

PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Issue 6 . April / May 2025 . Distributed free



THE PARISH PUBLICATION

- UPDATES •
- ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES •

MINISTER & SESSION CLERK

- REMEMBERING JERUSALEM • NOMINATING COMMITTEE •

EASTER SERVICES

- AT COLINTON AND JUNIPER GREEN CHURCHES •





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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 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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Please note that all articles are subject to editing.

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Guild of Friendship	Margaret Woodrow
Ladies Badminton Group	Linda Sharp
Leprosy Mission	Rita Brownlie
Messy Church	Alison Downie

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KATH HAY
EDITOR

WELCOME... to the Spring issue of *The Parish Publication*.

We often send our thanks to the many volunteers who deliver copies of our magazine, but you might be surprised to learn just how young they can be! A wee volunteer can be seen on the right. In this issue, you can catch up with key information from our Session Clerk, as well as news from our various Clubs and Associations. This includes Easter events, the superb presentation of *Trial by Jury* which took place at The 'Lit' recently, and the Messy Church team who will be organising a special treasure hunt - and there is more. I do hope you enjoy reading all the articles from our many contributors.

Felice, Editrice



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

In December 2002, I visited Jerusalem as part of a three-person delegation on behalf of the Church of Scotland's former Board of Practice and Procedure. We were looking at the future of the Church of Scotland's work in Israel and Palestine, including the consequences of any legal changes. Not exactly the conventional stuff of pilgrimage.

Most of the time was spent in meetings, notably with lawyers and church officials. Nevertheless, it was important to get a sense of context rather than just legal facts. This resulted in a visit that I will never forget: driving down the Jordan Valley Road through the Palestinian West Bank, talking to local people, seeing Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Jericho, Nazareth and Jerusalem, aware of the sense of tension - and being unable to visit Bethlehem due to an Israeli military check-point, yet seeing Bethlehem in the distance, several miles away.

It was a time of considerable tension in Israel and Palestine, although nothing nearly as awful as the events of recent months. As I write, the ceasefire in Gaza has broken down, resulting in yet

more deaths and destruction.

I pray that a ceasefire will have been re-established by the time you read this - please pray for justice and peace.

During my visit, a particular highlight was the chance to visit both the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, supposedly built on the site of Jesus' crucifixion at Golgotha and his three-day tomb. Normally, it would have been thronged with pilgrims, yet due to the dangerous situation at the time, it was almost deserted. Seeing the empty tomb reminded me of words from Luke 24:6-8:

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' Then they remembered his words.

The administration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was agreed through a 'Status Quo' of 1757, where several different Christian communities were given responsibility and control over different areas of the building. It's far from satisfactory and, sometimes, there are heated disagreements. Yet perhaps this

reflects human weakness - trying to live out Jesus' prayer, as in John 17:21: *that all may be one* is far from easy. My fifteen years of work in ecumenical bodies at Scottish, European and global levels often taxed any diplomatic skills to the limit.



MATTHEW ROSS
LOCUM MINISTER

Two thousand years ago, the Roman occupation impacted on Jerusalem. Today, we also see global political tensions impacting on Jerusalem and indeed elsewhere - including here. Then and now, into such a chaotic world, comes the person of Jesus Christ, with his divine message of peace, love, truth, justice, reconciliation and hope. The message of Easter is of the

Continued...4

Rev. Matthew Ross... continued

centrality of resurrection. The way of Christ overcomes even death on a cross. The Easter message is a joyous one, giving us hope - Christ is with us. Our call is to be on the side of hope, not the side of chaos and turmoil, even if the current situation in Israel and Palestine seems so forlorn.

The Church is called by Christ to be salt and light – witnessing Christ's love in the community. Here at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church, we look forward with hope. A Nominating Committee has now been elected to engage in the selection process which will result in a call to a new Minister. Please pray for the work of the Nominating Committee and for the new Minister, whoever he or she may be. This work of witnessing Christ's love must continue – there's much to be done.

Our confidence and hope come from the good news of Christ's resurrection. I wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. Matthew Ross
Locum Minister*

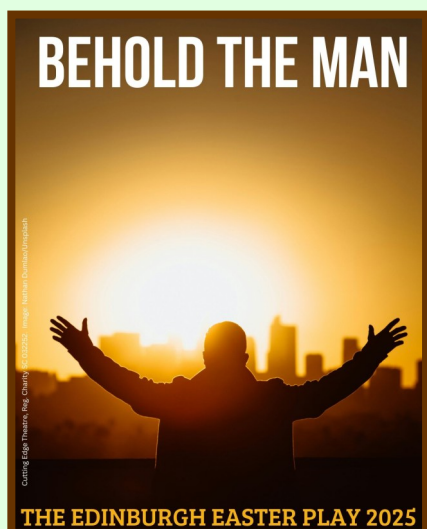
Messy Treasure Hunt

Saturday 10th May

There will be many adventures with sand, stories and songs as we embark on a very grand **Treasure Hunt** on the last session of Messy Church to be held before our summer break.

Please do come and join us in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, from 2:30pm - 4pm, on Saturday 10th May, thus avoiding the holiday weekend.

See you then!



BEHOLD THE MAN EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2025

You may remember a feature about the Edinburgh Easter Play which appeared in the first issue of *The Parish Publication*. This is a drama that tells the Easter Story and takes place every year in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. I went to see it last year and found it moving and powerful, so I encourage you to go along if it's something that appeals to you.

Every year, there is a different script. Last year, it told the story from the perspective of eleven women. This year it will explore how Jesus defied people's expectations of a man.

The play integrates British Sign Language (BSL), which means that there are BSL interpreters who move round the stage in costume, as part of the cast.

This year's play is on Easter Saturday (19th April) at 2:00pm in Princes Street Gardens West. It is free and un-ticketed. If you'd like to find out more, including comprehensive access information, please visit the Easter Play's website at www.easterplay.org

If you do go, feel free to let our Editor know how you found it - and your views might appear in Issue 7 of *The Parish Publication* !

Article provided by a member of our congregation

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Nominating Committee and the search for a new Minister and Manse

Following approval of the finalised Parish Profile at the February Kirk Session meeting, an election for the Nominating Committee was held at a joint service at Juniper Green Church on 2nd March. Thanks to everyone who was willing to allow themselves to be put forward as candidates. Thirteen people were elected to that Committee. Further information regarding this, which you can read below, has been provided by our Interim Moderator, Rev. Ian MacDonald.

There is also a Manse Group searching for a new manse for the new Minister.

Property Works

At Juniper Green Church, work continues on both the electrical installation and the organ. Work is also required to the Juniper Green Church roof, which lost some slates during the stormy weather in January/February.

A renewed attempt is being made to have the stairlift at Dreghorn Loan Hall repaired, as we are aware how important it is to have it back in operation.

We have received permission to remove two pews from the front right of Colinton Church, to facilitate the creation of a children's area, similar to the area in Juniper Green Church.

Holy Week Services

During Holy Week, there will be services at 7:00pm on Monday 14th, Wednesday 16th and Friday 18th April at Colinton Church and Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th April at Juniper Green Church. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Thursday service. See page 7 for full details.

Stated Annual Meeting

The first Stated Annual Meeting of the new Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church of Scotland will take place after the joint morning service at Colinton Church on Sunday 25th May. The annual report and accounts will be presented and there will be an opportunity for questions.



Ian Morrison
Session Clerk

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, chosen by you, is a group of 13 members of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church, who will begin the formal process of selecting a new Minister.

This is an exciting and serious commitment. While the Elders have produced a comprehensive Parish Profile for prospective candidates to read, in order to get a flavour of the church's life, of our hopes and dreams for the future, as of the Minister we are looking for.

The Nominating Committee's ultimate responsibility is to spiritually discern the person whom God has called to us. This is no easy task. When the prophet Samuel was commanded to find and anoint a new king for Israel, God reminded him not to look at their height or their stature:

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

A heart for God, a heart for his church and a heart for our community. This will require your prayerful support. Pray for each member of the Nominating Committee in their pursuit of a new Minister and for the unity of the Spirit in their discussions and discernment in their decisions.

One last note... everyone on the committee has made a promise to maintain complete confidentiality during the process. Please do not embarrass any of them by asking for information - they are not allowed to share this information (even with their spouse!).

The members of the Nominating Committee are:

- Robin Blackmun
- Alison Downie
- Martin Elliot
- Linda Grigor
- Alyson Lochhead
- Alasdair Mackenzie
- Michael Merriman
- Claire O'Brien
- Sheila Porteous
- Sarah Rhynas
- Avril Scott
- Gordon Shirreff
- Margaret Woodrow

Every blessing in Christ

Rev. Ian MacDonald
Interim Moderator



Love from Jamie

thanks the congregation of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church for their support through the generous donation from Christmas offerings and also donations from individual members.

Based in Edinburgh, **Love From Jamie** is run by us, Martin and Fiona, Jamie's parents, and we are both members of the congregation. We work hard to fundraise, in order to provide financial support to families when they need it most. So far, we have been able to support a number of families to cover the costs of headstones and memorials, to allow them to mark the lives of their children. We also support families in financial difficulty, often due to having to take unpaid leave following a child's death.

We decided to set up **Love From Jamie** in our son's name to help other families who find themselves in a situation like ours. Whilst we cannot take away the pain families go through, we aim to ease some of the financial pressure that comes with taking time off work, the expense of counselling appointments or additional funeral costs.



The charity is solely funded through fundraising from events we have organised ourselves, participating in events as an affiliated charity and from people who have chosen to fundraise on our behalf through a number of different ways, such as sporting events, challenges at work or school and also memorial collections.

This year, Martin will take on his first half-marathon to raise money for **Love From Jamie** and we will also be holding a number of fundraising events which we would love members of the congregation to get involved in!

You can find out more at

<https://lovefromjamie.org.uk> or feel free to speak to Martin – he is always happy to talk about Jamie!



The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

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

The 'Lit' season of talks and events drew to a close at the AGM, which was held on 5th March. Following the formal meeting, Guest Speaker Hanna Dyka, pictured far right, introduced members and guests to the work of one of Ukraine's leading poets, Pavlo Tychyna, a very interesting person indeed.

On 26th February, a splendid production of **Trial by Jury** was presented by members of EDGAS, the Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society, led by their Music Director, David Lyle, seen here on the right at the keyboard. David is also standing alongside Ian Lawson, one of the singers, who was actually wearing a suit that belonged to W.S. Gilbert - Ian inherited the suit as he is a relation of the composer!

The 2025-2026 season of The 'Lit' commences on 15th October and there will be much to look forward to.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Come and join us for our Holy Week and Easter Services which will be held in Colinton and Juniper Green Churches

Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church invites everyone in our local community to join us this Easter, as we journey through Holy Week and reflect on the sacrifice, love and hope of Christ's resurrection. Whether you are a regular worshipper or visiting for the first time, you are warmly invited to be part of our Services and share in the joy of Easter.

Throughout the week, our Services will take different formats, offering opportunities for quiet contemplation, communal worship and interactive engagement. Whether you connect through music, scripture, prayer or conversation, you'll find a space to experience the Easter Story in a way that speaks to you.

All are welcome - come as you are and celebrate with us!

Palm Sunday 13th April

9:45am Service, Colinton

11:15am Service, Juniper Green

Monday 14th April

7:00pm Service, Colinton

Tuesday 15th April

7:00pm Service, Juniper Green

Wednesday 16th April

7:00pm Service, Colinton

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7:00pm Communion Service, Juniper Green

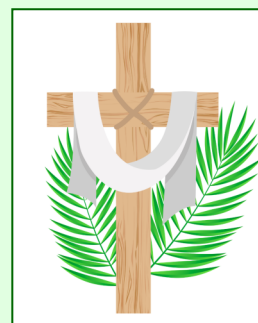
Good Friday 18th April

7:00pm Service, Colinton

Easter Sunday 20th April

9:45am Family Service, Colinton

11:15am Family Service, Juniper Green



Did you know that every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy? That's more than 200,000 new cases each year. Although it can be cured, millions of people around the world are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, as well as poverty and discrimination.



Here is an update on donations to the Leprosy Mission

Cheques were sent on 25th January for £56.00 and on 15th March for £43.50

Thank you to the Ladies of the Guild at Juniper Green Church for all the coins you have put into the Leprosy jar and also to both the congregation and to everyone else who has donated. Thank you letters from the Mission are pinned on the board in Juniper Green Church vestibule (where there are blue donation boxes) and also on the board in Hall 2.

Rita Brownlie



Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Guild of Friendship. Fun, fitness and facts!

Words to think about when describing what we have been doing at our meetings

Talented members participated in our Scottish Afternoon to celebrate Burns Day. Marilyn led us with her choice of well-remembered songs, several members shared fun poems and we took part in a quiz.

Answers were not open for debate!

Balloons, bouncy balls and music supplied an afternoon of fun exercise. Seated or standing, we all joined in.

Two members introduced us to the wonders of Zumba and we twisted and twirled along to well known pop tunes.

Twenty-six ladies wearing silly sailor hats and shaking musical instruments sang for more than an hour when Margo, her guitar and her wee Granny (puppet) came to entertain us. A fun-filled afternoon with a talented and creative musician.

We hear a lot about scams and scammers and how easy it is to get caught out. Two ladies from the Community Police team talked about the types of scams going on, how to avoid them and how to get help and advice, if caught out. We all appreciated how the police officers took time to reassure us.

Finally, we welcomed back Springwell Golden Voices Choir, who were popular visitors in pre-covid times. Their comprehensive selection of songs was even better than we remembered and we enthusiastically joined in with an Elton John song!

Watch out for **Guild of Friendship** intimations and do come and join us (ladies *and* gentlemen) for an afternoon of fellowship and friendship - and the all important cup of tea.

Margaret Woodrow



Hello again from Hannover in Germany. I am writing this during a lull between busy spells of work for the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Since New Year, most of my time at work has been taken up with the Nicaea 1700th Anniversary book project. A few weeks ago, I had to minute six meetings with different groups of authors, which required lots of typing. It was fantastic listening to such insightful conversations. I am really enjoying seeing this project develop, as more and more authors come on board. I also have been busy uploading data for the Gender Audit, which is assessing the extent of women's leadership in our member churches.

I also had the opportunity to travel to London for the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) Trustee Residential meeting. One of the other hats I wear is that I serve as the Church of Scotland representative Trustee for CTBI. For me, this meeting was inspiring, as I really felt a sense of the focus and energy from the staff team. I felt that they were addressing the big issues in British and Irish society. Since our meeting in London, we have had an input session from Synergy, a

ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES IN GERMANY

GEMMA KING



project that CTBI supports, which brings together organisations that are addressing the issue of serious youth violence in London. Synergy hopes to expand its work to other cities in the UK and Ireland, including Glasgow.

I've been continuing to enjoy the variety of church services in Hannover. One highlight from the past couple of months was attending the induction service for Jeff and Chelsea Lampen to joint RELISH pastors (*pictured above*). The service was conducted half in German and half in English, with folk from the Reformed Church in America (Jeff and Chelsea's home denomination), the Reformierte Kirche (the host church for RELISH) and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). I had the privilege of being invited, by Jeff and Chelsea, to lead the prayer of intercession. It was such a joyful service and very much reflected the joy and hospitality which Jeff and Chelsea bring to their ministry there.

In between all of this, I have really enjoyed going out on more walks and exploring more of



Hannover. I have found a great swimming pool which opens late on a couple of evenings, so have enjoyed going for a swim after work. Another blessing for me has been my trips home to see family, friends - and the hills.

There's a busy time ahead for me in the next couple of months as I shall be heading to Newark, New Jersey, USA, at the start of April for a week of three back-to-back meetings and then it's home to Edinburgh for Easter.

Gemma King



New Town Hall, Hannover

THE GREEN STROLLERS

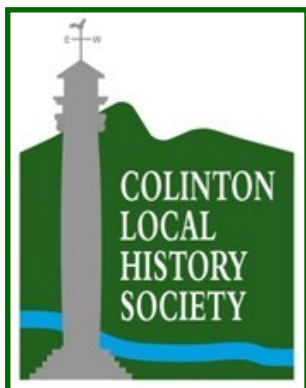
On Monday 17th March, seventeen Green Strollers met for their Annual Dinner at Kingsknowe Golf Club. It proved to be a great success, good company, excellent food and the staff looked after us very well. I for one enjoyed the sticky toffee pudding very much! As a number of Strollers were unable to attend the dinner, a lunch has now been arranged for the beginning of April at the Kinleith Arms, Lanark Road. I am sure this will turn out to be equally enjoyable.

Very soon, the leaders will be getting together to arrange the next programme of walks, so look out for details in the Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church email or on Sunday intimations.

New members are always welcome.

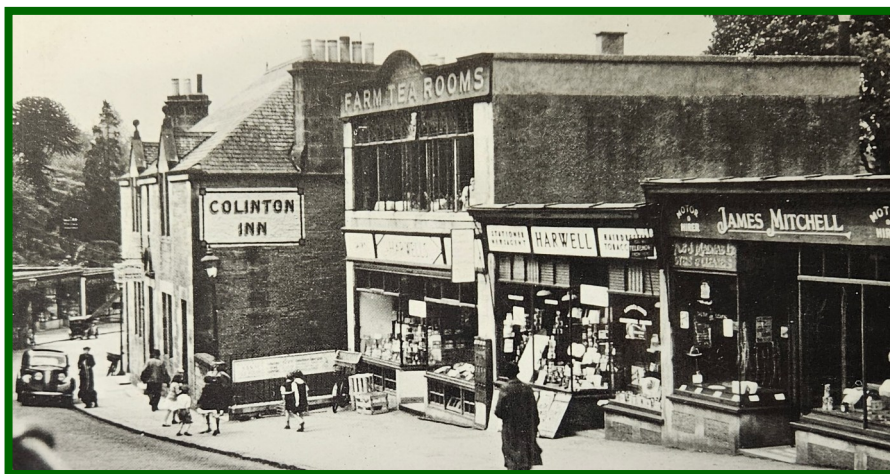
Keep strolling.

Jeanette Campbell



By the time you read this article, our winter season of meetings will have drawn to a close. This season has been yet another great success, with increased membership and near-record attendances at our fortnightly meetings.

We have been fortunate in having a superb variety of Guest Speakers at our meetings, who have presented subjects ranging from *Beneficiaries of the Freedom of Edinburgh*,



The Coalmine beneath the Sea at Culross and *The History of Rockville House* to the really fascinating story uncovered in *Bletchley Park Revealed*.

Looking ahead and, although our meetings do not start again until late September, we have arranged a special private visit for our members to Broomhall House, near Limekilns, which is the home of the Earl of Elgin.

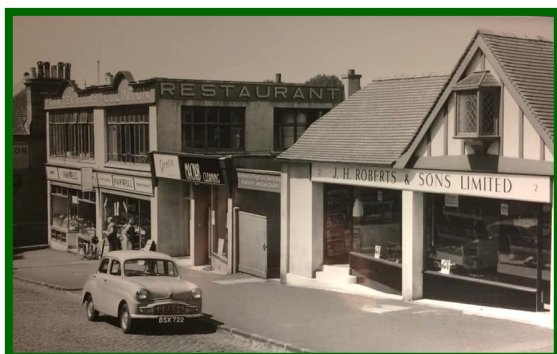
Just recently, we came across a couple of old photos, one of which shows Roberts & Sons, the butcher shop, in what is now Osteria dei Sapori (Tavern of Flavours) and another showing J. Mitchell's shop. The sign was

revealed recently and can be seen next to the Co-op premises.

As most of you will know, our archives are now stored in the computer room at Colinton Library. We are anxious to develop these archives further, in order to continue the hard work that our members have put into building them, since the Society was formed in 1986. To this end, we ask that if you have any Colinton and local area photographs or articles which you feel should be preserved for future generations, please get in touch with our Archivist at either:

Tel: 0131 441 3335 or e-mail:

dereks1441@gmail.com



*Thank you in advance
Derek Douglas*



COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

held a successful series of talks during the winter months and an outing to **Kirklands House Gardens** at

Saline, Fife, will take place on Wednesday 16th April. This outing has proved to be popular and is fully booked.

The last meeting of the current season will be the AGM and Crafts Competition on Monday 28th April at Dreghorn Loan Hall. The theme for the competition is **New Growth Creations**...and there will be prizes!

There are also a series of events planned for the Spring and Summer:

- Our **Evening Reception** this year will be held on Monday 19th May from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Dr Neil's Garden, which is located at Duddingston, Edinburgh.
- The **Open Gardens** morning will be on Saturday 21st June from 10:00am to 12noon. We hope that there will be three members' gardens to visit. Tea and coffee will be available and there will also be a plant stall. Donations of plants will be welcome.

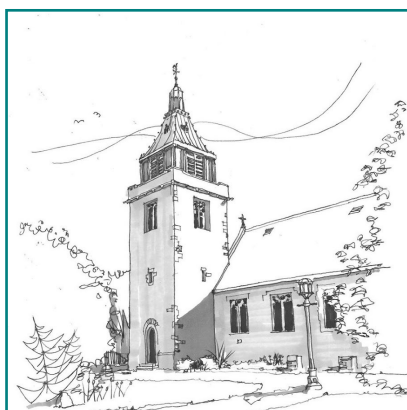
- The **Summer Outing** will be to Dumfries House, in Ayrshire, on Tuesday 15th July. The coach will leave Colinton at 8:30am, returning at 5:30pm. The cost is £37.50 per person and will include coach travel, coffee, tea and shortbread on arrival, plus a one-hour guided tour of the garden. The cost does **not** include a tour of Dumfries House itself. Members can bring a picnic lunch and are free to spend time in the grounds after the tour.
- Colinton Garden Club will once again have a stall at the **Malleny Plant Fair** which is due to take place on Saturday 28th June from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The roses at Malleny should be at their peak and the gardens will be looking beautiful.

We are always delighted to welcome guests and our existing members to all our events, so do get in touch and come along.

Avril Scott and Mary Davey



Dumfries House



the
**colinton &
merchiston**
community choir

SINGING in the SUMMER

with the Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, Colinton EH13 0BB.

Our Summer sessions last year were very popular and successful, so we are very happy to invite you to join us this year for a further series of **Fun Singing Sessions**. There will be eight sessions, commencing on Monday evenings from 5th May to 23rd June inclusive, and no previous choral singing experience is required.

We shall be singing a wide variety of classical, popular, jazz and folk songs and shall learn different songs each week - so it won't matter if you miss some evenings.

Our brilliant Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our excellent Accompanist, Morley Whitehead, will make every one of the sessions most enjoyable. There will also be a concert for family and friends on 23rd June, followed by a social gathering.

SINGING in the SUMMER

Mondays, 5th May to 23rd June
7:15pm - 9:00pm with a break
for tea and coffee.

Cost: £47 includes music hire
and tea and coffee.

To book please contact:
secretary@colintonchoir.org

For more information
about our choir, please
visit our website:

www.colintonchoir.org

My awareness of poverty levels was very clear during my primary school years. For example, many children had less than adequate shoes and I remember one boy, Jimmy, coming to school wearing a pair of his mother's wedge-heeled shoes.

Obviously, they were all he had to wear. Jimmy was a tough youngster and, although not a bully, no boy laughed at him or teased him.

When it rained heavily or snowed, we were often given a half-day off school as many kids had no boots or wellies and there was even a lack of decent coats. The clothing authorities observed that there was a large amount of left-over leather from army boot manufacturers, air force flying jackets and pilots' helmets. Very soon, we were all going to school with wee leather helmets and tackett-studded boots. On dark mornings, the latter allowed us to kick sparks off the pavement, but our parents soon realised what was wearing out the soles of the boots and we were suitably dealt with.

Our local park was a winter paradise and, armed with home-made wooden sledges and inadequate shoes and gloves, we played until nearly frozen. I can still remember crying at the pain of thawing out my hands and feet.

Having been involved in the past with oil and energy industries, I worry about the general lack of real concern regarding future sources of heat. In 1947, I can remember we had below-freezing temperatures for weeks, with no coal, low gas pressure and cuts to electricity. We went to bed early with layers of clothes on to keep warm and food was in short supply. Some politicians today do not realise what can happen and surely, it might happen again.

Attending Parsons Green School as a boy also holds many memories for me – one of the most vivid being the weekly gas mask drill. One boy found, that by covering the filter and blowing really hard, he could make an impressive, slightly rude, sound. Not to be outdone, the rest of us tried to see if we could be even more impressive – but were in danger of dying of laughter, rather than of gas!



In due course, slates and chalk gave way to paper and pencils, then we had fountain pens, followed by free milk and orange juice. We had survived primary school and the war, so now we were ready for the next stage in our lives – long trousers, 11-plus exams and Secondary school. Great!

Dennis Seatter



PARISH REGISTER

Funerals have taken place for the following people:

Richard Barclay Dunn - 18th March
 Helen Gillanders - 4th April
 Eleanor Harbison - 5th March
 Stanley Jacobs - no further info
 Minne Audrey Kinnear - 17th February
 Jean MacDonald - 21st February
 John Nicolson - 11th February
 Kate Palmer - 27th March
 John Sutherland - 14th March
 Margaret Watson - no further info
 James Wheelan - 31st March
 Ruby White - 13th January

You're invited to
the big lunch
 at Campbell Park! **eden project**

12:00 – 16:00, Sunday 25th May 2025
 (or if the weather's poor, on Sunday 1st June)
 Bring a picnic and some food for sharing

BIG MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz band The Fat Possums

+ **BIG SING WITH SANDY BRECHIN**

BIG GAME



BIG WOOF



BIG CAKE

Bring your showpiece entries & ingredients list

BIG PLANT



BIG STRETCH RE-VOLUTION FITNESS

BIG BBQ EDINBURGH CRICKET CLUB



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