

# PARISH PUBLICATION

**EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Issue 7 . June / July 2025 . Distributed free**

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## **FOND MEMORIES**

- **FORMER MODERATOR OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND** •

## **UPDATES & ARTICLES**

- **WHY FAIRTRADE • BRUTAL OR BEAUTIFUL • OLM IN TRAINING** •
- **CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS - SUMMER PLANS** •
- **LIVING IS AN ART • THANKS TO THE BUNDLERS** •



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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**

**Deadline for the August / September 2025 issue is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

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.

**The magazine is printed by Spectrum Print, Edinburgh**

*This is an Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church publication.  
Registered Charity No. SC010313*

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<b>Leprosy Mission</b>	Rita Brownlie
<b>Messy Church</b>	Alison Downie
<b>Open Door Baby &amp; Toddlers</b>	Karen Barry & Linda Johnston

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## WELCOME to our magazine which is packed with great stories and articles

Who played the part of Christ in the Easter Play this year? What can art lead you to? Is this particular building brutal or beautiful? ...and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rev. Dr Derek Browning, recalls with fondness his meeting with Pope Francis. Some of our Associations and Clubs are taking a break for the summer

but there are still other events to look forward to, such as the Summer Fayre at Tiphereth on 21<sup>st</sup> June or the Colinton Garden Club Open Gardens event on the same day.

Thanks to all our contributors and I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Parish Publication*.

**Felice Editrice**



**Kath Hay**  
Editor



## CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, as I write this in mid-May, the weather is gloriously warm and sunny. Of course, I cannot possibly predict what it will be like by the time you read this!

I have been reflecting on what change and uncertainty means. At present, I do not know where I shall be serving by the end of this year, but God does. Hopefully by then, Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church will have a new Minister - whoever he or she may be. Pray for the work of the Nominating Committee as they seek to discern God's will in the choice of the new Minister.

In all this uncertainty, the words in the New Testament, Hebrews 13:8, offer us reassurance and hope: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever."* Also, consider these words from 1 Peter 5:7, where we read: *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* We can depend on the constancy of God's grace and love.

Early summer also marks some significant dates in the Church's year. This year Pentecost will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June and Trinity Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> June. At Pentecost, following Jesus' ascension into heaven, we think of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, effectively the start of the mission of the Church, which continues to this day.

Some activities will pause during the summer months. The last monthly soup and sandwich lunch at Juniper Green was held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May and

will resume in the autumn. If you don't yet receive the weekly email with the information about all that is going on in Edinburgh Pentlands Parish, please get in touch with the Church Office via the email below.

I hope that you have a good summer. We are planning to have a short break in Belgium, as I have very fond memories of living and working in Brussels between 2003 and 2009. I look forward to seeing some familiar places again.

*Every blessing,*  
**Rev. Matthew Ross,**  
**Locum Minister**

[church.office@colinton-parish.com](mailto:church.office@colinton-parish.com)



## THANK YOU...

to the team who organise the bundling of hundreds of copies of *The Parish Publication*.

Pictured left to right are the Bundlers, Irene Falla, Brian Falla and Alison Hirst.

Thanks also go to the many volunteers who hand-deliver our magazine to members of the congregation.



## GoHealth

The Guild of Health and St Raphael (GoHealth) is an ecumenical Christian charity with more than 100 years' experience in holistic health and wellbeing. It exists to equip and inspire churches, and also individual Christians, to be healing presences in the world, for the benefit of all. This is the mission Jesus has given us and what God empowers us to do.

### GoHealth – our vision

*To be flourishing communities, made up of flourishing individuals.*

The Church is at the heart of our vision. We want churches to be resourced and inspired to help individuals and communities to



# GOHEALTH

flourish through worship, radical love and inclusion, serving those in pain and demanding justice and peace. It is God who enables this work and we are called and invited to join in.

### GoHealth – our purpose

*To equip and inspire people to nurture health and healing in ourselves, our communities and our world.*

Our work is empowered by God and founded on the command of Jesus to his disciples to heal, recognising

that healing has always been at the heart of God's relationship with creation. We weave together the threads of faith, community and modern medicine (with its deep roots in Christian theology) to activate people to be confident in a holistic approach to health.

For more information, please visit: <https://gohealth.org.uk>

Or write to: GoHealth,  
23 The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD

## EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY 2025 - BEHOLD THE MAN



### The sun shone and the birds sang for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Edinburgh Easter Play in Princes Street Gardens

Each year there is a different script for the play and this year it focused on Jesus' gentle, loving way. This was brought out by contrasting it with the unfair behaviour of men around him.

I find drama a powerful medium and the Edinburgh Easter Play dramatizes the Easter Story. So that is a good start for me. But the following aspects of this year's play made it even more vivid. Firstly, the role of Jesus

was acted by a Scottish-Nigerian actor, Michael Ogidi. Michael spoke with a lilting accent. The real Jesus spoke Aramaic and was from Galilee, so seeing and hearing Jesus being portrayed by Michael made him a more credible Jesus for me.

Another aspect that I found particularly powerful was when the cast of actors came round with baskets of bread, offering them to the audience. By doing this, they included the audience in enacting the feeding of the five thousand. This made it feel as if we were *in* the story, rather than just watching it.

In fact, the most memorable thing about the whole play for me was when I gave the man next to me my piece of bread because he wasn't offered one from a basket. It felt very simple but very powerful to connect with a stranger in this way at Easter.

Later, a couple of seagulls made an impromptu cameo appearance when they swooped down to pick up some bread that had ended up on the grass. This was somewhat comedic, but it was such a familiar sight, that it brought the story of Jesus right into the here and now.

The last thing that made this Easter Play great for me was the many ways it included disabled people, both in the cast and audience. For example, the performance made use of a hearing loop and there were spaces reserved at the front of the audience for wheelchair users.

If you would like to find out how to become involved in the play, for example through praying or donating, please visit the organiser's website:

<https://easterplay.org/>

There are also resources available if you lead a church or group and would like a presentation about the Easter Play.

*Image and article provided by a member of the congregation.*



## FROM THE SESSION CLERK

### Nominating Committee and the search for a new Minister

The activities of the Nominating Committee are entirely confidential, unless they choose to place a public advertisement. Once the Committee has progressed to the stage of agreeing a suitable **Sole Nominee**, the identity of the Sole Nominee will be made known. Then, following due notice and the reading of the required edicts on two Sundays, the Sole Nominee will preach at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. The congregation will then vote to approve our new Minister.

### Manse Group

The purchase of a new Manse, which meets the requirements of the Church of Scotland, is proving very difficult. Around 40 properties within and out-with the Parish have been viewed by the group, who then discussed their suitability. This activity is ongoing and needs to be concluded prior to the new Minister commencing at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church.

### Car Parking

Our initial planning application for extended car parking, in the grounds at Colinton Church, was rejected by Edinburgh Council. We believe that a revised application might overcome the objections by the Council and we are working on it. Colinton Manse is currently included within the same title deed as Colinton Church and its rooms. To sell Colinton Manse, we shall arrange to have the title deed split and a wire fence and hedge constructed between Colinton Manse and the grounds we are retaining.

### Property Works

By the time this issue of the magazine is published, work on the electrical installations at Juniper Green, including EICC certification, is now complete. Our apologies to those who have been inconvenienced by the disruption. The organ



**IAN MORRISON**  
**SESSION CLERK**

repairs at Juniper Green are also complete. A quote has been received for work on the Juniper Green Church roof, which lost some slates in the stormy weather in January/February. In line with our policy, a second quote is required prior to accepting the better quote, in order to proceed with the work.

### Finance

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by Presbytery and submitted to OSCR (Office of Scottish Charities Regulator).

Although it may appear that the accounts are in balance, in 2024 generous legacies of £51,500 were donated to the Church, but these cannot be expected to be received every year. Our projections for 2025 show a deficit and we shall be encouraging members to consider whether they are able and willing to increase their donations, in order to make Edinburgh Pentlands Parish accounts balance in future years.

Following the eventual sale of Colinton Manse, it will be possible to gradually use the proceeds of that sale to cover some of our costs (e.g. large property repairs). However, our aim is to achieve a balance in the accounts, excluding the impact of large one-off items of expenditure.

### Church Email Addresses

The Communications Group is authorised to proceed with introducing new email addresses for staff and volunteers, appropriate

for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish. Old email addresses (e.g. those ending colinton-parish.com) will be automatically forwarded to the new email addresses. In order for this to happen, there will be a transition period.

### Presbytery Elder

Following 10 years of service as the representative on the Presbytery of Colinton and then Edinburgh Pentlands Parish, **Brian Falla** (pictured below) is stepping down from this role at the end of June this year. Our thanks to Brian for all his many years of work in this role. Janet Shepherd has agreed to be our Presbytery Elder for 2025/2026.



### Church Contact Volunteers

The Church Contact Visitors Scheme has been operating in the Colinton area of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish for some time. We are now looking to extend these twice-yearly visits across the whole parish. To enable us to do this, we require more volunteers. This is a very worthwhile element of pastoral care and any offers of help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Church Office in the first instance.

In June, the Church Contacts people will make doorstep calls at the houses previously visited in Colinton. For those of you who are covered by the scheme, do please cheerfully welcome your Church Contact !

## FOND MEMORIES



**The Very Rev. Dr Derek Browning, Minister at Morningside Parish Church and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2017 - 2018, recalls with fondness his meeting with Pope Francis in 2017**

**A few hours before he died, Pope Francis was on the balcony at the Vatican, wishing everyone a Happy Easter.**

Wheelchair-bound and visibly frail, Francis managed to speak the words that gave him, and many others, something of the joy and reassurance that faith can bring. Tributes to him have come from many quarters.

Memories of the man who carried his own luggage; paid his own hotel bill after his election as Pope; washing the feet of women, prisoners, and Muslims in 2013 as a sign of his humility and their inclusion; visiting war zones, prisons and slums; concentrating on the reality of environmental catastrophe; speaking truth to power. Pope Francis rarely shied away from speaking out and speaking up. His was a ministry that went consistently to the frayed edges of the twenty-first century because it was there that he felt we would encounter those in greatest need, and the God who

had not forgotten them. This also meant speaking out against, and apologising for, areas in his own church's past in relation to the abuse of children and the poor treatment of women.

Memories of the man who spoke about his love of Mozart and his personal view that Mozart's Mass in C Minor, and in particular, *Et incarnatus est*, "lifts you to God!" This is set alongside, not unsurprisingly for an Argentinian, his passion for Astor Piazzola's tangos.

During Pope Francis' pontificate, the steadily improving relations between the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland continued. In 2022 the St Margaret Declaration was signed by both Churches to make clear that the things the two Churches have in common are far greater than the things that divide them. Churches from all denominations across the world, found in Pope Francis a committed advocate for honest

unity in purpose and faith. Recognising honestly that work continues to be needed to build and maintain bridges between faith communities, but being clear that at a local level, much that is good is well-rooted.

I had the privilege of spending time in Rome with Pope Francis in 2017. Going into his official apartments, I asked an official how much time we would have together and he replied "It will either be five minutes and you'll talk about the weather in Scotland...or it will be longer." An hour and a half later the official had to come in to advise us that we had desperately overrun the time-table, and we were keeping another ecumenical visitor waiting. That person turned out to be the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We talked about the role of women in the Church and Pope Francis was interested in the (slightly different) role of Deacon in the Church of Scotland. Deacons have played a part in the Church's life for more than a century. The Pope had recently set up a commission to study the role of women deacons in the Early Christian Church.

We talked about national and international affairs, including the ongoing crises in Myanmar and Israel-Palestine, and what mediating roles Christians might play. Pope Francis was particularly interested in the Church of Scotland's active concern about issues relating to human trafficking and modern-day slavery and shared a concern about the fate of migrants and refugees, fleeing from their



homes. I remember sharing with him our mutual commitment to work together in the face of national and international anxiety over sectarianism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, and saying, "If we are in a position of privilege, it is better to build a longer table than a higher fence."

And one last memory. We exchanged gifts and he was rather taken with the food hamper I had brought, particularly the shortbread and malt whisky. "The Holy Water" he said. He was also touched by the book about St Columba, and one of the prayers of Columba which was translated into Spanish.

After our informal discussion we moved to the more formal part of



**Jorge Mario Bergoglio  
reigned as Pope Francis  
from 2013 to 2025**

events. As we sat down, I noticed him looking at my feet, and then pointing at my yellow socks with red polka dots. Twinkling, he laughed and said, "These are not the socks of a Presbyterian!" A few days later on my return to Edinburgh, I received a package from Gammarelli, the papal outfitters - a pair of knee-length red silk cardinal's stockings.

Pope Francis: a man of courage, a man of humour, a man of God, whose last public words were to wish the world a Happy Easter.

*Article by Very Rev. Dr Derek Browning,  
drawn from the Church of Scotland  
website, and provided by Rev. Matthew Ross*



## WHY FAIRTRADE?

**People ask this question all the time: why do they have to pay a premium for the welfare of farmers' who live in far-away countries?**

The answer is simple. Do we choose to watch inequality grow alarmingly, or take matters into our own hands, in order to find some solutions for those who have no means of changing their fortune.

In an increasingly competitive economy, the wealth-gap continues to polarise the privileged and the grassroots in every country, especially after the Covid pandemic. The Fairtrade movement has been regarded as a self-help solution, organised decades ago by more affluent countries, to level-up inequality. Helping farmers, living far away, to avoid damaging their environment and work with what nature has given them is one of the important aims that farmers in the Fairtrade Programme have to fulfill. A small premium, added to the superior quality produce, helps the farming community to live better and have essentials in daily living, such as schools for their children, medical centres and proper homes with lighting and water supply.

Last, but not least, Fairtrade helps to train farmers to care for their environment, combat climate change and invest in equipment for their future.

During recent years, the work of the Fairtrade Programme has changed many farming communities for the better, whilst we from afar also enjoy their excellent quality of produce. We must not stop now. The Colinton Fairtrade Table was set up by our previous Colinton Church Minister, Rev. Rolf Billes, to clearly define our Christian value of sharing and supporting the less fortunate. We donate all proceeds made from the Fairtrade table to Christian Aid, two or three times a year.

However, we call for action from you, our readers. When you are out shopping, travelling or having coffee and tea at home or at a café, you consciously choose Fairtrade products. No matter how small your contribution is, collectively, we will be able to make a difference by sharing our given wealth.

**Thank you  
Peter and  
Margaret Ng**



## BRUTAL OR BEAUTIFUL...?

The city of Cologne is home to the largest twin-spired cathedral in Europe. It is called the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and is Germany's most visited landmark. I have been to the cathedral on a number of occasions, including taking part in a choral concert, which was a wonderful experience. It is a most glorious and beautiful building.



However, this article is about a different church building I have visited, which is located north of Cologne. My first impression of it was that, unlike Cologne Cathedral, it was not a thing of beauty at all.

The church in question is the **Marienkirche** in Neviges, a region north-east of Cologne. This very unusual building is in what is known as the **brutalist style** of architecture, which is a very apt description.

**Marienkirche**, or **Mary, Queen of Peace**, is an important pilgrimage church, with a history dating back to 1676 and with strong links to a Franciscan monastery. A Franciscan friar had performed his daily prayer before a small painting of Mary and one day he heard a voice that told him to take the painting to a specific place - that of Neviges.

Another man, Ferdinand of Fürstenberg, a Prince Bishop, apparently recovered from a serious illness following his visit to the painting in Neviges, and thus the pilgrimage started.

With a growing number of pilgrims visiting the old church, the original building became too small to accommodate all the many visitors, and so a new church had to be built.

A design competition was launched by the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Josef Frings. In due course, he eventually accepted the design created by architect Gottfried Böhm, known for his brutalist style. Since the Cardinal was virtually blind, he was entranced by the touch and feel of the model of

the proposed building that Böhm had created and so, in 1968, the unusual new church was consecrated.

The concrete structure, with its irregular roof and astonishing interior, which you can see on the left, became the architect's signature building. It can also accommodate 6,000 visitors!

On the left of the approach to the entrance of the church are a number of rounded pods, sitting on top of thick, concrete pillars. These are rooms in which pilgrims and visitors can be accommodated.

The entrance hall to the church has a low ceiling and is kept dark, to ensure that when each person enters the main part of the structure, the altar stands out, since it is brightly lit by light coming in through

enormous stained-glass windows.

The interior was intended to look rather like a market area or gathering place for people and was a radical change from much more traditional and elaborately decorated churches, which had the congregation





## Brutal or Beautiful...continued

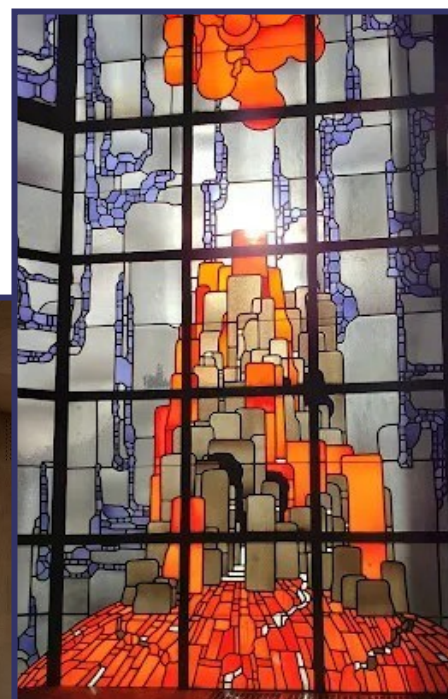
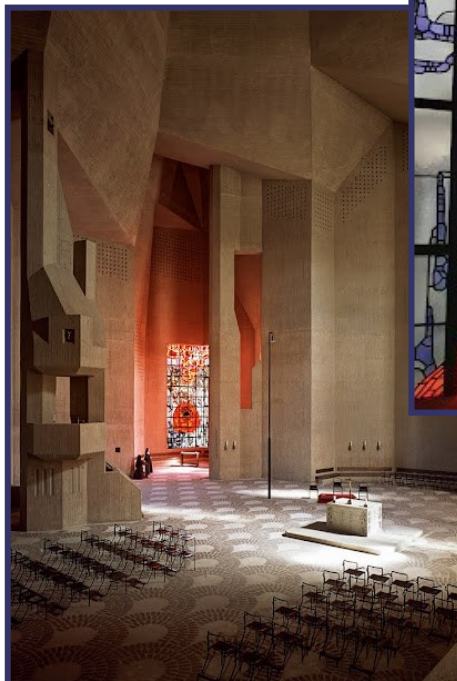
separated from the altar. You will see from the image below how vast and uncluttered the centre of the church is.

When I made my visit to the Marienkirche, my colleague and I were the only people inside the building and slowly, slowly, I began to really appreciate the unusual and theatrical layout of the interior, which, as you can see, is stunning.

Gottfried Böhm also designed many of the enormous stained-glass windows which are to be found throughout the building, including the beautiful red **Rosenfenster** (Rose Window), the rose being a repeated motif. You can see the window to the left of the altar as it sits, bathed in sunshine.

Whether you find this building brutal or beautiful, the Neviges Marienkirche is regarded as a very important 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural creation.

**Kath Hay**  
Editor



*Images: Steffen Kunkel,  
Gregor Zoyzoyla and  
Inge & Arved von der Ropp*

## TREASURE HUNT

**On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, everyone at Messy Church went on a grand treasure hunt!**

We hunted through the sand pit to see if any treasures were buried there. We trekked around the hall, searching high and low to see what gold and jewels we could find. We learned how to make boxes out of old greetings cards, in which to keep our wee treasures, and we found out about the science behind making tarnished old pennies shiny again. The answer is salt, vinegar and then some elbow grease!

We also thought about whether gold and jewels were the only treasures. What about our family and friends, or the beautiful animals on our planet? Could they be treasures too?

Our story, from The Jesus Storybook Bible, was the parable Jesus told, in order to teach us all, that coming home

to God is as wonderful as finding a huge box of hidden treasure. God is a real treasure but God has treasure too, of course. His most important thing, the thing that God loves best in all the world is us, his children. God loves all of us.

Songs are also a great way of learning and singing is always very popular at Messy Church, especially if you have your very own home-made shaker as a percussion instrument. We ended our session with help from Three Pirates on screen who reminded us all that "We arrrrrr the treasure, God's special treasure is me and is you".

We hope you all have a lovely summer break. Messy Church will return for our new term on 6<sup>th</sup> September. We hope you can join us then for more Messy Adventures!

**Alison Downie**



This article traces my journey from seeing a painting of Colinton Church to visiting it, where I noticed an advert for volunteers for The Swing Café.

Now, after seven months of volunteering at the café, I can reflect on what motivated me to join the team. It was a blend of curiosity, sparked by art - and also a desire to connect with my local community. Living is an art, and art has guided me to explore different facets of life - from visual arts to architecture and even culinary arts.

Although I had lived in Edinburgh for two years, I hadn't explored the area near my university, Napier Business School. My journey began with a visit to Colinton Church, inspired by Adam Bruce Thomson's painting *Church in the Valley*, exhibited during the Edinburgh Art Festival. Thomson, a renowned Scottish painter, captured the semi-rural beauty of Colinton, thus sparking my curiosity about the area.

Colinton Church is more than a historic monument: it's a community hub, a place for learning and a window into local history. My research revealed fascinating figures buried there, like James Gillespie, a philanthropist, and Dr Lewis Balfour, grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson. Though I haven't found their graves yet, their stories deepened my appreciation for the church's heritage.

## LIVING IS AN ART: From Colinton Church to The Swing Café

### Adam Bruce Thomson's vision and The Swing Café's Volunteer Mission

One Saturday in August, I found the church was closed but discovered The Swing Café was open. As a Chinese woman, visiting historic sites alone felt unfamiliar but the café's volunteering opportunity intrigued me.

Since graduating from university, I have not yet secured a full-time job. I had volunteered at a UK charity shop, but due to financial constraints, was unable to contribute as much as I would have liked to my own church. On a different note, I once dreamt of running my own café, so working at The Swing Café seemed ideal. I could serve the community while improving my understanding of the English language.

Thanks to a kind Hong Kong couple, I adapted quickly. The café thrives on its volunteers and, through this experience, I also gained a deeper understanding of the friendship between China and the UK.

I celebrated a warm Christmas, discovered the meaning of Easter and even improved my language skills while washing dishes. Though my passion for café management eventually faded, this chapter remains a meaningful part of my artistic journey through life.

*With good wishes*  
**Wei Jiang**



*Adam Bruce Thomson self-portrait (left)  
and his painting of Colinton Church (above)  
on display at the Edinburgh Art Festival*





## UPDATE FROM AN OLM IN TRAINING

**JANET SHEPHERD**

“Make Way, Make Way”. This was followed by a Q&A session with Pontius Pilate and Jesus, about who they were and the reasons why they were coming to Jerusalem.

I also led the early morning (well 8:30am, so not too early!) Easter Service on Blackford Hill. A joyful time, as we celebrated Christ’s rising. We made crosses from a piece of paper by a sort of origami, which you can see on the right. When we returned to the church for the main service, we looked at the bits of paper left over and found we could make the word ‘Life’. In between, we were provided with a lovely breakfast in the church hall, which was a great time of fellowship.

Some of our Colinton members will remember that, during the early stages of lockdown, we explored Luke’s Gospel, using a series of paintings by artist I. D. Campbell. Drawing on that experience, I chose six paintings from the series, which took us on a journey through Lent. At the evening services during Lent, spilling over to the Sunday after Easter, and looking at the ‘Road to Emmaus’ story, we explored the passages and the message associated with the video that accompanies each painting. All those who came along were moved by the stories linked to the paintings and, combined with the reflections, we learnt more about Christ’s purpose for us.

Being part of the worship team has been a real privilege but so have some of the pastoral opportunities. I accompanied the Barclay Viewforth Pastoral Associate on visits to elderly members. I also

contributed to a funeral the Associate led and joined her at some of the monthly Afternoon Fellowship gatherings for the elderly. Pastoral care is such a valuable aspect of the church’s ministry to the elderly and frail in their community, and I have still much to learn in this area.



Barclay Viewforth Church has a wonderful ministry team of which I loved being a part. We met weekly to plan worship, discuss some of the issues the church is facing, both nationally and locally and most weeks we spent time exploring the contents of books. When I left, they were part way through Neil Glover’s *Finding our Voice: Searching for renewal in the mainline church*. It takes a stark look at the reality of the declining numbers which the Church is facing, but it is not all doom and gloom as Glover looks at green shoots and ways of nurturing them.

I feel very fortunate to have been at Barclay Viewforth Church for one of my placements, but I am also acutely

Dear Friends,

It has been lovely to see some of you during the last couple of weeks now that my placement at Barclay Viewforth Church has finished. I look forward to catching up with a few more people during the next few months, before I head off on the final stage of my training.

Spending six months with a church community is enough time to start feeling like you belong. You build up relationships with folk. I have been given a wide range of experience in leading worship, interacting with the young people and being part of a ministry team. Therefore it was hard to say goodbye at the end of April, though I do plan to go back occasionally for worship.

Highlights have included leading worship for the all-age service on Palm Sunday, when we had two processions into church: Pontius Pilate and his entourage marching in to a drum beat and Jesus, riding on a donkey, surrounded by his followers who scattered palm leaves before him whilst the congregation sang

*continued...page 12*

## UPDATE FROM AN OLM IN TRAINING

*continued...*

aware that many churches do not currently have the resources, or the indeed the congregational mix, that is there. I hope I can take some of my learning and apply it as I move forward, while ensuring it is put in context for the new situations I face.

Quite a few of you have asked me what is next, but for the moment, I have time to reflect and explore to where my ministry calling is leading me. I have finished all the academic requirements, assuming I pass the outstanding essays. However, I *may* carry on, but at a slower pace, especially as I enter my probation year.

My probation year will be spent with Fiona Mathieson, who is the Minister at St David's Carrick Knowe. This will start in September and is for a full year, with a greater time commitment than I have been required to give whilst on placement. I am looking forward to working and learning from Fiona and also getting to know the congregation there.

I feel blessed that God has called me towards this ministry. As Jesus called his disciples to follow him, so he calls each one of us to follow him. He may not be calling you to train for ministry, but I encourage you all to prayerfully consider if God has a new calling on your life. It might be to spend more time in prayer, as there is so much for which prayer is needed at this time, both within our Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church family, but also further afield.

May you know God's blessing on your lives, and may you walk more closely with Christ.



*Janet Shepherd*

*OLM Candidate in Training and  
Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church Elder*

## FREE RESOURCES FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY / 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025



*Image from Emily Owen website*

Award-winning disabled Christian author, Emily Owen, pictured on the left, has created a fantastic video and resources to help churches hold their own **Disability Awareness Sunday** service on the theme of 'Made in God's Image'.

Emily shares her experience of completely losing her hearing and also having mobility difficulties, due to a neurological condition known as NF2. As Emily says, "When my legs wouldn't move, God's image was still in me."

A resource pack is available and free to download. It contains a video, suggested prayers and songs, as well as ideas for the sermon. Free post-cards to give to everyone who attends can also be ordered.

This year, the date for Disability Awareness Sunday is 28<sup>th</sup> September, but churches can choose any date that is convenient for them. The free resources pack can be ordered via the **Through the Roof** website at:

<https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>



## TIPHERETH CAMPHILL IN EDINBURGH

As many of you will know, our Camphill Community sits on Torphin Hill, at the edge of the Pentland Hills, above Colinton village. For those of you who are new to the area, or who have perhaps wandered up to the top of Torphin Road and wondered what the collection of buildings under the face of the old quarry are, well - that is us.

We are a community of around 180 people and some folk are adults who need support. We have been providing care and work opportunities to adults for 32 years and our work has always been immensely enriched by the beautiful Pentland Hills which surround us. To live or work in such a peaceful place, with breathtaking views over the city to the Forth and beyond to Fife, is something we never take for granted.

During many years here, we have spread through Colinton too, with homes on Woodhall Road and Woodhall Bank and, after renovating the old Torphin Golf Clubhouse, we now have a second base there. It is named **Hoyland House** after our founders and you'll find us just as busy at work there, if that's your chosen dog-walk route.

We collect **Green Waste** in Colinton every Tuesday and deliver the compost we make from it. We also supply firewood. You've possibly seen us out in our trusty **Yellow Tipper**. There are also teams which go out to work in the wider

community too and currently, you might find us working on the Water of Leith or at Jock Tamson's Garden at Duddingston. We also manage our own estate and gardens, growing flowers and vegetables which we use within the community.



Creativity has always been central to our work too. Finding ways in which we can all express ourselves through art and crafts, provides a balance to the physical outdoor work. We have a **Print Studio**, a **Pottery**, a **Textile Hub** and also a **Woodworking Studio**, where we work to create objects for ourselves to use in the community and for sale to the wider public.

Our next **Open Day** and **Summer Fayre** is on 21<sup>st</sup> June from 10am-2pm. Both our sites at Torphin Holding and Hoyland House will be open. Come and meet us there and see for yourself what it is that we do up here on the hill above Colinton. Find out

where your green waste goes, grab a beautiful hand-crafted item or two or a plant for your garden, along with some lunch or a cuppa. Hopefully the sun will shine.

**Spoiler Alert:** If you can't make it on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, we are hatching plans for a regular pop-up shop at Tiphereth where you will be able to buy the beautiful products we make.

**You saw it here first!**

## LADIES BADMINTON GROUP



After a busy session, the Ladies Badminton Group will finish for its summer break on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The next session will commence later this year on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The group meets in Juniper Green Church Hall (entering from Woodhall Avenue) on Wednesdays at 10am and plays for fun, then we have a short break for coffee and a chat. We were delighted to welcome some new members during the last session, but still have space for more players. If you are interested in coming along, you will be made very welcome. For further information, just come to the Church Hall or contact Linda Sharp on 0131 453 4985.

Competition  
winners:

Margo, Bob  
and Fiona

Fiona's winning  
entry is  
pictured below



AGM drinks anyone?



This colourful chap  
joined the reception  
at Dr Neil's Garden

Images: Kath Hay

## COLINTON GARDEN CLUB



The talks and events this season have all been informative and enjoyable and well supported by club members. The Garden Club Spring outing was to Kirklands Garden in Fife. Peter and Gill Hart

provided a tour of their beautiful garden, served welcome refreshments in a marquee and offered plants for sale. Despite the **very** poor weather that day, 45 members attended the event and had a great time. The AGM and Craft Competition on 28<sup>th</sup> April ended the current season of talks. Congratulations go to the winners of the competition, who are pictured above left.

1st: Fiona Stevenson

2nd: Bob Jones

3rd: Margo Gilchrist

In May we had our evening reception in Dr Neil's Garden at Duddingston - sadly, the sun didn't quite shine, but an interesting gentleman joined the gathering for a short while.

Looking forward to the summer, on 21<sup>st</sup> June we will hold the Members' Open Gardens event and plant sale. We will also be taking part in the Malleny Garden Open Day at the end of that month. Our Annual Outing in July will be to Dumfries House.

Members will be notified about all our upcoming events and meetings by email.

**Do come and join us!**

**Mary Davey**

[www.colintongardens.org.uk](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk)

## OPEN DOOR BABY & TODDLER GROUP

The Open Door Baby & Toddler Group operates on Tuesday mornings during school term time, in Hall 1 at Juniper Green Church. This free service is run by volunteers and provides a safe, friendly environment for babies and pre-schoolers as well as the big people who look after them! We regularly have between 15 - 25 little ones accompanied by mums, dads, grannies, grandas and child minders. The little ones enjoy playing in the various zones set up in the hall, before having a well-earned snack to recharge their batteries. Then it's back to the cars, dolls, trains and trikes.

During the 2024/2025 session, we have welcomed new babies and watched the older babies grow, begin to crawl and take tentative steps. Meanwhile, the toddlers' personalities are developing as they learn to make friends. They provide many entertaining moments and it's a pleasure to spend a few hours with them each week.

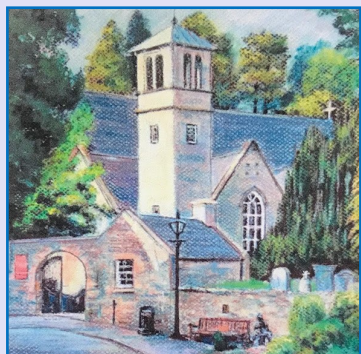


In June, as we come to the end of this session, we shall bid a fond farewell to our older toddlers as they move on to nursery and primary school. Before we know it, we'll be kicking off the next session in August.

**Linda Johnston**







Colinton Church painting by Moira Shirreff

## PARISH REGISTER

### FUNERAL

Hamish Campbell 10<sup>th</sup> April

A Thanksgiving Service for Alan Mackie took place at Colinton Church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A second one took place in London.

## SAVE THE DATES Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir Open Rehearsals

If you would like to see what it would be like to sing with our non-auditioning Community Choir, please join us for either, or both, of our **Open Rehearsals**, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September, starting at 7pm. There is no commitment to join or pay a fee, unless you decide to become a choir member for the full term.

We are a very welcoming choir, with a mixed range of ages, or singing and sight-reading ability. You do not need to have any experience of choral singing to enjoy singing with us. We will be rehearsing for our Christmas Concert on Monday evenings from 7:15pm - 9pm in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, but it's not a problem if you can't be there for 7:15pm or have to leave early. Our rehearsals, with enthusiastic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, together with excellent Accompanist, Morley Whitehead, are so enjoyable, and we also have social events. For more information please consult our website:

[www.colintonchoir.org](http://www.colintonchoir.org) or our Facebook page.



## GREEN STROLLERS

We have now started our programme of walks for this season. Our first walk was on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Ten strollers set off from

Juniper Green Church to walk along the Water of Leith and canal paths to Meggetland. The weather was sunny, with a fairly gentle breeze to keep us cool on our walk. At Meggetland, we were joined by five other strollers for a snack lunch at the sports centre. After lunch, it was back to Juniper Green, either on foot or by car.

Whether you are a seasoned walker or a stroller, you are welcome to join our group. Look out for details of future walks on the Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church email or in the intimations on Sundays.

*Happy Strolling,  
Jeanette Campbell*

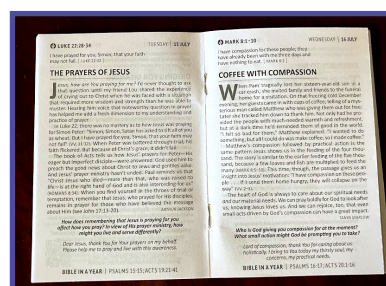
## BIBLE READING NOTES

The latest issue of **Our Daily Bread** for June, July and August is now available in both the Colinton and Juniper Green church buildings. It is now time for us to make our regular donation to Our Daily Bread Ministries for providing the notes to us. If you have enjoyed the notes, please make a donation to Church Funds marked 'Bible Reading Notes'.

If you have any questions, please address them to Michael Merriman at [michael.merriman@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.merriman@btinternet.com) with 'Bible Reading Notes' in the subject line.

"My child, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity."

**Proverbs 3: 1-2**



**The Parish Publication . Issue 7 . June / July 2025 . Distributed free**

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