

PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Issue 5 . February / March 2025 . Distributed free



THE PARISH PUBLICATION

- UPDATE FROM GERMANY • OLM PROGRESS •
- VISIT FROM JERUSALEM •

MINISTER & SESSION CLERK

- USING SOCIAL MEDIA • NEXT STEPS FOR THE PARISH •

FESTIVE SEASON REVISTED

- PARTIES • MUSIC • GATHERINGS •



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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

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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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Jeanette Campbell

Guild of Friendship

Margaret Woodrow

Ladies Badminton Group

Linda Sharp

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KATH HAY
EDITOR

WELCOME to... the first issue of our magazine for 2025 and congratulations go to Rev. Neil Gardner, our previous Interim Moderator, who was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List.

One of our Elders, Janet Shepherd, who is training to become an Ordained Local Minister, has provided an article on her progress, together with a very creative piece of prose. Gemma King, currently living in Germany, has written an update on her Ecumenical adventures,

and, from even further afield, Wendy Maccioni in Australia has provided a photograph and short memory of her father, Robert Ronaldson, local businessman and church member. Despite a cold January Saturday, the **Messy Church** youngsters turned up to learn more about an Edinburgh legend, Eric Liddell. You can see some photos of what they got up to.

Please sit back and enjoy reading all the articles from our contributors.

Felice, Editrice

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

The past few years have seen a growth in interest in studies on human happiness. So then, what will make us happy? In the New Testament, in James 5:13, we read *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise”*.

As I write, we are in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It's therefore appropriate to share some helpful thoughts from another tradition within Christianity. In an interview a decade ago for the Argentinian weekly publication *Viva*, Pope Francis discussed happiness, submitting his own 'Top 10 Tips'. Keeping the headlines (but with a few additions of my own in the commentary) here are edited versions of Pope Francis' tips for happiness or, as he puts it, “for bringing greater joy to one's life”:

1. Live and let live

All of us shall live longer and more happily if we stop trying to arrange other peoples' lives. Jesus challenged us not to judge, but to live with the tension and let God and history make the judgments. So we need to live by our own convictions and let others do the same.

2. Be giving of yourself to others

Happiness lies in giving ourselves away. We need to be open and generous because, if we withdraw

into ourselves, we run the risk of becoming self-centred. No happiness will be found there since “stagnant water becomes putrid”.

3. Proceed calmly

Move with kindness, humility and calmness. These are the antithesis of anxiety and distress. Calm never causes high blood pressure. We need to make conscious efforts never to let the moment cause panic and excessive hurry. Better to be late than stressed.

4. A healthy sense of leisure

Never lose the pleasures of art, literature and playing with children. Remember that Jesus scandalised others with his capacity to enjoy life in all its sensuousness. Jesus proclaimed *“Life in all its fullness”* (John 10:10). We don't live by work alone, no matter how important and meaningful it might be. In heaven there will be no work, only leisure. We need to learn the art and joy of leisure, not just to prepare for heaven, but to enjoy some of heaven now.

5. Sundays should be holidays

Workers should have Sundays off because Sunday is for family. Accomplishment, productivity and speed may not become our most valued commodities or we will begin to take everything for granted - our lives, our health, our families, our friends, those around us and all the good things in life. That is why God gave us a



MATTHEW ROSS
LOCUM MINISTER

commandment to keep the Sabbath holy. This is not a lifestyle suggestion, but a commandment. Moreover, if we are employers, the commandment demands that we give employees proper Sabbath time too.

6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people

If you want to bless a young person, don't just tell that person that he or she is wonderful. Don't just admire youthful beauty and energy. Give a young person a job! Or, at least, work actively to help him or her find meaningful work. This will both bless that young person and bring a special happiness to your own life.

7. Respect and take care of nature

The air we breathe out is the air we will re-inhale. This is true spiritually, psychologically and

Continued...4

Rev. Matthew Ross... continued

ecologically. We can't be whole and happy when Mother Earth is being stripped of her wholeness. Christ came to save the world, not just the people in the world. Our salvation, like our happiness, is tied to the way we treat the Earth. It is immoral to slap another person in the face - likewise it is immoral to throw our rubbish into the face of Mother Earth.

8. Stop being negative

Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. Negative thoughts feed unhappiness and a bad self-image. Positive thoughts feed happiness and healthy self-esteem.

9. Don't proselyte, respect others' beliefs

In today's pluralistic world, the best advertisement for Christianity is for us to show the best example possible, living out Jesus' message of love, justice, peace and truth.

10. Work for peace

Peace is more than the absence of war. Working for peace is more than not causing disharmony. Peace, like war, must be waged actively by working for justice, equality and an ever-wider inclusivity in terms of what makes up our family. Waging peace is the perennial struggle to stretch hearts, our own and others, to accept that in God's house there are many rooms and that all faiths, not least our own, are meant to be a house of prayer for all peoples.

I make no apologies for embellishing the above with a few ideas of my own too! I hope you found it helpful and I send you prayerful good wishes for 2025.

Rev. Matthew Ross
Locum Minister



USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media on the Internet, such as Facebook, has grown massively in popularity in recent years. For many, it is a great way to keep in touch and to share ideas and friendship. Social media can, however, be used for malevolent as well as beneficial ends. At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends eight beautiful qualities. But what do the Beatitudes mean for social media and life online?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled

There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth

I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy

I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

I will be truthful and honest, and I will not pretend to be what I am not.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God

I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

I will not add to the store of hate in the world but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true.

Rev. Matthew Ross

Administrative Assistant

I am delighted to welcome Ruth Burns as our new Administrative Assistant. Ruth will work two mornings per week to provide support and assistance for Lindsey Rowlands in the Church Office, due to increased workload following the Union.

Electoral Roll

After final review and approval, which took place at the December Kirk Session meeting, the Electoral Roll has now been attested by the Presbytery. There are 832 members and 38 adherents listed for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church of Scotland. These people will be entitled to vote in the election of the Nominating Committee and to approve the new Minister. The Electoral Roll is frozen for six months from approval, after which time it is possible to make further changes.

Parish Profile

A draft Parish Profile was discussed at the December Kirk Session meeting and is currently in the process of being updated. The Parish Profile needs to be finalised and approved by the Kirk Session, (as well as by the Vacancy Advisory Committee), before a date can be finalised for the election of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee

In anticipation of the Parish Profile being fully approved by mid-February, a provisional date for the election of the Nominating Committee has been set for Sunday 2nd March after the 11:15am service at Juniper Green Church on that day. If this goes ahead, then the service on 2nd March will be a joint service at Juniper Green, with no service at Colinton Church that day.

However, if this were the case, we would have two services on Sunday 23rd February – one at



Ian Morrison
Session Clerk

Colinton at 9:45am and one at Juniper Green at 11:15am.

The date of the election of the Nominating Committee will be intimated by edict at Church Services on the two Sundays prior to the election.

We will elect 13 people onto the Nominating Committee, which will then proceed with the search for a new Minister. The members of the Nominating Committee are not required to be Elders, but can be any of those listed on the Electoral Roll. There are a small number of exclusions: Employees of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church who are on the Electoral Roll are not eligible to be members of the Nominating Committee, but can participate in the voting system.

The Nominating Committee will proceed on a confidential basis. Those willing to allow their names to be put forward as potential members of the Nominating Committee need to be willing to put in the time and effort required to support the search for a new Minister and to treat the activities of the Nominating Committee as confidential. Information on the activities of the Nominating Committee must not be shared, even with family members.

Christmas Donations

Generous donations of £1,513 were received at the Christmas Services. This money has been divided equally between the three chosen charities: Christian Aid, Love From Jamie and CHAS (Children’s Hospices Across Scotland).

Property Works at Juniper Green Church

Four items of work are scheduled to take place at Juniper Green Church in January or early February.

- ◆ **Forth Pipe Organs** will undertake some repairs on the organ , including correcting those keys on the keyboard which have not been working.
- ◆ There will be remedial work on some of the electrical installations to bring this in line with required standards and obtain an EICR certificate.
- ◆ The bulbs in the projectors will be replaced. This will require temporary scaffolding within the building in order to reach the projectors.
- ◆ The west door will be repaired and should then be available for use.



ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES IN GERMANY

GEMMA KING

Hello once again from Hannover in Germany. Things got so busy at the end of November/beginning of December that I missed the deadline for the last issue of our church magazine! In the space of 10 days, I had three different conferences on which I was working as tech and general helper. It was incredible hearing the various guest speakers share something of church life in such different contexts.

Since getting back to work, after a lovely Christmas holiday in Edinburgh, I have been busy helping with a couple of projects, including the Gender Audit of Member Churches and the preparations for the book on reformed perspectives on Nicaea. 2025 marks the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, where the Nicene Creed, which articulates the major key ideas of the Christian faith, was agreed. On the right, you can see two images relating to this document.

Since I last wrote, I have also been having more church adventures. **RELISH** (Reformed English Language International Service in Hannover) only meets on two Sundays in the month, so I have had many opportunities to explore other churches. I have been enjoying going to Hannover International Worship, which meets in Petrikerche on the third Sunday of the month and I have also been to a couple of German church services.

My first was a communion service at the Reformierte Kirche where I enjoyed learning a German kids' church song *Sei ein lebend'ger Fisch* (Be a living Fish). Look it up on YouTube, it's very catchy! The same Sunday I also tagged along



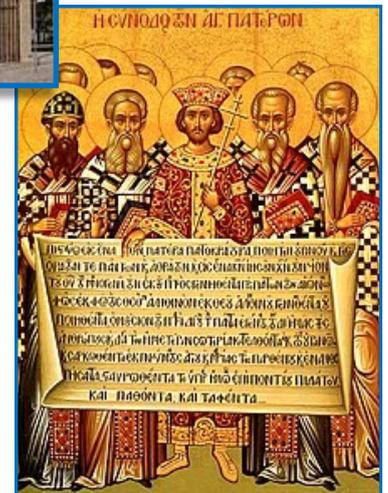
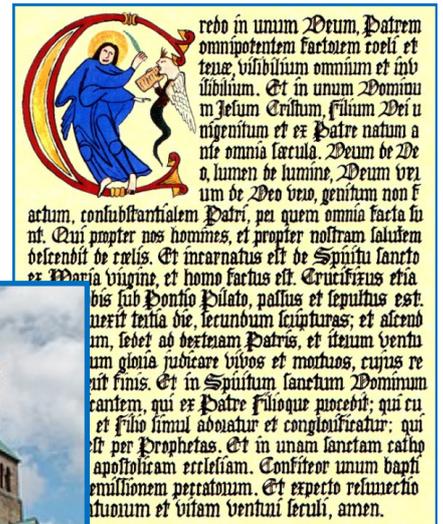
with my Korean colleague to the Korean church service in Hannover, where a famous Korean pianist was playing. While I didn't understand much of the content of the service, I enjoyed the atmosphere - so many young folk!



I have also enjoyed other adventures. I met up with friends in Berlin and went on a day trip to Potsdam, which was great. Before Christmas, I had my first solo adventure to Hildesheim, a town about 30 minutes from Hannover by S-Bahn. There are so many beautiful churches in Hildesheim, including the UNESCO world heritage cathedral, the **Mariendom** (pictured above). It was stunning and had a fascinating museum full of church artefacts, including many Madonna and Child statues.

During December, I loved having the Christmas Market directly outside my office, so it was beautiful looking out of the window to the lights and buzz in the street below.

I'm continuing to appreciate WhatsApp video calls to my family and friends. Prayer Space on Zoom has also continued to be a blessing - the one part of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church life which I have been able to continue with as normal from Germany. It has also been great having a few trips back home to attend various events.



I am looking forward to a busy year ahead and preparing for the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council meeting, which will take place in Chiang Mai in Thailand in October.

GEMMA KING



The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

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

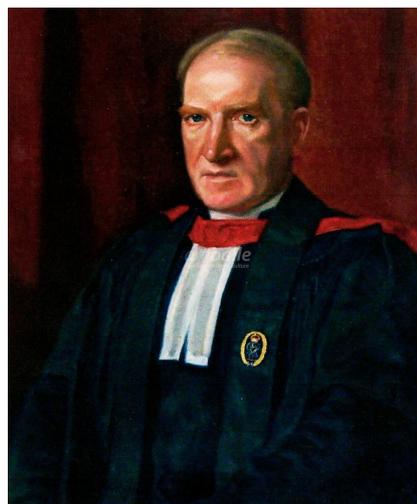
Norman Maclean founded Colinton Parish Church Literary Society in October 1903 together with three members of the congregation. Maclean was Minister of Colinton Parish Church from 1903 to 1910 and was also a prolific writer. He published 11 books between 1902 and 1949, so it is no wonder he was keen to establish the Colinton Parish Church Literary Society, as it was originally named.

Born on Skye, Norman Maclean (1869-1952) was Minister at Glengarry Church near Fort Augustus between 1897 and 1903. From 1915 to 1936 he was Minister of St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road in Edinburgh and in 1927, became Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In later years he was also Scottish Chaplain to George V. Maclean also travelled extensively through Palestine, Jerusalem and Australia.

The Literary Society meetings were first held in a wood and corrugated building in Dreghorn Loan, known as the Old Tin Hall. The large, well-equipped Dreghorn Loan Hall now stands on the site. For more than 100 years, The 'Lit' programme has covered both literary topics and those of general interest for the entire community from where the membership is drawn.

2025

- 15 Jan Gallipoli:** Presented by Brigadier Ian Gardiner
- 22 Jan Roots of the Reformation:** Will Sanders looks at the establishment of Protestantism in Scotland
- 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 14th century England
- 26 Feb Trial by Jury:** Conductor David Lyle and soloists present Gilbert and Sullivan's 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



The painting of Norman Maclean (above) is by an unknown artist. The titles of his books are listed below.

- *Dwellers in the Mist* (1902)
- *Stand Up, Ye Dead* (1916)
- *Hills of Home* (1916)
- *The Message of Bethlehem* (1926)
- *A Christmas Message* (1929)
- *Services for Holy Week and Easter* (1929)
- *Jerusalem, the Mother of us All* (1939)
- *Christmas in Palestine* (1940)
- *His Terrible Swift Sword* (1942)
- *The Former Days* (1945) (autobiography)
- *Set Free* (1949)

AN INVITATION TO THE LIT

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.

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

The programme covers both literary topics and those of general interest, plus occasional musical evenings.

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



I am pleased to announce that we have just launched our new website www.colintonhistory.org.uk Although we plan to add much more material relating to the history and growth of Colinton across the centuries, there are already many articles about Colinton characters, its buildings and happenings around our village uploaded there.

Whether you want to find out about The Royal Soldiers Home, the Colinton Airfield (WW1), the Colinton Tramway Company and many others, this is the place to go. There is also plenty of information about past Colinton characters, such as Phoebe Anna Traquair, Lord Cockburn, James Gillespie, Jane Johnston (who built what is now the Colinton Inn and the block between that and the Post Office, now Janefield) and many others.

Not only can you find out so much about Colinton on our web-

site, we are also inviting you to contribute any stories about our area that you may have, so that our readers can all share and learn more about the history of this wonderful suburban village in which we live. You will find this facility on our site, so do share any of your stories or articles with us!

On 6th January, our 2025 year got off to a roaring and very well-attended start, when Robert Yates and Dr Donald Adamson gave us an interesting talk about *The Coalmine in the Sea at Culross*.

COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Following that, we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Andy Arthur on *The History of Rockville House*. Our programme continues as follows:

- Feb 03 **The Story of Roman Arm Armour** / Fraser Hunter, National Museum of Scotland
- Feb 17 **Through Ice & Fire: A Russian Arctic Convoy** / Leona Thomas
- Mar 03 **Scots Women Who Chose to Challenge** / Jackie Sangster
- Mar 17 **History Society AGM** and short talks by some Members

Meetings are open to all Members, and visitors are also welcome at £5pp. Meetings take place on Monday evenings at 8pm in the Dregghorn Loan Hall, Colinton.

Derek Douglas
Society Archivist

DISCUSSING DISABILITY AT EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH

Would you like to generate discussion in our church about how to welcome disabled people and fully include them in Christian life?

Through the Roof runs a Disability Workshop tailored to our specific situation. This free two-hour session on Zoom offers a safe space to help us to tackle key issues together, facilitate healthy discussion and develop a positive plan for action.

For more details, or to book a date, please email Katie Budd at katie@throughtheroof.org.

This workshop is available free of charge to us as a church with a Roofbreaker (Church disability inclusion champion).

You can find out more about Roofbreakers on Through the Roof's website at <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/roofbreakers/>

Church
Disability
Awareness
Workshop





THE GREEN STROLLERS

After a successful walking season, the Green Strollers temporarily hung up their boots for the winter months. However, we shall be back in February, ready to start strolling again.

During the next few weeks, the leaders will get together to discuss and arrange a programme of walks for the new season. We also hope to organise a couple of social events and shall be planning our next weekend away for the end of the year.

New members are always very welcome. Please contact me, or any of the Strollers, if you are interested in joining our walking group.

Keep Strolling
Jeanette Campbell



JANUARY SENSES

Have you seen the rose tinged skies of the early morning;
The architecture of the tree silhouetted against the evening sky;
The bright full moon and sparkling Venus of the night sky?
God's creation, God's artistry.



Have you heard the song thrush's melodic call;
The honking of the geese as they fly overhead;
The echo of Christmas carols still ringing in your ears?
God's creation, God's music.



Have you felt the chill of the frosty morning and the crunch of snow underfoot;
The warmth of the sun as it climbs slowly higher into the sky;
The touch of a friend's arm around your shoulder?
God's creation, God's caress.



Have you smelled the tang of new season citrus;
The pungent wood burner smoke hanging in the air;
The lingering smell of pine needles now the tree has gone?
God's creation, God's incense.

Have you tasted from the warming pot of winter soup;
The mashed neeps and tatties, alongside your Burns' haggis;
The shared bread and wine of our gathering?
God's creation, God's compassion.



January can feel long after the anticipation of December. We can feel a bit blue after all the excitement, and it can seem a long time to the next pay day after buying presents and food to mark Christmas. God speaks to us in many ways, but creation calls loudly to me at every turn. Even in January I am uplifted and renewed by the beauty, the variety, the resilience of it. Therefore, I encourage you to tune into creation - even in this season - and encounter God there. God saw that it was good, and so should we.

Janet Shepherd

VISIT FROM JERUSALEM

The Rev. Dr Stewart Gillan, the Church of Scotland Minister in Jerusalem and Tiberias, will be visiting Scotland in February. In his schedule is a meeting at Balerno Parish Church on Wednesday 12th February at 7.30 pm. All are welcome.

Stewart, who was formerly the Minister at Linlithgow St Michael's, took up the post of Minister at St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias in December 2022. He shares ministry with the Rev. Muriel Pearson.

In this ministry, he is prayerfully seeking to serve the congregations and partner with Church, Interfaith and Human Rights organisations on both sides of the wall, on the long walk towards a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land.

Stewart aims to bring together the spiritual and strategic dimensions of peace work with people who have been working for justice and peace in God's name, all of their lives.

St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Jerusalem



Website: <https://www.standrewsjerusalem.org>

FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS REVISITED



THE 'LIT' BUFFET SUPPER

On 4th December, members of The 'Lit' enjoyed early Christmas celebrations at their buffet supper. Music was provided by the excellent **Glencairn Ensemble:**

Pianist:
Margaret Donaldson

Soprano:
Susan McNaught

Mezzo-Soprano:
Barbara Brodie

Tenor:
Mike Towers

Bass:
Walter Thomson



THE SWING CAFÉ PARTY

Many of the hard-working volunteers from The Swing Café took part in a well-deserved party on 18th December. The extensive and delicious buffet was prepared by Catering Manager, Lynn Leslie, pictured on the far right.

All images provided by Editrice



Recently, I discovered a well in Currie and a brass rubbing that represents it. In this article, I'd like to tell you about them and also explain how they help me connect with God.

The well is a natural spring with some stones built round it and flows into the Water of Leith. It is dedicated to St Mungo and on the right, there's a photo I took of it. Along with some other saints, Mungo established Christianity in Scotland and helps me to connect with God through a person. I think of such people as 'middle people'. In reformed traditions, Jesus is usually the person we think of who can act as a 'middle person', because he was God in human form. But Jesus never set foot in Scotland.

By contrast, Mungo and his fellow Scottish saints were 'locals'. For example, Mungo lived in Glasgow, Baldred on the Bass Rock and Columba on Iona. I have been to all these places, which lets me feel connected to the saints and, through them, to God.

Similarly, I feel connected to God through the Well in Currie because of its dedication to St Mungo, a 'middle person'. Something that helps me feel this connection is the brass plaque near it, which you can do rubbings of. Below is a photo of the plaque together with a rubbing I've done of it. You can see Mungo's face in the middle. The circles around it represent a

WELL, WELL



ring that Mungo helped to retrieve from a fish and the inside of a handbell he brought from Rome. The bird is a robin that Mungo restored to life and the leaves are from a hazel tree branch that Mungo used to restart a fire.

Doing a brass rubbing is quite an absorbing, meditative activity... you have to be patient and careful. Through thin paper, I can feel the contact between pencil lead and brass. As the image appears, I feel a connection to Mungo and his Well, even though the plaque only represents them.

I visited St Mungo's Well in Currie on one of the last days of 2024. In the past, people thought of holy wells (ones that were dedicated to saints) as 'thin' places – places where heaven and earth came close. Some wells were also thought to heal you from illness if you visited them. St Mungo's Well is in a peaceful spot near the river and after spending only a few minutes there, I noticed I had gained a sense of wellbeing. Some spring bulbs were starting to come up and that gave me hope.



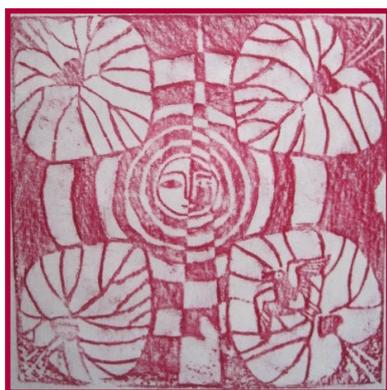
St Mungo

Detail of stained-glass window by William Wilson in Glasgow Cathedral (above) and detail of stained-glass window by John Blyth in St Mungo's Church, Balerno (below)



I'm grateful for these new ways to connect with God and their beneficial effect on me. How fortunate we are to have peaceful, green spaces next to running water that can bring us close to God and help us feel well!

Article and images provided by a member of the congregation



NEWS FROM AN OLM IN TRAINING

Dear Friends

I am now almost through my second year of training for the role of Ordained Local Minister (OLM). I have only one term of academic study left, with the remaining courses being **Sacramental Theology and History of Christian Mission**.

I am especially looking forward to the course on the sacraments as they are so key to our worship and faith. I shall then have completed all the required elements for the Certificate in Theology, which is a Church of Scotland requirement, before I can progress to being ordained.

In parallel with this year's study, I have been on placement at Barclay Viewforth Parish Church, with their Minister David Clarkson being my supervisor, and shall be there until the end of April.

Barclay Viewforth is more of a gathered congregation than a parish one, though many of the people who come live within the parish. There is a wide age range, with a stalwart 97 year-old, who attends most Sundays, and also several babes in arms, which is lovely.

I haven't figured out how many young people come but their presence is definitely a



Janet Shepherd

highlight of this placement. They have three different age groups, which have their own sessions each Sunday morning: three-year-olds to P2, P3-P6, and P7-S4. The young people join the congregation at the start of worship, which includes an **All Age Talk** which I have given a few times. The youngsters enjoy engaging with whoever is giving this talk, which is great.



Carols on the Doorstep (above) and Barclay Viewforth Church (left)

Before Christmas, the younger groups presented their own nativity play which they had written, based on an elderly shepherdess remembering the time the angels came and told them of Jesus. The older group did their own thing and produced a video with their version of Michael McIntyre's **The Wheel**. It was very imaginative and through the 'experts' the contestants explored the Christmas story.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but, in the lead up to Christmas, the church holds a **Carols on the Doorstep** service, as well as a more conventional **Carols by Candlelight** service. The doorstep service has neighbours watching from the windows of their flats and passers by joining in.

Praise music is a core part of Sunday worship (morning and evening), with most of the music being modern praise

songs, but hymns from CH4 still make a regular appearance. Some of the modern songs are unfamiliar to me, but I have enjoyed experiencing a wide selection of praise music.

I need to lead a minimum of three services during my placement and I have led one already. My

final one is likely to be on Palm Sunday, which will feel special as it is a key Sunday in the lead up to Easter. It always feels a privilege to be involved in leading worship, and even as my experience grows, that sense of privilege does not change.

Whilst our own parish union has gone ahead relatively smoothly, once it was clear that Juniper Green and Colinton were coming together, the union that Barclay Viewforth is working towards is much more complicated. The Presbytery Plan has this Church uniting with St Michael's, Polwarth and Craiglockhart parish churches, which is quite a geographically strung-out arrangement.

On Saturday 18th January, there was a four-congregation meeting in order to consider how this might look and work. The resulting ministry team will have two full-time ministers plus an OLM. Do please remember these congregations in your prayers as they navigate a way forward.

After I finish this placement, I am required to complete a year's probation which will start in September. The location of this has yet to be decided but I should know in the next couple of months. Your prayers of support for my training, the decisions I need to make along the way as I continue to discern where God is calling me to serve, are greatly valued.

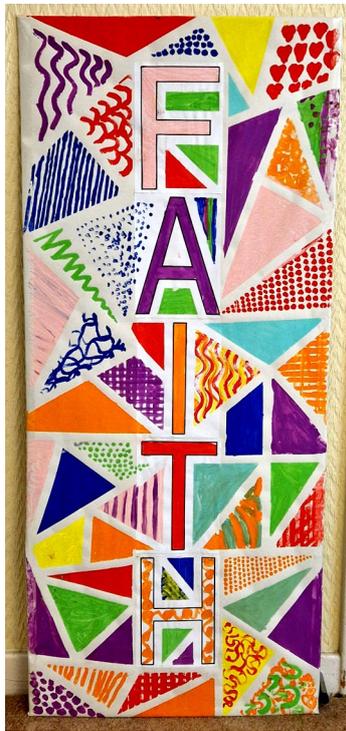
I look forward to joining you again during the summer months and maybe even sharing in leading worship. With my prayers for God's ongoing blessing on those who serve and those who worship at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church.

Janet Shepherd

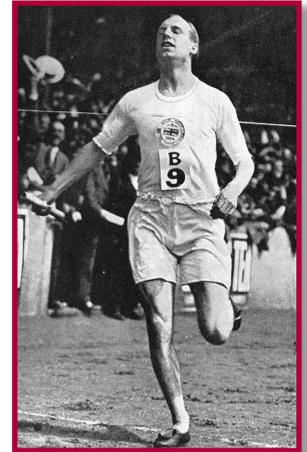
OLM Candidate in Training and Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Elder



The theme for Messy Church, which took place on 11th January, was based on the life and work of Eric Liddell. The children helped to create the stained-glass painting (left) about Faith as they learnt about Liddell and his tremendous faith and belief in God. The painting is on display in The Swing Café.



Born in China in 1902 to Scottish missionary parents, Eric Liddell attended the University of Edinburgh and also became a missionary. He was also a sprinter and rugby player. At the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris, Liddell refused to run in the heats for his favoured 100 metres because they were held on a Sunday. Instead, he competed in the 400 metres race held on a weekday - and he won! He was ordained as a Congregational Minister in 1932 and regularly taught bible classes at Morningside Congregational Church, Edinburgh. He returned to China in 1925 and served as a missionary teacher. Aside from two furloughs in Scotland, he remained in China until his death in a Japanese civilian internment camp in 1945.



The Messy Church children enjoyed working with various messy things and to think about faith, tried sporty games, coloured in pictures of animals found in China and got messy with Oobleck - a non Newtonian substance that is solid or liquid, depending on the pressure on it (we know it better as cornflour and water!).

Images of children taken with permission. Editrice



EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP



More than twenty five years ago, the Church of Scotland Guild meeting in Juniper Green, found that, due to falling membership, it was difficult to fulfil its obligations. After lots of discussions, thoughts and prayers, it was decided that the group should reform under the new name, Guild of Friendship, and meet in the afternoon.

The Group aimed to provide fellowship and friendship, support our Church financially and, at the same time, be aware of needs of local people and charities. The Guild of Friendship meets fortnightly, on Thursday afternoons at 2pm. This is a time when members of the congregation and the community can enjoy fellowship, friendship and fun.

A planned programme of events, which runs from September to May, includes interesting guest speakers, musical afternoons, quizzes, games and hands-on crafts. It is a time for ladies and gentlemen to catch up with friends, meet new people and enjoy a cup of tea.

Future meetings include a talk about how libraries have changed and what they provide now, and also a **Scottish Afternoon**. Look out for intimations in the Parish update.

Please accept this invitation to join us at Juniper Green Church Hall 2 where you will be made very welcome.

Margaret Woodrow

COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

The February and March meetings for the Club are listed below and will be held at Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton. New members and guests are always welcome.

Discussions are underway regarding outings for Spring and Summer, so look out for details in the next issue of the Parish magazine. Information is also to be found on our website

<https://colintongardens.org.uk>

Monday 24th February 8:00pm

Members' Evening: Our speakers will be Richard Ennos, David Bryce and Cliff Dalley

Monday 24th March 8:00pm

Talk: Guest speaker will be Professor Kevin Frediani, who is Curator of Dundee University Botanic Gardens



COLINTON BROWNIES

Girls aged 7-10 years have nonstop fun, learning and adventure, so come and join us!

Spaces are available at our Monday evening gatherings.

At Colinton Brownies we invite all girls to explore their creative side, get out and about in the great outdoors, start to learn how to look after themselves as well as others and find out all about the world in which we live.

For info about joining please contact:

colintonbrownieslist@gmail.com



DECEMBER CAROL SERVICE AT COLINTON CHURCH

Pictured above are the wonderful members of the choir who took part in the festive service and sang many carols, including *The Angel Gabriel*, *The Truth from Above* and *Adam Lay-y-bounden*. Members of the congregation also joined in with gusto!

Simon Walker, Assistant Director of Music at Glenalmond School, was the organist and the whole ensemble was conducted by David Turner, Director of Music at Colinton Church.

PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

Rev. Ronald Scotland
8th November 2024

Ann Steel
December 2024

George W. Tait
7th December 2024

Robert Ronaldson
14th December 2024

Walter Carlyle
18th December 2024

Ruby White
19th December 2024

Ellen McWhirter
14th January 2025



LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After a break during the Christmas and New Year period, we restarted on 8th January with a good turnout, despite the weather.

The ladies meet on Wednesdays at 10am in Juniper Green Church Hall. We play for fun and have a short break for coffee and a chat.

We have space for new players and you will be made welcome if you decide to join us. If interested, do come along to the Hall or contact Linda Sharp, 0131 453 4985, if you would like further information.



Robert Keltie Ronaldson (Bob).
Born 1936, Colinton, passed away peacefully on 14th December 2024.

It is with sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Bob Ronaldson, who was born in Spylaw Street, Colinton in 1936 and had a happy childhood living in Woodhall Road. He was one of six children and the only son of Robert (Bert) and Gertrude Ronaldson.

Following in his father's footsteps as a plumber, for more than 40 years Bob was well-known in Colinton village and surrounding areas, running a plumbing and electrical business, **Ronaldson's Plumbers**. He also owned the ironmonger shop on Bridge Road. Bob's sisters, Margaret and Nessie, worked in the shop for many years, as did his wife Myra in later years. Bob had two apprentices, John and Peter, and Carlos was the electrician.

Following marriage, for 20 years Bob and his family lived in Oxgangs, but then in 1986, moved back to Colinton and lived in Redford Avenue. When he retired in 1999, he moved to Pathhead to be gamekeeper for Prestonhall Estate.

Bob was a pillar of the Colinton community, helping out

at church fetes, Sunday School outings and, for many years, putting up the Christmas tree lights at Colinton Parish Church. His three children were also married at the church.

Bob spent his last few months in the care of the Midlothian Community Hospital in Bonnyrigg, where he slipped away peacefully and without pain on 14th December 2024. His funeral was held on 10th January 2025.

Bob leaves his family of three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, together with many friends, who have happy memories to cherish.

Wendy Maccioni
(Bob Ronaldson's daughter)

Image of old Colinton village, below, courtesy of Colinton Local History Society



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