and we aim to have it up and running in the next few weeks. In the meantime, there is a temporary site which is basic, but does contain information on future events and services. The new web address will be: [edinburghpentlands.church](http://edinburghpentlands.church)

This address is currently a temporary one and will change to the full, new site address once work has been completed.

We do hope that you will enjoy using the new site.

**Communications Team**

**Editrice:** Please note that, for the moment, the current website for Colinton Church ([www.colinton-parish.com](http://www.colinton-parish.com)) continues to be updated and contains information for all Colinton Church activities and that of other Colinton groups and organisations.

## SOUP AND ROLL FRIDAY LUNCHESES AT JUNIPER GREEN

Come and enjoy a Soup and Roll lunch at 12noon in Hall 1 at Juniper Green Church. Sit in a warm space with a bowl of soup and a filled roll, followed by tea and coffee. You can spend time meeting and chatting with one another and enjoying fellowship together.

The lunches will be held on:

- 2025: Friday 31 January
- Friday 28 February
- Friday 28 March
- Friday 25 April
- Friday 30 May
- Friday 27 June



**We look forward to welcoming you!**

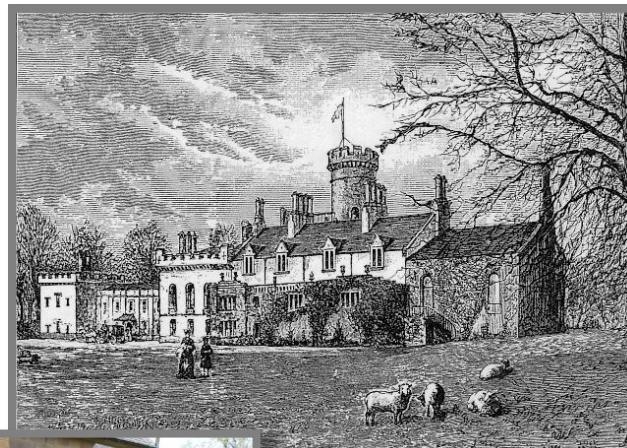




## DREGHORN MAUSOLEUM

by Alasdair Mackenzie

Recently, I became interested in finding out more about the burial mausoleum in Colinton Church graveyard, which was apparently created for the owners of Dreghorn Castle.



*Dreghorn Castle, right and the mausoleum, below*

The remaining fragment of the south gable, now visible though the north window of the foyer in Colinton Church, with the copper plaque above two carved stone panels, indicates stylistically the building to be late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century in origin. This is therefore the oldest part of the building at Colinton Church still visible. I decided to investigate this special mausoleum in greater detail.

It had obviously been a gable-roofed structure, which is now half buried by changes in the ground levels. The building's origin was detected from finding on one of the quoins (corner stones), close to ground level, an 'M' carved into the stone. The conclusion is that this indicates the probable builder to be Sir William Murray, Master of Works to King Charles II, and builder of Dreghorn Castle, circa 1671.



The lands of Dreghorn Castle belonged to Sir James Foulis of Colinton and they passed, by marriage of his daughter, to Sir William. On the upper part of the carved stone panels on the mausoleum there is an oval, surrounded by elaborate plumage and supported by two putti. The oval centre panel has an elaborate monogram which could be interpreted as 'WM' for William Murray.

David Pitcairn, Writer to the Signet, followed Sir William Murray as owner of Dreghorn Castle before 1690, when he was admitted to Colinton Kirk Session. He was descended from the Pitcairns of Pitcairn, whose ancestral lands were near Leslie in Fife. He was described as an active Elder and was also a heritor as owner of Dreghorn Castle.

David Pitcairn was married to Mary Anderson, the daughter of a Minister who strongly opposed the episcopacy during the reign of

Charles II. On Pitcairn's death in 1709, the Dreghorn Estate was inherited by his eldest son, Patrick, who then sold it in 1715. The lower of the two carved panels on the mausoleum contain the arms of the Pitcairn family.

The heraldic description is "ARMS: Argent, three Lozenges Gules. CHREST: A moon in her compliment Proper. MOTTO: Plena refulget (the full moon shines)". The stonework of the panel is eroded, but enough survives to identify the main elements.



Beneath this is a panel surround, part of which is buried below ground level, and similar to the surround of the arms panel, which probably once contained the inscription:

"Here lies Mr. David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, who departed this

*Continued...page 9*



*Dreghorn Mausoleum...continued*

life 27<sup>th</sup> January 1709, and of his age the 60 years, leaving Mary Anderson his wife, with five sons and seven daughters by her”.

Also no longer visible are the emblems carved in bold relief, said to have flanked this panel... on the left a winged hourglass with scroll and, on the right, a skull, crossbones and scroll.

The copper plaque above the stone panels commemorates the restoration of the building in 1864, under the supervision of Thomas Murray LLD, a local resident. He had an interest in the descendants of David Pitcairn and what led them to fund the necessary works.

The six named persons, from aristocratic families of Scotland,

were all descended from Rev. William Robertson DD, principal of Edinburgh University and grandson of David Pitcairn. It is impossible to say what work was carried out in 1864, or any subsequent alterations, to accommodate the 1908 church building.

The north gable of the historic mausoleum has been completely rebuilt to include panels which commemorate Robert Andrew MacFie (1811-1893), the last private owner of Dreghorn Castle, and his family. Robert MacFie bought the estate in 1864, when he stepped back from the family sugar refining firm of Macfie & Sons, which became part of Tate & Lyle.

He is recorded as obtaining Matriculated Arms, as noted in the Lord Lyon register in 1864. A panel with these Arms is built into the far side of the gable.

Robert MacFie and his wife Caroline are not buried in the Colinton Churchyard but in a family plot at South Leith Churchyard (pictured below).

*Alasdair Mackenzie*

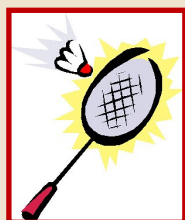


## LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After a busy and enjoyable session when we also welcomed a new player, the Group will be taking a break during the Christmas and New Year period. Our last meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> December and our 2025 session will start on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The Group meets each Wednesday at 10am in Juniper Green Church Hall. We play for fun and have a short break for coffee and chat.

We would love to welcome more new players and anyone interested should come along to the Hall. If you would like further information, please contact Linda Sharp on 0131 453 4985.



## the colinton & merchiston community choir

### Two invitations...

The Choir warmly invites you to join them for their **Christmas Concert** at 8pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. Tickets (cash only) £10 or £5 for under 18s, available from Choir members or at the entrance. Doors will open at 7:30pm.

They 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. There will be some audience participation and the audience will be invited to sing other carols as well.

If you would like to experience what it would be like to sing with our non-auditioning choir, please come along to the open rehearsal at the Memorial Hall on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, from 7pm to 9pm.

You don't need to have any experience at all of choral singing and there will be no pressure or commitment to join.

We also plan to learn extracts from Handel's popular ***Messiah*** for our **Spring Concert**, with our very enthusiastic and inspiring Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and excellent accompanist, the well-known Morley Whitehead, both of whom make all our rehearsals very enjoyable and great fun. So do come along!

Rehearsals take place in the Memorial Hall each Monday evening from 7:15pm to 9pm, but it's not a problem if you can't be there for 7:15pm or have to leave a bit earlier.

For more information about the Choir, please consult our website [www.colintonchoir.org](http://www.colintonchoir.org) or our Facebook page.

As always, we thank Merchiston Castle School for the use of the Memorial Hall and the school's music library.

*Margaret Keiran*





The Colinton Garden Club year got off to a great start at the end of September, with a talk by Peter Hart on his wonderful garden, Kirklands, which is in Fife and well worth a visit.

Then in October, Lynne Youngs spoke about an impressive collection of alpine plant photographs, taken on a trip to the Swiss Alps. The plant sale, also held in October, was very successful. Many members supplied plants, books, garden items, made jams for sale and provided refreshments.



There were hundreds of spring bulbs available to buy. They all sold out, giving many of us something to look forward to in Spring. It was a great social occasion.

At the end of November we enjoyed a very interesting talk, *The Rise of Rhubarb*, by Kath Hay, and now we are

anticipating our Christmas party on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

All our events have been very well attended and, as well as welcoming back existing members, we have new members who have joined from Colinton and beyond. There is a full programme of events for

2025, starting with a talk by Dick Alderson on the Dalgety Bay Community Woodland.

Anyone wishing to join will be warmly welcomed. Membership for the year is only £10 per household. You can find details of benefits of club membership on our website: [www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)

Happy Gardening and best wishes for the Festive Season from Colinton Garden Club.

Mary Davey, Publicity

## COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

Club meetings take place at 8pm in Dreghorn Loan Hall, EH13 0DE, unless otherwise stated.



**9 Dec:** CGC Members' Christmas Party  
8pm - 10pm at the Colinton Bowling Club

**27 Jan:** Talk: Dalgety Bay Community Woodlands  
presented by Dick Alderson

**24 Feb:** CGC Members' Evening  
with Richard Ennos, David Bryce and Cliff Dalley

**24 Mar:** Talk: Dundee University Botanic Garden  
presented by their Curator, Kevin Frediani

**28 Apr:** AGM Colinton Garden Club

## THE GREEN STROLLERS

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 21 Green Strollers set off for their annual three-day weekend. This year we went to Pitlochry, staying in the Pitlochry Hydro Hotel. The weather was kind, warm and sunny.

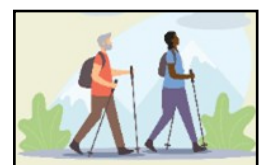
During the weekend, a group of strollers, pictured on the right, walked to the Black Spout Waterfall, a favourite tourist attraction. Other strollers explored the boutiques and coffee shops in Pitlochry, others sat in the sun relaxing and some strollers made use of the swimming pool and sauna! During this trip, we explored the walks around Pitlochry and Moulin, with a few strollers making it to the lower reaches of Ben Vrackie. I think I speak for everyone when I say a good time was had by all.

Our walks have been fairly varied this year in order to suit all abilities. In September, we walked to Torduff and Clubbiedean Reservoirs and, as I write, the Green Strollers have just returned from a walk to Meggetland, with a stop for a snack



lunch at the Canalside Café. Again, the weather was kind. Our final walk for the year was on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Details of all our walks will be on the Edinburgh Pentland Parish Church website or in the Juniper Green intimations. All are welcome, so do come along and join us and...

**Keep Strolling**  
Jeanette Campbell







# ONE FISH, TWO FISH, FIVE LOAVES, LUNCH!

This was the cry, heard around the Dreghorn Loan Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, as an enthusiastic group of children and adults met for **Messy Church**. We spent the afternoon learning all about the time Jesus fed 5,000 hungry friends with just two fish and five loaves of bread. Before we embarked on our story, we had enjoyed arts, crafts and activities, all related to this amazing event.

We made suncatcher fish to take home, we practised making baskets out of clay to remember the 12 needed for leftovers, we drew fish and learned how to catch them with a magnet (but only the ones with a paperclip attached!) and thanks to the talents of volunteers Irene and Linda, we made fish out of bread, cucumber and red peppers to have for our snack. We hope you like the pictures.

Our next session on 7<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas celebration. We will find out more about all the characters in the very first Christmas, and why a Christmas cracker can remind us of Jesus as King, and the gifts he brought to the world.

Please note that, to avoid school holidays, we will start our New Year session on the second Saturday of the month, which is 11<sup>th</sup> January. We will be celebrating Eric Liddell's birthday with our very own **Messy Church Olympics** as we explore his life of sport and faith - do join us if you can!



Dreghorn Loan Hall



## ADVENT MEANS... WAITING



None of us finds waiting easy. Whether waiting for the outcome of a job interview, the result of a test, or for news from a distant family member, the hope is for a good outcome, a good result, good news.

Many of you are waiting with expectation on whom God will call to be the new Minister of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. During this time of waiting, you will have hopes and dreams of what a new Minister might bring, perhaps mixed in with a little fear and some trepidation!

But for Christians around the world, Advent is the reminder that our hopes and dreams are not

fulfilled and our fears are not assuaged by any Minister, but by God himself. For God's ancient people, they were waiting for centuries for the fulfilment of a prophetic promise that a child would be born, a son would be given, and the government would rest upon his shoulders.

He would be called:

**Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.**

God himself would come to the aid of His people. Through the Child that was born in Bethlehem's manger, God incarnate came to fulfil our hopes and put to death our fears. By His Spirit, God also comes to us, inviting us to place our hopes and dreams for the future in His trustworthy hands.

*Rev. Ian MacDonald  
Interim Moderator*



### EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

The Guild meets every other Thursday afternoon at 2pm in Juniper Green Hall to enjoy fellowship, friendship and fun.

Since our meetings resumed in September, we have enjoyed a varied programme and welcomed interesting Guest Speakers.

Leona Lewis explained how researching her family tree uncovered very interesting facts and led her to write and publish her novel *Prussian Blue*.

Cecilia Young demonstrated her skills in cake decorating and the end product looked amazing and tasted delicious! Take a look at the picture on the right.

We learnt interesting facts when Karen talked about cocoa farming and Fairtrade in Ghana and we were able to purchase items at her stall. Rebekka talked about the work of a local charity *Four Square* which supports people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This charity runs the Edinburgh

Furniture Initiative store, located on Gorgie Road.

The wartime story of *The Shetland Bus* is known to many but we all enjoyed a fascinating talk from Kath Hay about the background to this story, and how compassionate and brave people are when helping others.

Then there was the *Games Afternoon!* Rattling dominoes, snakes and ladders, ludo and more. All favourites from our youth and still enjoyed today. A fun afternoon with no cheating allowed! We have our Carols and Readings to look forward to, before we have a short break.

The Guild will then re-start on 9<sup>th</sup> January, when Rev. Matthew Ross will lead our Communion Service. Our syllabus for 2025 is varied, so please accept our invitation and come and join us.



*Cecilia and the cake!*



*Games Afternoon*

*Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.*

*Margaret Woodrow*



## CAROL SERVICE

### SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 6:30PM

### COLINTON CHURCH

Come and join us at the Carol Service, as the choir sings Christmas carols, including *The Angel Gabriel, The Truth from Above* and *Adam Lay-y-bounden*. Members of the congregation can join in singing many well-known carols and there will be Bible readings. Simon Walker, Assistant Director of Music at Glenalmond School, will be our organist.



*David Turner  
Director of Music  
and Choirmaster*

## COMING SOON TO COLINTON...

### CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Did you know that this local gathering began back in 2011? That was the first year of Christmas on the Corner, when children could meet Santa in his grotto at the top of Spylaw Street.

Mulled wine and hot chestnuts were served from no. 23 and neighbours and friends from all over Colinton joined a merry throng to enjoy music and carol-singing together, as a welcome start to the Festive Season.

A few years later in 2014, severe winter weather made for a challenging event and forced a major rethink. The following year, **Christmas on the Corner** moved down the hill into the Dell Room at Colinton Church, which played magnanimous host to a splendid series of seasonal surprises, including Santa arriving by sleigh with his loyal reindeer (following a stop in the Cairngorms!).

Unfortunately, when Covid arrived in 2020, all festivities had to be postponed for two years. Then, for the last couple



of years, and with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers who braved the December temperatures, **Christmas on the Corner** was turned into a fairy-lit **Christmas in the Park**.

Now it's 2024, and you are most cordially invited to make your way through illuminated stalls, to our magical Santa's Grotto in the Colinton Village Enterprise Shed in Spylaw Park. You can partake of excellent mulled wine, hot chocolate and home baking, win a tombola prize or two, buy some pre-loved books for stocking fillers, and try your hand at some Christmas crafts.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

*Colinton Village Enterprise SCIO is a Scottish Charity (SC049496) and an incorporated body, regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)*



## The Swing Café



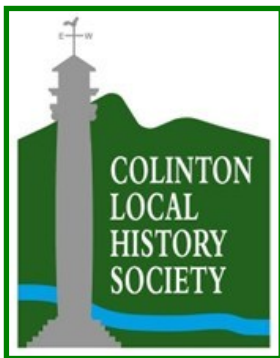
**Open Tuesday to Saturday  
10am - 2pm**

**Come and enjoy tea, coffee,  
delicious sandwiches,  
home-baking and much more**

Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church  
Dell Road, Colinton

**Please note that during  
the Festive Season,  
The Swing Café  
will be closed from  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to  
6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 inclusive**





## COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Now that winter is here, our 2024/2025 season of meetings is well under-way and what a great line-up Liz Windle, our Speakers Secretary, has organised for us.

Our first four meetings were all very well attended. They started on 7<sup>th</sup> October with a fascinating talk by Bruce Keith entitled **Scotland Beneath the Surface**, covering details of both man-made and natural underground chambers and tunnels, which lie beneath our country. Items in the talk ranged from the 15 million gallon reservoir at Alnwickhill, the wonderful under-croft beneath the ruins of Yester Castle at Gifford, to the two gigantic oil storage 'tanks' hewn out of the rock in the north of Scotland, which were used to supply the naval ships and convoys during the wars. They were brought back into use at the time of the Falkland War!

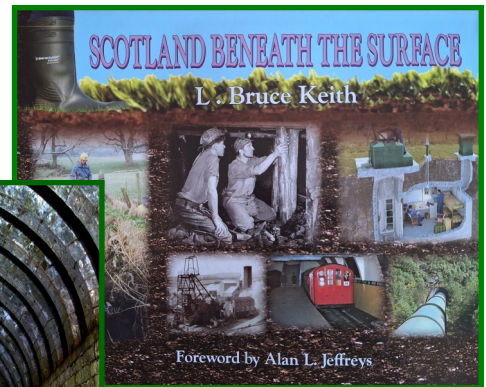
This was followed on 21<sup>st</sup> October with a presentation about the **History of Morningside, 1800 - 1930**, by Bob Cunningham. Then on 4<sup>th</sup> November, Barclay Price told us about **The Beneficiaries of the Freedom of Edinburgh**. Among some of his interesting stories was that, in the 1600s, Edinburgh had bestowed the Honour on the man who brought the first rhubarb seeds to Scotland from Russia. Also, although well-known comedian Sir Harry Lauder (pictured on the right) had received the Honour, the Council elected *not* to bestow the Freedom on (at that time) Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, much to the embarrassment of our City Fathers!

On 18<sup>th</sup> November, David Farries talked about the **Legacy of James Braidwood, Founder of the Scottish Fire Brigade** and our last talk in 2024, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, **Robert Braid, Photographer**, was presented by Bruce Jamieson.

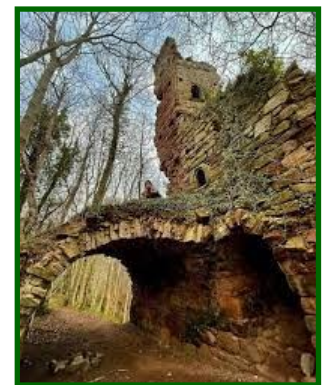
And finally, as a result of our last article which appeared in this magazine, I am delighted to say that we have received a few photos and items from local residents for safekeeping in our archives, so... **Many Thanks...** and don't



forget - if you have any Colinton-related articles which you do not want, we would be delighted to take care of them in our archives, in order that future generations can enjoy them. Just contact me at 0131 441 3335 or through our website at [www.colintonhistory.org.uk](http://www.colintonhistory.org.uk)



Yester Castle, above and right



Our next events are as follows:

16<sup>th</sup> December

**History Society Social Evening**

6<sup>th</sup> January

**The Coalmine of the Sea, the Moat Pit at Culross**

Presented by Robert Yates and Dr Donald Adamson

20<sup>th</sup> January

**The History of Rockville House, Redhall**

Presented by Andy Arthur

3<sup>rd</sup> February

**The Story of Roman Armour**

Presented by Fraser Hunter

Remember... all our meetings are held in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, and commence at 8pm. With the annual membership only £20pp, we can promise you interesting and enjoyable evenings.

*Derek Douglas*  
Colinton Local History Archivist



**AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER**



**Rev. Matthew Ross led prayers of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Colinton churchyard**

Nikki McCabe, our Pastoral Care Worker, invited people to bring special wartime memorabilia and to display the items on the prayer-space table, inside Colinton Church. Following the Memorial Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, members of the congregation were invited to take a look at them. There are some interesting photographs below, provided by Marion Thomson and Nikki.

**PARISH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

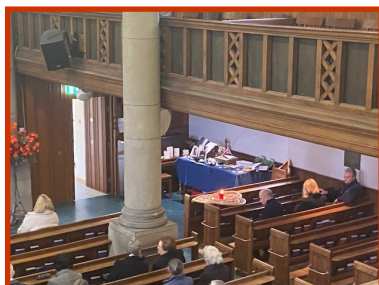
- Sophia Cara Jane Cavanagh
- Ramsay John Graham
- Louis David Milne
- Alfie Robert Teague

**Funerals have taken place for**

- Ian Aitken
- Dorothea Crawford
- Myra Denholm
- James William (Bill) Donaldson
- May Jeffrey
- Joyce McClansburgh
- Lewis S. McGill
- Mabel Whyte

**Welcome to new Members**

- George & Jenny Dunlop
- Transference from West Kirk Centre, Arbroath



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