

# THE PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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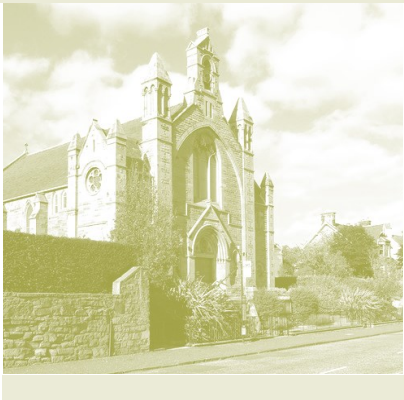
• THE PARISH PUBLICATION •  
UPDATES AND INFORMATION

• CLUBS AND GROUPS •

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

• THE SWING CAFÉ •

OPEN TO ALL - TUESDAY TO SATURDAY



**Interim Moderator**  
Rev. Ian MacDonald

**Locum Minister**  
Rev. Matthew Ross

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**Website**  
A new Parish 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  
December 2024 - January 2025  
issue is 16<sup>th</sup> November**

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 CONTACTS

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<b>Catering: The Swing Café</b>	Lynn Leslie
<b>Church Officer</b>	Hugh McCreadie
<b>Communications Team</b>	<i>To be announced</i>
<b>Director of Music &amp; Organist</b>	David Turner (Colinton) Florence Kinnear (Juniper Green)
<b>Dreghorn Loan Hall Letting</b>	Sheila Porteous
<b>Flower Convener</b>	Helen Drury (Colinton)
<b>Magazine Distribution</b>	Irene Falla (Colinton) Isabel Campbell (Juniper Green)
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Nikki McCabe
<b>Property Convener</b>	<i>To be announced</i>
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Irene Falla
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Jamie Wilson (Colinton) Alastair Elliot (Juniper Green)
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Ian Morrison
<b>Session Clerk Deputy</b>	John Sharp
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graeme Clark

## 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 Club</b>	Linda Sharp
<b>Leprosy Mission</b>	Rita Brownlie

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**WELCOME** to the magazine for **Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church** and welcome to Rev. Ian MacDonald, the Interim Moderator for the Parish. Ian has kindly submitted an article which can be found on page 4.

In this issue, readers will also find stories, information and diary dates for all sorts of key events and gatherings now that autumn sessions have got underway. There are also some happy photographs from **Art in the Park** which, this year, was held in glorious sunshine

in Spylaw Park on the last Saturday in August, and Gemma King writes to us about her new intern job in Germany.

Colinton has strong historical links to Robert Louis Stevenson, but there is also RLS history linked to another building in Edinburgh's city centre, about which readers may be rather unfamiliar...you can find out more on page 12.

I do hope you can sit back and enjoy reading all our articles.

**Felice, Editrice**



**KATH HAY**  
EDITOR



**MATTHEW ROSS**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ**

*“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:3).*

I hope that you have had a good summer. My family and I went back to Geneva for the whole of July, looking after the Church of Scotland congregation for four Sundays and staying in the Manse there, whilst their Minister was on holiday. I lived in Geneva between 2018 and 2023. It was lovely to visit the city again and to catch up with friends and former colleagues from the World Council of Churches. We also visited the summit of the Great St Bernard Pass (altitude 8,100 feet), where

Europe's highest church building is located, and took a couple of short trips across the border from Switzerland into Italy and France.

As we look ahead to activities this autumn, please note the times for Messy Church in the Dreghorn Loan Hall – this offers a great opportunity for children to learn about God's love in Christ and have fun with crafts and activities.

The Remembrance Sunday Services at both Colinton Church and Juniper Green Church will start at 10.30am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. **Please note** this time (neither 9:45 am nor 11:15 am on this one Sunday).

The Rev. Susan Galloway has been assigned, by the Presbytery

of Edinburgh & West Lothian, to serve as Locum Minister at Currie. This is beyond our control and our loss is very much Currie's gain. Susan's ministry at Juniper Green Church has been greatly appreciated and I know how much she is missed.

Meanwhile, I am privileged to be able to serve the whole of the Edinburgh Pentlands Parish and have settled into the routine of conducting both Sunday morning Services. I wish Susan every blessing in her ministry in Currie and thank her for all that she has done within our parish. It was a privilege to have had her as a colleague.

I have now finished my part-time research post at the University of Glasgow. This has enabled me to spend more time serving as your Locum Minister and I am grateful to the Kirk Session for increasing the number of hours I can serve. I shall normally be available, daily, Tuesday to Friday, as well as conducting Sunday Services.

I have also been appointed by the Presbytery to serve as Interim Moderator at Pilrig St Paul's Parish Church in Leith Walk.



*The Great St Bernard Pass in the Alps. The photo was taken from Switzerland. The border between Switzerland and Italy bisects the lake and the mountains in the top half of the photo are in Italy.*

*Continued...4*

*Rev. Matthew Ross...continued*

This appointment is expected to last until the end of the year, when Pilrig St Paul's is expected to unite with its neighbouring parishes of Leith St Andrew's and Restalrig St Margaret's. Occasionally I shall need to conduct Services at Pilrig St Paul's, but will normally conduct worship at both Colinton and Juniper Green Churches every Sunday.

The Rev. Ian MacDonald (Minister at Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes) has been appointed as the new Interim Moderator at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. I was pleased to meet Ian recently and look forward to working closely with him in the coming months. My thanks go to the previous Interim Moderators, Rev. Neil Gardner (Minister at

Canongate & Interim Moderator at Colinton) and Rev. Gordon Kennedy (Minister at Craiglockhart & Interim Moderator at Juniper Green).

These words from St Paul should inspire us in our faith and in our Christian service:

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).*

As we continue to build the recently united Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church, let us remember these words of St Paul and be focused prayerfully on the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, as we work for Christ's Kingdom.

*I wish you God's peace and blessing,  
Rev. Matthew Ross*

## GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

**Hello Pentlands Parish Church!**  
**My role is to help you take the necessary steps towards finding a new Minister.**

I have been ministering in Holy Trinity in Wester Hailes for the past 19 years. I was joking with the newly-formed Kirk Session that I have a vested interest in Pentlands Parish flourishing, as my manse is situated within your bounds! Though the church is not dependant upon any one Minister, a time of vacancy can be unsettling for a congregation - we can feel a bit like the crowds Jesus saw in St Matthew 9:36: "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". If that is you, rejoice that the risen Lord Jesus notices this and is filled with compassion for his people – the Shepherd is never further away than a simple prayer.



It is part of my role to guide the Elders, members and staff, who are working so hard on your behalf behind the scenes, to put in place the structures which will allow us to proceed in finding a new Minister. These include areas of finance, a new manse, a nominating committee, the congregational roll and, of course, a new Parish Profile. The latter will identify what is important and blessed right now as a congregation and also some of the dreams, hopes and desires that God has put in your heart for the future. Make a point of sharing these with your Elders and fellow members and remember to encourage those who are serving in these roles.

*Blessings in Christ  
Rev. Ian MacDonald*



**Save the date! Monday evening, 9<sup>th</sup> December, is our Christmas Concert.** Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir invites you to get into the Christmas Spirit early and to celebrate the beginning of the Festive Season by joining us at our Christmas Concert at 8pm (time tbc) on Monday

9<sup>th</sup> December in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh.

We shall 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 with some audience participation. The audience will also be invited to join in with the choir to sing other carols. More

details about the concert, including confirmation of the start time, information about the soloists and what they will sing and ticket prices etc, will be published in the next issue of *The Parish Publication* and later on our website and our Facebook page.

We thank Merchiston Castle School very much for the use of the Memorial Hall and the school's music library.

The Kirk Session of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish has now met twice and some points of interest from the meetings are provided below.

#### LOCUM MINISTER

The Presbytery has redeployed Rev. Susan Galloway to a neighbouring parish. We were glad to say “thank you” to Susan at her last Service at Juniper Green on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August, prior to her move along the valley.

The Kirk Session has authorised additional hours for Rev. Matthew Ross, who will now act as Locum Minister across the Edinburgh Pentlands Parish. Matthew will be working four days a week, in addition to leading worship on Sunday mornings.

#### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

We celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October in both Colinton and Juniper Green Churches. An offering of food-stuffs for the Food Bank at Holy Trinity Church at Wester Hailes will be gathered at both Churches and we hope that, as usual, there will be generous donations.

#### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday is a special Sunday for many people and members of both congregations appreciate this Service, including the silence at 11:00am. So, on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**, both Colinton and Juniper Green Church Services will commence **at 10:30am**. We are grateful to Martin Elliot who has agreed to lead the Service at Juniper Green Church that day.

#### VACANCY PROCESS

At our meeting in September, we were pleased to welcome the Vacancy Advisory Committee from the Presbytery, who talked us through the vacancy process. A small group has started drafting our Parish Profile and we hope to



IAN MORRISON

have an initial discussion on that during our October Kirk Session meeting.

With regard to the current vacancy, in October we shall have a vote in accordance with the rules as set out in the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Civil Partnerships and the Same Sex Marriages Act.

The ‘chain’ which has, until recently, delayed the receipt of funds from the sale of the Juniper Green Manse, has now been completed and the group seeking to purchase a new Manse will be pursuing this. I anticipate receiving a progress report from this group in October.

The Electoral Roll for the election of the Nominating Committee will need to be finalised. If you are a member or adherent of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church or would like to become one (or know of someone who would like to join our roll) please contact us.

#### ART IN THE PARK

We were pleased to have a busy stall at Art in the Park on a sunny Saturday at the end of August, and to meet and talk with lots of people that day. Many thanks to Alison Downie and all our other helpers for their assistance.

#### WEBSITE

A new website for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church is under

construction. We are hoping this will be completed around the end of October.

#### KIRK SESSION GROUPS

A structure for merging the various Kirk Session sub-groups from Colinton and Juniper Green was proposed at the August Kirk Session meeting and the groups will be starting to meet and work together during the coming months.

#### DREGHORN LOAN HALL NOISE

It was regrettable that the people running one of the events which took place in Dreghorn Loan Hall in July, ignored our clear instructions and constraints as to noise and amplification in the Hall. Following complaints from nearby residents, we sent a letter of apology to those who had complained, and we have tightened up our rules as to who, in future, is to be allowed to book the Hall.

#### GEMMA KING

Gemma has been a very active member at Colinton Church but, for the next sixteen months, she has taken up a post as an intern of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). Gemma will be working in the WCRC office in Hannover in Germany. We wish Gemma well with this wonderful opportunity.

#### RESIGNATIONS

During the summer, several Elders have resigned, either for family reasons, or because they are moving away from our local area. Our thanks go to Tilly Boulogne, Lesley Grieve, Yvonne Hunter, Sandra Paulin and Jeanette Third for their contributions at Juniper Green and Colinton Churches during their years of service.

*Ian Morrison*  
Session Clerk



## The 'Lit'

### Colinton Literary Society

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

#### 2024

- 16 Oct** **The Scottish Enlightenment:** Professor David Purdie reviews the impact of this intellectual and philosophical movement
- 23 Oct** **Phoebe Anna Traquair:** Professor Elizabeth Cumming looks at the life of a leading artist in the Scottish Arts and Crafts movement and her Colinton connection
- 30 Oct** **The Wild Swimmer of Kintail:** Kellan MacInnes tells the story of a journey through water to self-discovery
- 06 Nov** **Writing about Place:** Sir Alexander McCall Smith talks about the influence that location has on the writing of his books
- 13 Nov** **The Scottish Parliament - what next?** Sir Paul Grice considers the impact and future of devolution
- 20 Nov** **Edinburgh - our Storied Town:** Donald Smith reviews 900 years of Edinburgh's literary history
- 27 Nov** **Edinburgh's Theatres:** Rev. David Todd delves deep into the history of the city's theatres
- 04 Dec** **Buffet Supper** with musical entertainment provided by the Glencairn Ensemble
- #### 2025
- 15 Jan** **Gallipoli:** Brigadier Ian Gardiner explains more 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

## AN INVITATION TO THE LIT

The 112th season of Colinton Literary Society commences on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. 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. Payment by card is accepted, but cash or cheque is preferred.

**Coffee, tea and wine** are served from **7:30pm**. The talk or event commences at **8pm**.

- 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 late 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

## WHAT IS THE LIT?

Our programme of talks 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



## ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES IN GERMANY

*Gemma King*



In my spare time, I have enjoyed exploring Hannover and finding nice walks in the area. One of my favourite places to walk is along the shore of the Maschsee, which is a really pretty lake near the city centre (*photo below*).

WhatsApp and Messenger have been a real blessing as well, as they have enabled me to keep in touch with folk back home. It has also been fantastic being able to join Prayer Space on Zoom from Germany.



This article marks a transition from the 'Faith Development Musings' column to my new 'Ecumenical Adventures in Germany' column.

I'm making this transition because I have started a new job as an intern in the head office the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) in Hannover, Germany. You are maybe wondering what the World Communion of Reformed Churches is? It is an organisation which brings together 244 of the churches across the world, which are most like the Church of Scotland, for dialogue and shared action for justice.

At the time of writing, I am coming towards the end of my second week of work. It has been a busy couple of weeks getting my head around how the WCRC and its office works, as well as adjusting to life in Germany.

I've been enjoying learning about the various kinds of work which are in progress and hearing about my new colleagues' adventures. It is very rare for all the staff to be in the office at any given time as there is always someone off on an adventure somewhere. In the coming months I will manage to join them on some of their adventures.

I have also found a church in which to worship. It is called RELISH (Reformed English Language International Service in Hannover) and its Services take place in the Reformierte Kirche. The Ministers are a lovely American couple. During my first Service there, I was introduced to the congregation and ended up doing the reading (part of my work is supporting the RELISH Service). At the Service, I met a few others my age and enjoyed hanging out with them.

A highlight of my first week was **Der Lange Nacht der Kirche**, a mini-festival which lasts from 6pm until midnight on the first Friday in September. All the churches across the city open their doors and host an evening of free musical events and offer drinks and snacks.



### CHRISTMAS GIFTS APPEAL 2024

This year we will once again be supporting the **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal** which has been running for many years. Last year we sent more than 120 boxes. Leaflets providing all the details are available at both our churches and, to ensure they reach their destination in time for Christmas, filled shoeboxes should be returned to either Juniper Green Church or Colinton Church by **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**. Blythswood Care have asked that, if possible, each shoebox has a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, sweets (not chocolate), toy or gift, scarf, gloves and hat, and some item of underwear. It would also be a great help to Blythswood Care if participants could follow the **6 Steps to bring Happiness** guidelines which are detailed in the leaflet. If you have any queries please contact either **Margaret Woodrow on 07982 463455** or **Irene Falla on 0131 441 2792**. Many thanks in anticipation of your generous support for this worthwhile cause.

## ART IN THE PARK, HELD IN SPYLAW PARK ON THE LAST SATURDAY IN AUGUST, ATTRACTED CHURCH GROUPS, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS FROM ALL OVER OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Colinton Garden Club & Friends of Campbell Park

Colinton Garden Club and Friends of Campbell Park shared a stall at Art in the Park, which was held on a very beautiful and warm sunny August day. The event was extremely successful and we were able to provide lots of information for all the people visiting our stall. We were also pleased to have new members signing up for the Colinton Garden Club as well as current members renewing their membership. Friends of Campbell Park recruited first-time volunteers for events and some 'New Friends' as well. Many interesting and informative discussions took place with all the visitors who came to chat with us, from a variety of locations both in and out-with the Colinton area.

**Avril Scott**  
Events Coordinator



## The 'Lit'

### Colinton Literary Society

Members of The Lit committee are pictured on the left at their stall, where they handed out copies of the programme for the new 2024 - 2025 season of The Lit to all the visitors who came by. They can also be seen in the second photograph - when they were joined by a most interesting character !





## ART IN THE PARK WITH MESSY CHURCH

Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church had a spot at Art in the Park on a glorious Saturday at the end of August. The glorious day meant that the park was buzzing, and we had a steady stream of visitors to our stall - from members of our congregations to friends and family, as well as people enquiring who we were.

Various activities were available for children to enjoy as we encouraged families to come and take part. The most popular was the orangutan hiding in the forest! One young lad drew, freehand, an amazing Godzilla and those of us manning the stall were introduced to the character for the first time. While the children drew their own rainbows, we had a chance to chat to the parents and carers, inviting them to join us at either of the Edinburgh Pentland Parish Church Services on Sundays at 9:45am in Colinton, 11:15am at Juniper Green or at Messy Church on the first Saturday of the month when we meet in Dreghorn Loan Hall (*below*) at 2:30pm.

Those who came to the stall included a Church of Scotland Communications member of staff, looking to see if the church was present at this event (which we were!), an army chaplain who was interested to know if we have



previously had strong links with the army, and folks from the Redeemer Church just introducing themselves as they were in a neighbouring tent. The Redeemer Church is a neighbouring Church in Colinton.

There was a mum who used to go to Juniper Green Messy Church, so we extended an invitation for her to join us the following Saturday, and also a member from Juniper Green who was keen to help at Messy Church. This was wonderful, especially as a couple of our Messy Church team have recently had to step back from helping. So, if you are interested in joining the Messy Church team, do let Lindsey at the Church Office know and we will be in touch in due course.

It was a great afternoon and we all took the chance to wander around looking at the other stalls and finding tasty things to eat!

Refreshed and invigorated from our great day in the park, we went on to our Messy Church session the following Saturday, where we asked the big question, "Who is God?" We used quotes from the Bible to



discover God's character. The first recorded words from God at the beginning of the Bible are "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Just as placing a candle in a dark room can remove fear and uncertainty, God can light up our lives, bring us comfort and help us through the dark times we all go through from time to time. We hope you like our "God is light in the darkness" pictures which are on display in The Swing Café - do please pay a visit.

We also considered that "God is Spirit" - just because you cannot see Him does not mean He is not there. To illustrate this, we used a prism to split white light into different colours. These are just two of the seven activities we organised, so there is always something to spark the interest of all at Messy Church. Please do come and join us on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October when 'Harvest' will be the theme.

*Alison Downie and Janet Shepherd*



## Pentland Book Festival



### Tenth Anniversary Year

As autumn approaches, we look forward to a month of exciting author-events at the **Pentland Book Festival**, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

The Festival runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> November. This local festival hosts author-events at various locations in Colinton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno and features some of your all-time favourite Scottish authors. They include David Greig, Derek Forbes, Nicholas Kinloch and Billy Kay.

Some of the events will take place in Colinton and Currie libraries which are accessible to all.

A leaflet which gives further information can be found in the local libraries, businesses and shops, or why not visit the website:

[pentlandsbookfestival.org](http://pentlandsbookfestival.org)

Please note that tickets are essential for all events and these are available from the libraries or the website. All events are free, but donations towards the costs would be really appreciated.

So brighten up those darker days and evenings by joining in the **Pentland Book Festival** and enjoy all things literary.



Currie Library above and Colinton Library below

### LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After a summer break, the Group restarted again on 18<sup>th</sup> September. We meet every Wednesday at 10am in Juniper Green Church Hall where we play for fun and also have a break for coffee and chat.

We would love to welcome new players and anyone wishing to join us should just come along to the Church Hall.

If you would like more information, please contact  
Linda Sharp on  
0131 453 4985.



### JUNIPER GREEN GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

Our guild meetings are held at 2pm in Juniper Green Church Hall.

3<sup>rd</sup> Oct: **Kath Hay - The Shetland Bus**  
A modern saga, presented by the Editor of *The Parish Publication*

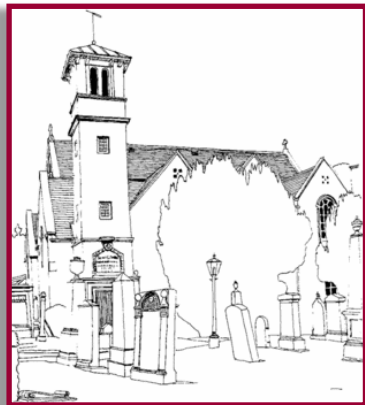
17<sup>th</sup> Oct: **Rebekka Ford - Four Square**  
An Edinburgh homeless charity  
Audio visual presentation

31<sup>st</sup> Oct: **Brian Salvona - Saughton Park**  
An audio visual presentation by local photographer

14<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Karen Downard - Tearfund talk**  
Christmas cards and Fairtrade gifts also on sale

28<sup>th</sup> Nov: **Christmas Flowers** and hands-on workshop with members

12<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Christmas Carols, Readings and Afternoon Tea**



## COLINTON CHURCH MUSIC NOTES

During the past year we have continued to divide our music provision at Sunday Services more or less evenly between the Choir and the Praise Band.

The choice was governed largely by the availability of members of each group for particular days. We are still in need of new recruits, especially for the choir, as new members are required for all voice parts. It has become harder to provide anthems in four-part harmony and consequently, we frequently perform versions arranged into two parts for male and female voices.

The choir usually rehearses on the Thursday evening prior to when it is singing at the following Sunday Service. We would also welcome new singers or instrumentalists to the Praise Band. The commitment to either group is much less than it used to be, so if you feel you might be able to come and join us, please do speak to me for more information, either after a Service, or via the Church Office.

**David Turner, Director of Music**



## COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Boy - how quickly time passes! Here we are at the beginning of autumn already, having left summer behind.** But work goes on in the Society and we are getting ready for what promises to be another season of excellent Guest Speakers, thanks to committee member Liz Windle. Also, John Rees has completed our new website, which is very user-friendly and is now up and running. We can be found at [www.colintonhistory.org.uk](http://www.colintonhistory.org.uk) so please go in and have a look. There you will find a considerable amount of information about our Society and also Colinton itself.

We continue to receive articles and items from residents for our archives, so if you have any materials that you do not want which you think should be preserved for future generations, please get in touch with me to discuss, either at 0131 441 3335 or [dereks1441@gmail.com](mailto:dereks1441@gmail.com)

From time to time, Colinton Library hosts talks on a Wednesday evening and in August, one of our members gave an excellent talk on Bletchley Park, the WWII codebreaking centre. This was very well attended. In the last issue of this magazine, I mentioned the research work that some of our members had been doing on the origins of our Colinton place names...

Well, the book has now been printed and is for sale in Colinton Post Office at £6.99 or only £5 for Society members.

**Our meetings are now underway and are held in Dreghorn Loan Hall at 8pm.**

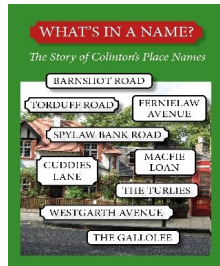
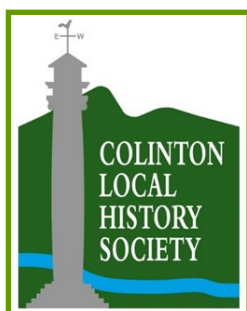
**The programme until Xmas is:**

- 07<sup>th</sup> Oct Scotland beneath the surface / *Mines and Tunnels* / Bruce Keith
- 21<sup>st</sup> Oct A History of Morningside 1800 - 1930 / Bob Cunningham
- 04<sup>th</sup> Nov Honoured by Edinburgh *Beneficiaries of the "Freedom of Edinburgh" since 1459* / Barclay Price
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov The Legacy of James Braidwood, Founder of the Scottish Fire Brigade / Dave Farries
- 02<sup>nd</sup> Dec\* Robert Braid, Photographer / Bruce Jamieson
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec History Society Social Evening

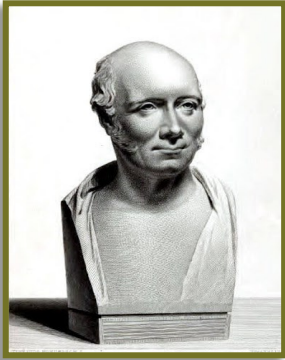
\*Note: this talk will be held at 7:30pm on Zoom

Please do come along and you can join at any of our meetings.

**Derek Douglas, CLHS Archivist**



**James Braidwood**



## ROBERT STEVENSON HOUSE

Many readers will be familiar with the history surrounding Robert Louis Stevenson and his links to Colinton...but if you look at the buildings to the left of The Playhouse Theatre, at the top of Leith Walk, there is a fine terrace of Georgian townhouses. Today, 1-3 Baxter's Place is a hotel, but on the right of the doorway can be found a plaque with the name *Robert Stevenson House* and this is another link to RLS.

The townhouses were designed by architect John Baxter and completed in 1803. At the time, Greenside was a quiet, leafy hamlet on the edge of Edinburgh's New Town. Thomas Smith, step-father of the renowned lighthouse engineer, Robert Stevenson, had bought land at Greenside and buildings began to be erected.

In 1803, Robert Stevenson and his wife Jean moved into Baxter's Place with their family. Robert's extensive offices were in the basement of the building and the entrance for his engineers and draughtsmen was on the right-hand side of the building, a few steps down the lane. The doorway can still be seen, but it is now completely blocked-up.

Robert's three sons were born there and all followed their father as lighthouse engineers. Sadly, eight of his other children died and, with Robert having to travel extensively across Scotland as the lighthouses were being built, his wife Jean had the task of bringing up the boys.

The most important work by Robert Stevenson was the building of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, completed between 1807 and 1810. Robert was in his mid-30s and working in collaboration with Chief Engineer John Rennie.

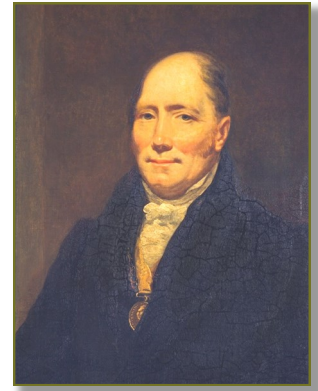


Its construction was long in the planning and then extremely hazardous in the eventual build. The lighthouse still stands today.

The Bell Rock Lighthouse is situated off the Angus coast and is built on a dangerous cluster of rocks. It is the world's oldest working sea-washed lighthouse.

Robert served as the Northern Lighthouse Board's engineer for

*Robert Stevenson, Lighthouse Engineer*



nearly 50 years, until 1842 but he was also instrumental in many other projects, which included the construction of roads, bridges, harbours, canals and railways.

In July 1824, the Northern Lighthouse Board commissioned a bust of Robert Stevenson to be created by Samuel Joseph (*image top left*).

Robert Stevenson had three sons, Alan, David and Thomas (1818 - 1887). Thomas designed more than 30 lighthouses around the coast of Scotland. He was born in the family home at Baxter's Place but, in due course, moved to Howard Place and then to 17 Heriot Row (*pictured below*).

Thomas was the father of the novelist **Robert Lewis Balfour Stevenson**, better known as Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS). RLS changed his name when he was about eighteen years old. He spent most of his life in the family home in Heriot Row but, due to

his serious bronchial problems, at the age of 30, he left home for warmer climes.

But now returning to 1-3 Baxter's Place, readers may be quite unaware that Churchill Livingstone, an academic publishing company, was based in Robert Stevenson House for many years.



*Thomas Stevenson, father of RLS (photograph John Moffat,1880)*



*Bell Rock Lighthouse*

## HELLO AGAIN FROM THE SWING CAFÉ

For those of you who may not be familiar with us, we are a volunteer-run café, based in Colinton Church, Dell Road. When you're here, you can find out more about our connection with Robert Louis Stevenson, enjoy a panoramic view of the Dell or even have a go at one of our jig-saw puzzles, which can be found on a table as you come in.

The Café is open each week from **10am to 2pm, Tuesday to Saturday**. We also hold monthly **Seniors' Tea Afternoons** which continue to be as popular as ever and it's great to see some familiar faces catching up and enjoying some delicious bakes made by our volunteers.

As Autumn approaches, if you are in the village or walking along the river, why not drop in to warm up and enjoy our freshly made soup and scones, have a tea or coffee or a tasty baked tattie! We have a full breakfast and lunch menu including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

We recently welcomed locals Mike and Eddie (pictured in the photograph below) so that we could thank them for their wonderful work restoring the phone box in the village. They have done an amazing job!

We are always on the lookout for more help so, if you fancy getting involved, please drop in and let us know. You can also email me at [cpc.catering@colinton-parish.com](mailto:cpc.catering@colinton-parish.com)

*Hoping to see you all soon!*  
**Lynn Leslie, Swing Café Catering Manager**



### *Robert Stevenson House...continued*

An earlier Edinburgh publishing company, E & S Livingstone, had become one of the best-known medical publishing concerns in Great Britain. Their books reached the far corners of the world and were published in many languages including Dutch, Chinese, Greek, German and Portuguese.

In 1971, E & S Livingstone merged with London medical publishers J & A Churchill and Longman, to form the company Churchill Livingstone. Their most famous book - and possibly the only one readers will have heard of - is **Gray's Anatomy**.

In 1858, Henry Gray and Henry Vandyke Carter created a book for their surgical colleagues that established an enduring, high standard among anatomical texts. After more than 160 years of continuous publication, **Gray's Anatomy** remains the definitive, comprehensive reference book on the subject.

The original bust of Robert Stevenson remained in the building when the Churchill Livingstone company was based there but, in due course, when Churchill Livingstone moved to a new office building in 1995, it was gifted to the Northern Lighthouse Board, whose headquarters are in George Street, Edinburgh.

The building was left empty for quite a number of years, but eventually was turned into the Marriott Hotel, the building we know today. Happily, the theme throughout the whole of the interior of the hotel is that of 'Lighthouses' with architectural drawings, photos of lighthouses and lighthouse-themed names for rooms, including the dining area now known as 'The Lantern Room'.

Readers might wonder why I have written this particular article. It is quite simple really.



*Marriott Hotel, 1-3 Baxter's Place*

I was a member of the publishing team at Churchill Livingstone and worked in Robert Stevenson House for twelve years. I also managed to organise a special staff reunion there, with scores of former colleagues traveling from as far away as the USA, **before** the new hotel was officially opened to the public!

**Editrice, Kath Hay**

## THE GREEN STROLLERS

The Green Strollers have been more active during the last few weeks, thanks to the weather being much kinder.

On a sunny day in August, we set off from Juniper Green Church and walked along the Water of Leith path to Blinkbonny Park, before returning to Molly's Deli for a light lunch.

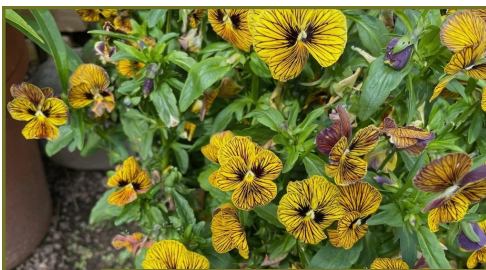
On yet another sunny day, twelve Strollers set off to walk to the Gyle. This was a new walk for some of us and I for one, discovered there is a lot more to the Gyle than just shops. We had a light lunch and then returned by car to Juniper Green. The photograph on the right shows a group of Strollers enjoying the sunshine.

The following walk, which took place before this article went to press, was to Torduff and Clubbiedean Reservoirs. Fingers crossed we had good weather. I'll let you know!



We are always happy to welcome new Strollers, so do come along and join us.

*Happy Strolling*  
*Jeanette Campbell*



## COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

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



**23rd Sep:** Talk: Kirkland Gardens in Fife presented by Peter Hart

**05th Oct:** **Plant Sale:** 10am - 12noon  
St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall,  
Westgarth Avenue,  
Edinburgh EH13 0BB

**28th Oct:** Talk: Alpine Flowers of the Swiss Alps presented by Lynn and Keith Young

**25th Nov:** Talk: The Rise of Rhubarb presented by Kath Hay

**09th Dec:** **CGC Christmas Party**  
8pm - 10pm at the  
Colinton Bowling Club



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

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

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

**28th Apr:** Colinton Garden Club AGM

*Images on the left from the summer trip to gardens at Floors Castle*

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Please note: Services will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30am at **both** Colinton and Juniper Green Churches. This is a change to the current schedule of 9:45am or 11:15am and will allow both congregations to mark the silence at 11am.



The Service at Colinton Church will be led by Rev. Matthew Ross and the Service at Juniper Green Church will be led by Martin Elliot.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

Felicity Poppy Trevenen Sinclair  
8<sup>th</sup> September

Morayo Liliias Ladega  
15<sup>th</sup> September

### Funerals have taken place for

Eleanor Lyall

Christine Mathie

Elizabeth (Elsie) MacLaren

Denis Owens

Margaret Robertson

Elaine Stewart  
(formerly of Grant Avenue)

Robin Winney



**Thank you! We couldn't do it without you.**



Our thanks go to hundreds and thousands of supporters who contribute to our work in a multitude of ways - as individual donors, campaigners, collectors

and also through their local churches. **Thanks to you**, the work of Christian Aid is supporting farmers in the 'dry corridor' of western Honduras, in the face of many emergencies. From the climate crisis and food insecurity to economic migration, life is tough. Our partners help them to diversify their income.

**Thanks to your support for our Middle East Crisis Appeal**, our partner, the Agricultural Development Association, has reached more than 430,000 people in Gaza who are living in shelters. They have been able to distribute drinking water and food packages to them.



**Thank you**

## SOUP AND ROLL FRIDAY LUNCHESES AT JUNIPER GREEN CHURCH

**Why not come and join us at 12noon?**

You can enjoy a Soup and Roll Lunch once a month in Hall 1 at Juniper Green Church. Come and 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:

**2024: 8<sup>th</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup> December**

**2025: 31<sup>st</sup> January  
28<sup>th</sup> February  
28<sup>th</sup> March  
25<sup>th</sup> April  
30<sup>th</sup> May  
27<sup>th</sup> June**



**We look forward to welcoming you!**

**The Parish Publication . Issue 3 . October / November 2024**

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