

PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Issue 9 . October / November 2025 . Distributed free



UPDATES & ARTICLES

- LIFE AND WORK IN PRINT NO MORE •
- FROM THE SESSION CLERK • CORDOBA MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL •
- ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES •
- COLINTON LITERARY SOCIETY • GROUPS & CLUBS •



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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
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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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Green Strollers	Jeanette Campbell
Guild of Friendship	Margaret Woodrow
Ladies Badminton Group	Linda Sharp
Leprosy Mission	Rita Brownlie
Messy Church	Alison Downie
Open Door Baby & Toddlers	Karen Barry & Linda Johnston

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WELCOME...to the autumn issue of our magazine

Change is on the way, not only in nature but also with groups and societies, as they are back up and running for their new season of meetings. Sadly, the long-established magazine *Life and Work* is now no longer available in print. On a brighter note, Colinton Local History Society will soon be producing a new book. There is news and updates

from key people with close links to the Parish and readers can also find out about an incredible building in southern Spain.

Thanks to all our contributors and the hard-working volunteers who deliver copies of the magazine to members of the congregation. I do hope you enjoy reading this issue.



Kath Hay
Editor

Felice Editrice

LETTER FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

I hope that you have had a good summer - I think this is the warmest Scottish summer that I can remember since 1995.

Thirty years ago, I was a student in training for the ministry and during that warm summer, I worked in the parish of Reay, linked with Strathy and Halladale, which straddled the boundary between Caithness and Sutherland. It was a wonderful experience and the Minister there was the Rev. Jim Dewar who went on to become Minister at Juniper Green Church a few years later.

Now I have felt a calling to return to ministry in the

Highlands and have accepted the invitation to be the Minister at North West Lochaber Parish Church. This is a huge parish. Geographically it is larger than the City of Edinburgh and West Lothian combined.

I preached as Sole Nominee in Mallaig on 21st September, and the congregation then unanimously elected me as their new Minister. The service of induction will be in Mallaig on Saturday 8th November. Like Edinburgh Pentlands Parish, that Parish is the product of a recent union of the former separate parishes of Mallaig & Knoydart and Arisaig & the Small Isles. It includes the communities of Arisaig, Glenfinnan, Glenuig, Knoydart, Lochailort, Mallaig, Morar and the Isles of Rùm, Eigg, Muck and Canna. The manse is in Mallaig and Sunday services alternate between St Columba's Church in Mallaig and the village hall in Arisaig.

The area is scenically outstanding and has frequently featured in films, including the Glenfinnan railway viaduct in the *Harry Potter* films and also the beautiful Camusdarach

beach at Morar in the 1983 film *Local Hero*. Given the very low population density in the area, North West Lochaber has a fairly small congregation and is an 'aid receiving' congregation. This means that the generosity of members of congregations, such as those in Edinburgh Pentlands Parish, can make it financially possible to continue the Church of Scotland's work in parishes such as North West Lochaber.

Since a large percentage of the local community has been Roman Catholic for many generations, cordial ecumenical relations will be of great importance in our common witness to God's love, revealed in Christ. If you can manage to make the journey, do come and visit North West Lochaber – the railway trip to Mallaig is widely acknowledged as one of the most scenic in the world.

continued...page 4



Letter from the Locum Minister...continued

I have greatly enjoyed my time as Locum Minister at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church. This is my final letter in *The Parish Publication* and, although I am not going to mention everyone by name, my sincere thanks go to all the office bearers, staff, volunteers and members of the congregation during my time with you. Thank you for your warm welcome and kindness – it has been a privilege to be of service to Christ's Church in this parish. I close with these words from St Paul in Colossians 3:12-17:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Prayerful good wishes, Rev. Matthew Ross

A POEM FROM THE PAST

PROVIDED BY DENNIS SEATTER

*I love a girl, her eyes are blue,
Her name is Mary and she loves me too.
She says we'll get married if Papa says "yes"
But what his answer will be, I can only guess.
Will he say "yes", will he say "no",
I really don't know.
Will he be glad, will he be sad,
I really don't know.*

*Will he embrace me and say, my boy,
You're the one to care for my pride and joy.
Or will he just glare at me and say get out
Will he be nasty or be a good scout.
Will he be kind and say I'm not blind
I really don't know.
Will he be nice and buy lots of rice,
I really don't know.*

*I've been trying to puzzle it all out.
I go to my bed and just roll about
And until tomorrow, I'll be full of doubt
Because I really don't know.*



The Green Strollers

On 26th August, eleven Strollers set off from Juniper Green Church to walk to Woodhall House via the Water of Leith. At Colinton,

we stopped for a snack lunch in the Swing Café, which was enjoyed by all - great food and friendly atmosphere. The day was warm and sunny to begin with but, on the way back to Juniper Green, we were caught in a down-pour. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who provided transport back. It was greatly appreciated!

We welcomed one new Green Stroller to our group so - if you are a seasoned walker, or just out for a stroll, why not come and join us? We are planning further walks so please check the Edinburgh Pentlands Church website or the Juniper Green Church intimation sheet for more details. All are welcome.

Happy Strolling!
Jeanette Campbell

Now that we are back to Autumn and the Guild has re-started, I looked out the blue boxes for donations and, along with Guild collections, I am delighted to report that £67.00 was sent to the Leprosy Mission. I have received a letter of thanks from them, which I posted in Hall 3 and also in the vestibule at Juniper Green Church. Thanks go to everyone who contributed.

Rita Brownlie

**The
Leprosy
Mission**



The Ladies Badminton Group has been meeting since the 1960s and the new session is now underway. We meet from 10am to 12noon on Wednesday mornings in Juniper Green Church Hall 1.

Weekly gatherings will run until June next year and new members are always very welcome!



Do come and join us
Linda Sharp



IT'S TIME TO GET THOSE SHOEBOXES READY

Christmas is only a few weeks away and, once again, we will be supporting the

Blythswood Care 2025 Shoebox Appeal.

Last year we sent a total of 136 boxes which had been filled with items from members and friends of Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church.

Leaflets providing all the details are available at both Juniper Green and Colinton Churches.

Filled shoeboxes should be returned to either Church by Wednesday 29th October to ensure they reach their destination in time for Christmas.

Blythswood Care has asked that, if possible, each shoebox contains a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, sweets (not chocolate), a toy/gift, scarf, gloves and hat and an item of underwear. It would also be a great help to Blythswood Care if participants taking part in this appeal followed the **6 Steps to bring HOPE** guidelines which are detailed in the leaflet.

Many thanks in anticipation of your generous support for this worthwhile cause.

Irene Falla

UPDATE FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Locum Minister

As many people will know, on Sunday 21st September our Locum Minister, the Rev. Matthew Ross, successfully preached as Sole Nominee for the vacant position at the Parish of North West Lochaber. Matthew will remain with us until the end of October, before moving to his new Parish.

It is unlikely that a new Minister for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish will be in place prior to Matthew's departure, therefore a replacement Locum Minister will be sought to fill the gap.

Nominating Committee

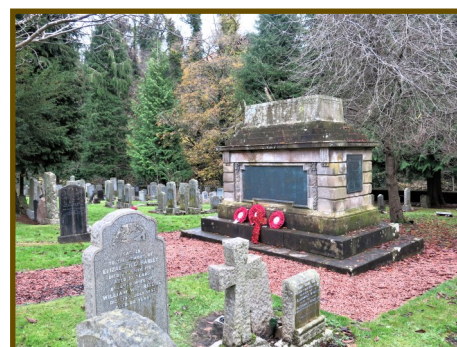
The advertisement for a new Minister for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish was available on the Church of Scotland website, with 15th September being the closing date for applications.

The Nominating Committee has to consider the applications and, if possible, then choose a suitable candidate as the Sole Nominee. This process remains confidential and we cannot predict how long it will take.



Juniper Green Organ

During September, the Juniper Green organ has been out of action. The fault was traced to a large electrical cableform which had suffered moisture damage. This has to be replaced if the organ is to function properly. The Property Group has authorised the organ builder to proceed with repairs.



Remembrance Sunday Services

On Sunday 9th November, the services at Juniper Green and Colinton Churches will commence at 10:30am. This will allow for the two-minute silence to take place during both services.

Dreghorn Loan Hall Stairlift

Regrettably, after many delays, the company which originally installed the stairlift at Dreghorn Loan Hall has advised us that they are unable to repair it. This issue was then discussed at the Kirk Session meeting, held on 7th October.

New Manse

We took possession of our new Parish Manse in Lanark Road on 25th September. It is well-situated for access to both Colinton and Juniper Green Churches and has modern heating which meets required standards.



IAN MORRISON
SESSION CLERK

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER IN TRAINING

AN UPDATE FROM JANET SHEPHERD

Dear Friends

It was a real privilege to lead worship for my home congregation on two occasions during the summer months and, on other occasions, to join with you as a worshipper. Sunday 21st September was my last Sunday with you for some time, as I now launch into my probation year.

As well as leading worship for you here in Colinton and Juniper Green, I carried out pulpit supply for my last placement at Barclay Viewforth Church, when their Minister was on leave. Following a slightly throw-away comment by one of my fellow Aberdeen University students, I found myself leading worship for Edinburgh Northwest Church, at Cramond Kirk. This is a relatively recent union between Cramond and Pennywell Kirks. They are currently maintaining their previous worship pattern at the two locations and, like us, they have a joint communion once a month, alternating between the two kirks. I was made to feel very welcome and I enjoyed leading worship in that historic building.

The Minister there is the Rev. Julia Cato, who did some of her



training with Rev. Rolf Billes a few years ago. Sadly, I was unable to meet her again, as she was at Pennywell.

I cannot believe that I have entered my third and last year of training. The year started with the annual St Andrew Candidate gathering in August. Our theme for the weekend was **Crossing the Bridge**...getting from where we are now to being fully fledged in our ministry roles. We started by thinking about mission, which included an eye-opening talk by Neill Shaw, who is a Priority Area Development Worker.

On the Sunday, I was in what is known as a workstream, focusing on pastoral care, which was led by Mark Evans DCS, a familiar name to those who have been members at Colinton for some time. Mark shared some of the wealth of experience gained

during his 30 years as a Deacon, much of it with the NHS. A parallel session on worship was then led by Rev. Rolf Billes. Unfortunately, I had to miss his session, but it was lovely to catch up with him over coffee.

On the Monday, we looked at inclusion in different ways and how we build bridges as part of our mission. The day concluded with the Moderator, Right Rev. Rosie Frew, leading us in communion. She joined in some of our sessions during the day, sharing her perspective on topics we were discussing.

I am looking forward to starting my probation with Rev. Fiona Mathieson at St David's Carrick Knowe. Fiona already has some tasks and services lined up for me, so I am sure she will keep me busy and I hope to learn a lot.

I shall continue contributing to life at Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Church, just not on Sundays and, in due course, I look forward to hearing who our new Minister will be. Exciting times lie ahead.

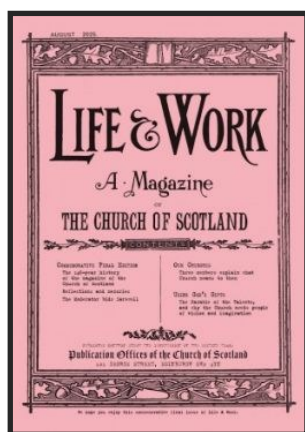
May God continue to bless you and draw you into a deeper relationship with one another and with God.

Janet Shepherd



Cramond Kirk above and, on the right, Janet is pictured with colleagues at the St Andrew Candidate gathering





LIFE AND WORK ...NO LONGER A PRINTED MAGAZINE



Having been involved with the publishing industry all my working life, I was saddened to learn that *Life and Work* magazine will no longer be available in print.

I believe that, like many people, the touch, feel and smell of printed magazines and books is special and unique. Reading something online, or on an iPad, is simply not the same. At the General Assembly in May 2025, I am sure that it was with great sadness that the Church took the very hard decision to cease production of *Life and Work* in its current format. The last edition was August 2025.

The magazine has had a long history. It was founded in 1879 by Archibald Hamilton Charteris, pictured on the right in a painting by John Henry Lorimer. Charteris was born in 1835 in the small village of Wamphray, near Moffat in Dumfriesshire. He studied Divinity at Edinburgh University, graduated in 1854, then did post-graduate studies in Bonn University in Germany. In 1887 he founded the Women's Guild.

Charteris was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He founded Edinburgh's Deaconess Hospital and also the Mission Church beside the hospital, which was named **Charteris Memorial Church** in his memory. There is much more to this interesting man's life, but let's return to *Life and Work*.

During its many years of publication, the magazine has had 14 editors, including four Gaelic-speakers who were responsible for creating the longest running Gaelic periodical as a supplement to *Life and Work*. That supplement was published for 145 years.

Though the magazine was rooted within the life and work of the Church of Scotland, it also aimed to cover a broad range of subjects that might be of interest to other people. They included stories and articles about international affairs and British political and social issues, as well as topical and ethical issues. In addition, there were book reviews, features representing the worldwide church, plus reflections and devotional elements.

The magazine was voted 'Best Member Magazine of the Year' at the PPA Scotland Magazine Awards, which took place in 2004.

At one time, *Life and Work* was read by one quarter of the Scottish population, but that was when around half of Scotland's people professed to belong to the Kirk. If we then look at the print circulation in 2024, which had dropped to around 5,000 copies, plus rising production costs teamed with Church of Scotland income diminishing, it seems to have been a hard, but understandable, decision for the Assembly to make.



The final printed edition in August celebrated the history of *Life and Work* during its many years of publication as the Church of Scotland's magazine and, in future, readers can source information and articles on the *Life and Work* page on the Church of Scotland website.

Editrice



Charteris Memorial Church

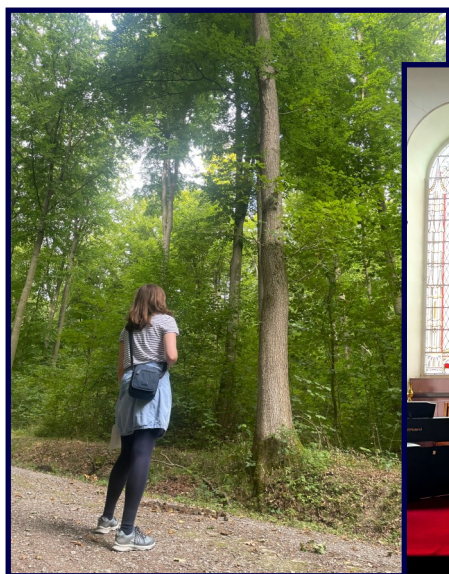
ECUMENICAL ADVENTURES



Hello again from Hannover. I can't quite believe that it's a year since I moved here...and it has been an incredibly busy time since the last time I wrote.

The Nicaea book, *Receiving Nicaea Today: Global Voices from Reformed Perspectives* is finished and will be published in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October. It has been such a privilege to have been part of this project, as both an author and editor, and it has brought me great joy throughout the process.

Working on such a huge project (the book is nearly 700 pages long) alongside many amazing people was definitely a highlight of my internship.



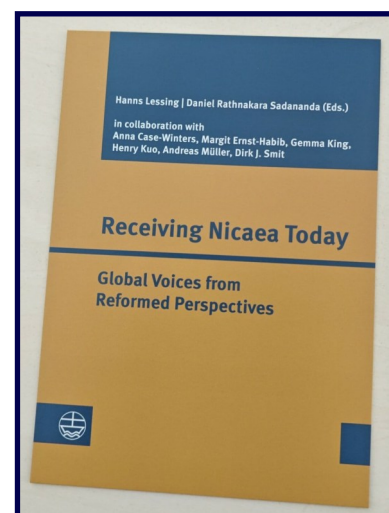
Once the book was safely with the publishers, all my other work has been preparing for General Council...so many spreadsheets and emails, booking flights, creating visa documents and also invoices. At the time of writing this article, the General Council event is coming up and I'm looking forward to taking part in the gathering in Chiang Mai from 14th to 23rd October. Initially I shall serve on the staff team and then, when the General Council starts, shall be both a minute-taker and a delegate representing the Church of Scotland. This will definitely involve some creative hat-juggling.

As part of our preparations for General Council, we had a lovely staff retreat, led by Pastor Chelsea, on the theme of 'Sabbath'. It was held in Lutherheim Retreat Centre near Springe, which is roughly 30 minutes by train from Hannover. It was great getting out of the city and into some hills again. I miss the Pentland Hills so much when I'm in the flatlands of Hannover.

In other Hannover happenings, I had the privilege of preaching at the RELISH Service. It was so lovely that Chelsea and Jeff, the RELISH Pastors, gave

me this opportunity - and after the service, they took me to their favourite pancake place for lunch. I also had fun singing with RELISH choir at the Gemeindefest, which is the church festival service of the German Reformierte Kirche.

A real blessing for me was my trip home in August for a flying visit to attend both my friend Simon Hessett's commissioning service as Fife Pilgrim Pastor (pictured below) and my tiny godson's baptism. The day of the Commissioning Service was so lovely. I pilgrimed with Simon



from Ceres Parish Church (our Locum Matthew's first charge) to St Andrews where the Service was held. If anyone is out walking any of the Fife Pilgrim Way from North Queensferry to St Andrews, you might meet Simon with his Pilgrim Pastor Staff and Stamp.

I must finish up here and get back to work preparing for Thailand. Not long to go now! Also, not long until I move back to Edinburgh, so there will be just one more Ecumenical Adventures article coming over from Hannover.



Gemma King



**The Fairtrade Fortnight
this year took place from
22nd September to
5th October with the
title 'Do it Fair'**

As there are political and economic changes taking place globally, as well as instability in some countries, due to war, famine and climate change, most people feel they have to look after themselves more than ever. Should we re-focus on the bigger picture? After all, many foods, drinks, raw materials and even luxury consumer goods that we enjoy, are imported from farmers in developing countries. As Christians, should we turn away from helping our neighbours who work hard to provide for our daily need and pleasure?

On the Fairtrade website there were numerous campaign suggestions for people to consider for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight and the route chosen by our hard-working Fairtrade organising duo, Margaret and Peter, pictured on the right, was **Grassroots**. They provided a selection of non-perishable Fairtrade products for the congregation to purchase in the Dell Room at Colinton Church.

However, each of us can definitely do more in our daily life - and remember, not all fair traders are equal.

- The Fairtrade logo guarantees a fair market price for farmers, giving them a vital safety net for the hard work they put in
- The Fairtrade movement educates farmers on how to manage land, health and community and ensure equality
- The produce from Fairtrade Foundation remains exceptional, without compromising farmers' and workers' rights



Let us all remember to
Do it Fair
and together, we can
stand tall.



**Tiphereth, on the edge of the Pentland Hills,
is a social enterprise that supports people
with learning difficulties.**

We now have a **Pop-up-Shop** which is open every Friday from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Come and enjoy spectacular views of the hills with a hot drink in hand, and either sit-in or takeaway.

The shop features beautiful handmade products from our Day Service Workshops which includes pottery, textiles, print studio, wood workshop and garden group. We also offer a locally sourced compost and firewood service, with items delivered, free of charge, direct to your door.

On Friday 28th November we shall be delighted to welcome you to our **Advent Market** at Hoyland House, 37-39 Torphin Road, from 11am to 2:30pm. This will feature festive products from our Workshops, as well as home baking, tea and coffee and carol singing (of course).

Future Day Service Opportunities

Come and have a look at our Day Service and Transition opportunities. We support Adults with Learning Disabilities to take part in meaningful work through a variety of workshops.

Our Day Services

Transition Support / Gardening / Pottery / Textiles / Print Studio / Estates Maintenance / Wood Workshop / Social Enterprise

Open Morning Schedules

- Short Presentation to begin
- Opportunity for Questions
- Transition Programme Information
- Tours of All Day Services

Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Referral form
2025 Wednesday 5 th November	10am-12pm	
2026 Friday 16 th January	2pm-4pm	
Wednesday 4 th March	10am-12pm	
Friday 8 th May	2pm-4pm	
Wednesday 1 st July	10am-12pm	

Tel: 0131 441 2055 | Email: lucy.robertson@tiphereth.org.uk





THE MEETINGS FOR COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY RE-STARTED ON MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Our new Programme Secretary, Wendy Evans, has come up with a varied array of Guest Speakers who cover quite a range of topics. This augurs well for our winter season, so here is our programme up to December:

Monday 6th October:

The Mystery of the Stone of Destiny

Monday 20th October:

The History and Challenges of Edinburgh Water Supply

Monday 3rd November:

Roman Arm Armour - a Reconstruction

Monday 17th November:

Edinburgh's Medieval Churches

Monday 8th December:

Christmas Social Event

As I mentioned in the last issue of the Church magazine, the summer has been busy for some of our Members. They have been researching information about local shops and businesses, going right back to when it all began. They were able to do this, thanks, in no small part, to Andrew Paterson who, for his own interest, has been gathering background stories about Colinton from many sources for several years. Just a few of the things that came up... for instance did you know that:

- 17c Spylaw Street, where the Podiatrist Clinic is now, was a Fruiterer's shop around the time of WW1
- 20/21 Spylaw Street, at the end of the bridge, housed our first telephone exchange run by Mrs Neil
- Just after WW1 and where the Co-op is today, there was a wooden 'Hut Store' that was Mr Miller's fruit shop
- Near the foot of the Long Steps is a house called

Woodbine Cottage, built in 1850, which was a restaurant in the early 1900s

- As recently as 1960, there were no fewer than 40 businesses operating in our small village, 17 of them selling confectionery and food. Today there are still 29 businesses, but only three of them sell confectionery and food - surely a sign of the times

These are only a few of the many interesting things that are turning up during our research. We are nearing completion and the plan is to have another Colinton History Society book published in November - do watch this space and look out for information on our posters.

Our meetings are held in the Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, commencing at 8pm. So, if you are interested in history or enjoy listening to interesting talks, do please come along. You can contact us for information at: enquiries@colintonhistory.org.uk

Derek Douglas

Edinburgh Pentlands Parish Guild of Friendship



The group has re-started after the summer break and is looking forward to enjoying the meetings. At our *Welcome Back* meeting on September 4th we celebrated the wedding anniversary one of our members and shared photos and stories of our own weddings. On 18th September, we heard Mary Morton's talk *Stitch it Don't Ditch it*, a fascinating talk about how she started pop-up mending classes - and

they are still taking place in the Meadows. The syllabus will run until Christmas and there is plenty planned. We meet fortnightly at 2pm in Hall 2 at Juniper Green Church for fun, fellowship and friendship. Please come and join us - ladies and gentlemen - and you will be made very welcome.

Margaret Woodrow

CORDOBA MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL

Earlier this year I took part in a concert in Malaga, in southern Spain, which was an opportunity not only to sing, but also to raise money for charity. Between rehearsals, a trip was organised to the beautiful city of Cordoba and the even more beautiful Mosque-Cathedral.

The moment I stepped inside the building I was utterly overwhelmed by the powerful peace and serenity surrounding me. I have never experienced anything quite like it before. For those readers who may not have visited Cordoba, the Mosque is absolutely vast, at 590ft long and 425ft wide and can accommodate 40,000 people. You might get some idea of the size from photographs I took, but it was actually impossible to fully capture the enormity of the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, the name by which it is officially known.



The image you see above is of the exquisitely built **Mihrab**, a place for prayer, full of the most beautiful silver and gold mosaics and Islamic texts and, thankfully, still complete.

Considered a jewel of Islamic architecture, I stood for a long time, just embracing its powerful atmosphere, and was more than a little upset when I learnt that Muslims are not allowed to pray anywhere inside this building, even though it is officially known as the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba. I think it is quite disgraceful that a small area has not been set aside for that purpose, and found it somewhat ironic that a recent accidental fire inside the building, severely damaged two of the Catholic chapels.

Thankfully, that incident did not cause wider damage and no doubt this huge, historic and powerful space will continue on for many more years.

Editrice

The Mosque was originally constructed in 785AD, possibly on the site of a Roman temple, and building extensions continued until 971AD.

In 1146, the Mosque was declared a "Catholic temple" then, in 1236, horrendous damage was inflicted upon this historic building, when a Catholic chapel was built, right in the middle of it. A small part of this huge place of worship may have been built for Christian worship, but it utterly fails to take away the powerful, atmospheric peace of the original Mosque.

Catholic chapel right, and former minaret, now the bell-tower, far right





The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

The 113th season of Colinton Literary Society is underway. The first talk will take place on Wednesday 15th October 2025.

History, poetry, mystery and art are just some of the topics that feature in the wonderful selection of presentations by our Guest Speakers.

Meetings are held in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, EH13 0DE. Coffee, tea and wine is served from 7:30pm and the talk or event commences at 8pm.

The evening ends at 9pm.

Talks in place until December are listed on the right and the 2026 meetings will commence on Wednesday 14th January.

Do come along and find out more.
Everyone will be made very welcome.

15 Oct The Antonine Wall, Scotland's Roman Frontier:

David Breeze talks about the short life of this frontier, which crosses Scotland from Bo'ness on the Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde

22 Oct The Scots in Russia: Kath Hay explores the historical connections between Scotland and Russia and tells us about creative characters who became key contributors to life and society in Russia for hundreds of years

29 Oct The Disappearance of the Ninth Legion:

John Reid revisits what we think we know about the Ninth Hispana

05 Nov Humanoids - No longer - Just Sci-Fi: Stewart Miller, CEO of The National Robotarium, outlines the latest advances in humanoid robots

12 Nov Lenin: Ian Gardiner tells the story of this towering, yet sinister, revolutionary figure

19 Nov Geopoetics in Colinton: Patrick Corbett shows the connections between geology and poetry in the Colinton area

26 Nov The Vikings in Greenland: Andrew Dugmore asks why Greenland's Vikings vanished

03 Dec Buffet Supper and musical entertainment provided by the **Glencairn Ensemble**. Please note this event is for members of The 'Lit' and tickets at £10pp will be available to purchase in November



Lenin (above) and a self-portrait by Christina Robertson (below) who features in the talk about the Scots in Russia



Colinton Literary Society c.1925

The photograph above, taken at a Colinton Literary Society event in 1925, was recently discovered, completely by chance, at a local auction and then kindly donated to The 'Lit'



After a summer of challenging weather, with long dry spells, high winds and sudden downpours, we are eager to get back together again to share our gardening experiences and be stimulated by a wealth of talented Speakers.

The new 2025 programme of talks started on 22nd September. Garden historian Dr Alley Jordan spoke on **Early Modern and Baroque Gardens**. She is an expert on gardens of this period and the talk was very informative.

Our annual **Members' Plant Sale** will take place on 11th October at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, where there will be plants, bulbs, and garden-related articles for sale, as well as tea and coffee.

Gardening can be a hazardous business so, at the meeting on 27th October, Alison Downie, who is a physiotherapist, will help us to try to prevent injuries when we are gardening. Her talk is entitled **Common Garden Injuries**.

At the 24th November meeting we are trying out a new format. Take a look at further details in the article on the right.

The Garden Club's **Christmas Party** will be held on Tuesday 16th December.

Our regular meetings take place on the fourth Monday of the month in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton, and start at 8pm. Membership is amazing value at only £10 per household.

You can find further details about Garden Club activities on our website at:
www.colintongarden.org.uk



A reminder of beautiful summer colours. These photos were taken at the Garden Club's summer outing to Dumfries House in July

Gardeners' Question Time

Our members' meeting on Monday 24th November will be our very first **Gardeners' Question Time**. Those of you familiar with the long-running BBC4 radio show will know the format.

Questions are posed by audience members and an expert panel provides suggestions and/or answers to those queries. However, one of the frustrations we feel is that the answers are often geared to more southerly climes. Colinton Garden Club will be doing things differently.

There will be no "expert" panel, because our members are already experts. This will be an opportunity for us to share our own experiences of gardening in our occasionally challenging conditions here in Scotland. The Garden Club committee has already asked members to submit items about gardening dilemmas - and a few have arrived, but we would like more... lots more.

Please do send your questions / queries / discussion topics / gardening problems to our secretary, Helen Moyes, at secretary@colintongardens.org.uk. If you would like to attach a photograph of your plant for discussion, that would be great, but not necessary. And, if you would like to read out your own question, just let Helen know, but if you would prefer to remain anonymous, that's fine too. It would be helpful to have the questions and any photos in advance of the meeting, but any spontaneous questions on the night will also be welcome.

We shall have roving mics to enable everyone to hear and join in the lively discussion that is sure to take place. Do come along on Monday 24th November and be prepared to take part in an interactive meeting.



the
*colinton &
merchiston*
community choir

SAVE the DATE

Colinton & Merchiston Community Choir

Christmas Concert will take place on Monday 8th December, 7pm for 7:30pm start.

We shall meet in the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School, to sing a delightful programme of Christmas Music, including: Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, Cornelius' *Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar*, Telemann's *Der Jungste Tag wird bald sein Ziel*, plus a lovely selection of carols.

Tickets are £10pp or £5 for under 18s and are available from Choir members or at the door, which will open at 7pm. And cash only please.

Margaret Kieran

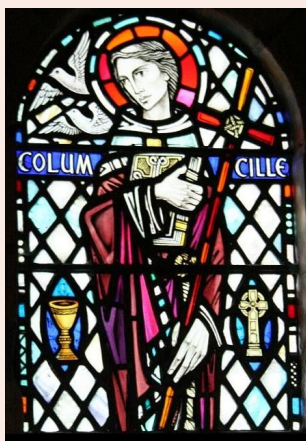


CELEBRATION - a new inclusive worship group at the Saltyard Café

A new inclusive worship group called 'Celebration' has started on Sunday afternoons in the Saltyard Café at 158 Dalry Road, Edinburgh.

The group is led by Reuben Addis, who is the Ordained Local Minister at Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church of Scotland. It meets once a month on Sunday afternoons, starting at 1pm and finishing by 2:30pm.

The first gathering was on 21st September. There will be three more, on 19th October, 23rd November and 21st December. The meetings start



ST COLUMBA OR ST COLUMCILLE

St Columba's name means 'dove of the church'. He and his monks were closely connected with the natural world. They delighted in the flowers that carpeted Iona's sandy machair and the hard-won harvest from its thin soils. Their spirits soared at the call of the

seals or an eagle hovering above the far hills. Nature sang of God's glory but a storm-tossed sea could cut a life short. They studied the tides and scudding clouds and respected the currents and fierce winds. Yet, those winds also brought many visitors.

One stormy night, an exhausted, injured crane struggled ashore. It was welcomed and cared for like any other honoured guest. Three days later, Columba watched it fly, strong and healthy, back towards Ireland. He sent it with blessings to the home he might never see again, but kept in his heart the joy of helping a fellow traveller.

Nature sustains, amazes and heals us. All life-forms have immense value. We are only a small part of the whole, yet we have the power to help our world or to harm it. What brings you joy in creation? What grieves you? What positive stories will you leave behind?

The above text is from an exhibition called 'Immrama' and was sourced via the website of St Columba by the Castle Episcopal Church on Johnson Terrace. The exhibition is about St Columba's journey through life and also invites visitors to think about their own life story. The exhibition can be seen online, or in person, at St Columba by the Castle Episcopal Church. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit <https://www.immrama.online>

with sandwiches, cakes and drinks. If you have any dietary needs, you can bring your own food. Then there is music, a visual/sensory telling of a Bible story and a chance to respond creatively. Everyone is welcome, whatever your ability.

The Saltyard Café is a coffee shop, meeting and prayer space run by Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church of Scotland. It is on the number 44 bus route, or you can take a number 18 bus to Sighthill and change to a number 25 bus there. For more information about Celebration, including a video in English and BSL, please visit:

www.gappchurch.org.uk/copy-of-services-worship-1



THE TREE OF LIFE

Messy Church's new term got off to a great start in September, when we celebrated the fact that everyone is welcome.

No matter what our individual talents are, we all have a role to play in the life of our Church and the wider community. We discovered how to use our voices to guide someone around a maze when they could not see, we thought about what we liked about our Church,



and we practiced our beanbag throwing skills. Our younger members are to be applauded for their determination to succeed, and we thank Moira Shirreff for her artistic talents as she created this game for us.

In October, we moved on to contemplate *The Tree of Life*. Trees are vital to our survival as they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen to sustain life here on earth. Trees are used as an image in the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. They are used as a positive symbol for many faiths as a tree rooted in earth grows skyward

The Kippford leaning tree

and points to heaven. A tree can be seen as a symbol of longevity, wisdom and strength.

In 2021, the Woodlands Trust voted the Kippford leaning tree in Dumfries and Galloway the UK's best tree. This hawthorn tree is about 100 years old, standing alone, proud and strong at the edge of the beach, shaped by the many storms it has weathered. This tree is not the biggest, tallest or the most beautiful one, but has something to teach us all, as it has survived in difficult conditions.

Remember that, as we weather the storms of life, Jesus is always with us. Jesus himself has been referred to as the *Tree of Life* as he is the one who feeds, heals, restores, protects and saves us all.

Did you know that an individual oak tree can be home to more than 350 different species of insects? Trees also support lichens and mosses that grow on their branches, offer nesting spaces for birds and provide us with food to eat. What an amazing community must be in a tree.

Does our Church act like a tree? Is God calling us to live peacefully together in our community? At our session on 4th October, we



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contemplated these questions as we created pictures of insects out of leaves, learnt how to identify a tree from the shape of its leaf, and also learnt how osmosis works so that trees can get water all the way up to their highest leaves.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, our 1st November session will be based on the theme of *Peace*. Please note that our Messy Guild session planned for October 16th has been postponed to next year.

Messy Church is for all ages, so do join us if you can.

Alison Downie



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