

PARISH PUBLICATION

EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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UPDATES & ARTICLES

- FROM THE MINISTER • SESSION CLERK UPDATE •
- CHURCH BARBEQUE PHOTOS •
- NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY & PSALMS •
- SUITABLE ORGAN MUSIC • HELPING BUTTERFLIES •
- SOLSTICE STREET PARTY DONATION •



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Warm congratulations to Alastair and Inez Paisley on their incredible 65th Wedding Anniversary!

To mark the occasion, the family returned to Paisley Town Hall, the very place where they held their wedding reception all those years ago. Their beautiful story was featured in the *Renfrewshire Gazette* (you can find the article online).

Inez and Alastair...we wish you nothing but the best and many more happy years ahead.

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Colinton Literary Society

Colin Fischbacher

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 & Toddler

Karen Berry & Linda Johnston

ARTICLES

PAGE

Key Information	2
Welcome / The Minister	3
Children's area / Messy Church	4
Session Clerk / Fairtrade	5
Organ Recital / OLM in	6
Training / Country Dance Club	
Church BBQ photos	7
The Lit / Unseen Gardeners	8
Suitable Organ Music	9
Pastoral Care / Campbell Park	10
Colinton Local History Society	11
Helping Butterflies	12
Guild of Friendship / Leprosy	13
Mission / Badminton Group	
Psalms / Solstice Street Party	14
C of S Net Zero Pathway /	15
Colinton Garden Club	

WELCOME to our magazine

As ever, this edition of our church magazine is full of stories and information, which has been provided by many of our members. And as I bid farewell as Editor, my thanks go to all those contributors, and also to the many people who have sent kind messages, as I take my leave.

Thank you and happy reading

Felice Editrice



Kath Hay
Editor

In my study I have a poster titled *Munro Bagging*. The gist of it is simple: it's a map of Scotland with all the Munros marked and you scratch each one off after you complete a climb. It sits there, taunting me with how few I have actually managed to complete! Some weeks back, Amy and I, along with wee Islay, did make our way up Ben Chonzie which is supposed to be an easier climb.

The first half, to two-thirds the way up, is fairly straightforward and pleasant but, as is always the case, it gets steeper towards the top. False summits, I reckon, are some of the worst bits. The effort it takes to get past what you hope is the last rise, only to have a seemingly endless amount of more mountain appearing beyond it.

However, few feelings beat that dopamine hit of finally reaching the summit, then collapsing by the cairn and taking in the view



Ben Chonzie, near Crieff, Perthshire

I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I

Psalm 61:2 NIV



(assuming the view isn't obscured by cloud!). Something of the journey makes the peak ever sweeter, each hard-won step on shaky legs, each time energy was summoned to get going again after a rest. It was the hope of reaching the summit that carried those steps.

We all have heights we aim for that can feel exhausting to climb. The goals we have in life, versus the struggle it can be to reach them...and knowing the cost of some of those steps along the way. Just like on the side of a Munro, pace matters - knowing yourself, and when you need rest, matters.

The same is true for us as a church, especially on this journey of union. There are breathtaking views and joy-filled moments, like when so many came together for the church BBQ. There are also moments of frustration, tension and uncertainty along the way.

Sometimes, in the midst of the road, we need to be reminded that the peak to which we are travelling isn't of our making.

We are not crafting a mountain - we are being led by the hand of our Maker to a height we could never reach on our own. Some are bearing more than their share of the weight, fearful of what happens if they put things down for a moment and rest. Remember... as our heart grows faint, He leads; we follow, and rest is essential along the way - green pastures, quiet waters. God is not leading us on a path where something must be undone to get there.

There is a place, higher than any one of us could reach alone. A hope for what we might become as church, that is about more than the sum of our parts. A community drawn near to God, reflecting his love in the world. Our strength alone cannot carry us there.

Together we climb, sharing in the joy and hardship of the journey, trusting that, even when our strength inevitably fails, His grace remains. And when the path gets too steep, we pray as one:

"I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to a rock that is higher than I."

Every blessing,
Rev. Callum Macfarlane-Grieve

NEW CHILDREN'S AREA AT COLINTON CHURCH

During recent discussions with members of the congregation and at Kirk Session meetings, it became clear that working to invite families and young children back into church was important to all of us. Juniper Green Church has had a children's area in its building for many years and it is where young children can sit, read or play during a service. It also indicates that families are not only welcome, but are encouraged to involve their young children, so we have been working to provide a similar area in Colinton Church.

You may know that Colinton Church is a Category B listed building, both inside and out. However, the Church of Scotland has "Ecclesiastical Exemption" which permits alterations to be carried out inside a listed church building without requiring Council planning permission, as long as the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland are happy with the plans.

Once permission was granted, the hunt was on for a suitably qualified joiner to remove two pews and then create a space for small children. This was expertly done by Fraser Rowney of FJR Joinery. Fraser was able to re-use the wood from one of the pews to box in the heating pipes, thus maintaining the overall look of the church building.

Fraser actually has a close association with Colinton Church as he was in The Boys' Brigade unit linked to Colinton, and gained the Queen's Medal during his time there. We are delighted with the work Fraser has done and are more than happy to recommend his joinery and carpentry skills. Just get in touch with the church office for his contact details.

The space created has been carpeted and supplied with suitable books, cushions,

toys and a children's table and chairs. We understand that God put the wiggle in children and that this does not need to be

suppressed when they are in church! All are welcome in our church buildings and we hope that some of our Messy Church families will take up the invitation to join us on a Sunday too, at either Juniper Green Church or Colinton Church services.

Alison Downie



TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 5th September

Saturday 3rd October

Saturday 7th November

Saturday 5th December

We look forward to re-starting **Messy Church** after the summer break. Do please join us in Dreghorn Loan Hall, **2:30pm - 4pm**, for more messy adventures as, together, we play, sing, pray and learn about God's love for us all.

Please remember that children need to bring an adult with them. We would appreciate it if you could register in advance via the church office for each session, but if you cannot manage that, please just come along. See you there!



UPDATE FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Thanks to Kath Hay

My thanks, and the thanks of the whole Kirk Session and congregation, go to Editor Kath Hay who has put enormous effort into producing our **Parish Publication** magazine and, prior to that, the **Colinton News** magazine for Colinton Parish Church. The magazine has been of a very high, professional standard, with a variety of interesting articles and photographs, all of which have helped keep the congregation well-informed. We shall greatly miss Kath's contribution to our work.

The Communication Group will report to the August Kirk Session meeting on recommendations for the way forward for the magazine.

Church Office Administrator

Lindsey Rowlands, our Church Office Administrator, left her post in late June and we wish her well in her retirement. Lindsey was a cheerful and very helpful point of contact for our Parish members, efficiently managing the office and numerous queries. We intend to recruit a replacement for Lindsey and aim to advertise the post sometime in August. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in applying for this position, please get in touch with Callum.

Elders' Conference

On 20th June our Elders had an away-day at Heriot-Watt's excellent Chaplaincy Centre. Drawing on the questions we recently asked the congregation, the day was a time of fellowship, prayer, discussion and

vision, with a focus on what God is leading us to build together. Opportunities for further conversations with the whole congregation will follow - watch this space.

Church Finance

Members will have received a letter in July encouraging a review of their givings. As with all charitable organisations and businesses, increased costs in recent years, including sharp rises in the cost of energy, staffing costs and a rise in National Insurance contributions, affect the Church finances. Therefore, we are grateful to anyone who is able to increase their givings to help us with those rising costs.

Car parking at Colinton

At the time of writing, all necessary approval is in place for the construction of five additional carpark spaces at Colinton Church. While Kirk Session members are aware of some opposition to the carpark proposals by a number of people, more than 40 members of the congregation signed a letter in support of the planning application. Now that official approval is in place, we look forward to the work being completed this summer.



Ian Morrison
Session Clerk



FAIRTRADE TABLE

Following 10 years of hard work, Peter and Margaret Ng have now stepped down from running the Fairtrade Table at Colinton Church. Key results from their work include:

- ◆ **Malawi Kilombero Rice Challenge:** Colinton Church managed to send two local children to Malawi Secondary School, with support from Gayle Taylor and Rolf Billes who were our Ministers at the time. Gayle collaborated with the Bonaly Primary School on this project
- ◆ **Fairtrade table** offered more choices: a wider range of chocolate; coffee became more popular than tea; ground coffee more so than instant coffee
- ◆ **Christmas tables** were set up with cards and Fairtrade gifts, then charity cards were made available
- ◆ **Christian Aid:** All proceeds, including donations from the congregation, were donated to Christian Aid at Easter and also after the Christmas sale

During their time running the table, Peter and Margaret saw the Kilombero rice harvest collapse due to climate change and drought; the cost of cocoa and Arabic coffee beans shot up; sustainability became questionable; cheap chocolate and poor quality coffee flooded the market. All of this made Fairtrade merchandise stand out and represented better value.

Well done and many thanks to you both.

COLINTON CHURCH ORGAN RECITAL



On Wednesday 23rd September at 7:30pm, David Turner, Colinton Church Music Director, will give an organ recital to celebrate his 10 years as church organist. The programme will include some popular items, such as Coates' *Dambusters March*, music based on well-known hymn tunes, and a wide range of other organ music. It is hoped that money will be raised for charity through voluntary donations, with the suggested amount for entry being £10pp.



David Turner

OLM IN TRAINING

JANET SHEPHERD

Dear Friends,

The summer is marching on and, by mid-August, I should know if I will be moving forward into my probation placement. I do have a supervisor post lined up, but until my progression has been confirmed, I shall keep quiet about that. If all is well, my first Sunday at my probation church will be 30th August. It has been a privilege to lead worship for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish during the last couple of months in support of Callum. Thank you to those who have offered words of encouragement at this time.

As well as leading worship for Edinburgh Pentlands Parish, I have been asked by the Church of Scotland Training Team officer responsible for probation, to lead worship at three different churches within the Presbytery, with their ministers providing feedback to me. I shall have led all three by the time you receive this edition of the magazine. It is exciting - and daunting - to lead worship in an unfamiliar church, with an unknown congregation.

I have been gaining experience in several other areas too, and am humbled at the willingness of others to involve me in their work, and to come alongside those who



are at a more vulnerable stage in their lives. This disruption to my probation has, I believe, come from God and that God had a purpose in it. It was not easy to recognise this initially but, as I allow myself to be shaped by God, I grow in the confidence of my call. I am reminded of the passage in John 15:1-5 where Jesus says: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener".

We can only be fruitful if, like the vine, we are pruned and trained up the trellis. God knows the shape we are called to be. May we celebrate the times of pruning as well as the times of fruitfulness, as we grow more fully into Christ's likeness.

Whether you are in a time of pruning or of fruitfulness, I pray you may be assured of God's love for you.

With blessings, Janet

Colinton Scottish Country Dance Club

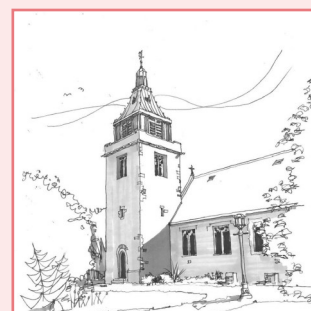
Come and join us in some Scottish country dancing this Autumn. Our term starts on Thursday 10th September and continues fortnightly until our party on 3rd December. The dances are all called, we have live music and lots of fun. Some knowledge of the steps and figures would be beneficial.

We meet in St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue from 7:45pm - 9:15pm.

The cost is £5 per evening, payment on arrival.

Come on your own or with a partner and you'll be made very welcome - we're a friendly bunch.

For more information contact
07751 186 359 or
0748 381 4988





Our wonderful summer BBQ took place in the Manse garden on Saturday 27th June and was arranged by the newly-formed Fellowship Committee

More than 120 people turned up! Many thanks go to Callum and Amy for opening their garden and home, and thanks also go to *so* many hard-working people who cooked, carried tables and chairs, checked people in, buttered rolls, produced loads of fried onions, dished out drinks and biscuits - and more. They include the BBQ burger trio of Ian, Alastair and Ruaridh Davidson, pictured top left, Margaret Woodrow, Alison Reid, Alyson Lochhead, Judy Harrison, Treena Shaw, Mairi and Michael Merriman and gazebo-providers Susan Park and Alison Downie. But there were many more who helped - **so thank you everyone!**



Images: Kath Hay





The 'Lit'

Colinton Literary Society

The Lit was founded in 1903 by the Minister of Colinton Parish Church. The 2026 - 2027 season will commence on 14th October and is full of highly informative topics.

Meetings take place each Wednesday evening in Dreghorn Loan Hall, Colinton. Members and guests gather to enjoy coffee, tea and wine, which are served from 7:30pm, then the talk or event starts at 8pm, ending at about 9pm. The first events, which include a performance of a well-known G&S opera, are listed on the right. Do come and join us and you will be made very welcome.

14th Oct: Is there a Pigeon in the Room: Cameron Wylie, former Principal of George Heriot's School, talks about his life in education

21st Oct: Stiff Upper Lip: Alex Renton, author, journalist and broadcaster, tells us what goes on in Britain's boarding schools

28th Oct: Falkland's Lady of Ostrabrama: Kath Hay tells the story of the connection between the icon above the city gates of Vilnius and the chapel in Falkland Palace

04th Nov: Bombing of Edinburgh & Leith 1939-1942: Former police detective Tom Wood tells the story of the almost forgotten German bombing raids on Edinburgh

11th Nov: Harvie's Dyke: Christopher Whatley explains the story of 19th century struggles for public rights of way

18th Nov: HMS Pinafore: Music Director David Lyle and colleagues present the much-loved G&S comic opera



UNSEEN GARDENERS

VIVIENNE McPHAIL

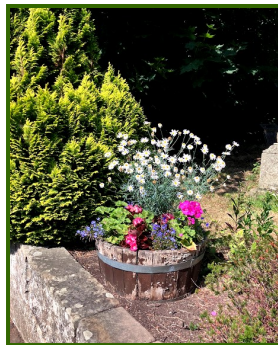
Have you admired the colourful garden area at the entrance to Colinton Church? Perhaps you have wondered who does all the work?

We are fortunate to have a group of keen gardeners who, throughout the year, take turns to manage the

area surrounding the entrance to the building. Not all gardeners are church members - some of us live locally and simply want to volunteer.

Teams of two or three meet once a week during the growing season and then once a month during the winter. A coffee in the Swing Café afterwards is always welcome and is a chance to discuss any problems, such as how to (legally) deter a family of hungry badgers, which is a Sisyphean task!

We also look after the triangle of land just outside the church wall where the RLS sculpture is, as well as the tubs and pathway leading to the Swing Café entrance.



In addition, and for the benefit of the children who attend the nursery, we have started planting a little area close to the entrance to the old Manse garden.

Each year Edinburgh Council gives us plants, mainly geraniums, and we are also given charitable donations from Tesco, church members and others which allow us to purchase topsoil or new plants, or replace the wooden half-barrels. The tete-a-tete daffodils, which feature in the Easter Cross on the grass area approaching the church door, were also a generous donation.

We are always on the lookout for new folk to join us so, if you are interested, do please leave a message at the church office or talk to any of the gardeners when you see them.

We are also keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in working in Juniper Green Church garden. Do get in touch...you will be made very welcome!



Images: June Scott and Kath Hay

'SUITABLE' ORGAN MUSIC

EDWARD CAMPBELL

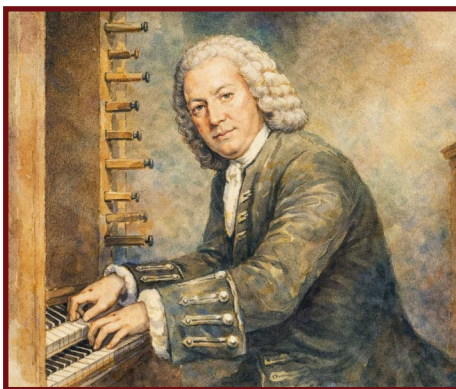
In addition to the hymns which feature in each Sunday service, the organist is entrusted with the task of choosing 'suitable' music to play before the service begins and then again, at the end, as a postlude.

Recently, I've been thinking about what the term 'suitable' music might mean and whether there are limits to what can be played in church.

As music in the Western tradition developed across the centuries, a distinction was made, differentiating sacred music from music that was identified as secular in tone and function. From the time of the Scottish Reformation in the 16th century, the music of the Church of Scotland consisted entirely of unaccompanied psalm singing and it was only in the 19th century that organs were re-established within churches. An organ was installed in Greyfriars Kirk in 1864, hymn-singing became part of worship in the Church of Scotland in the 1870s, an 'organ movement' gained ground from the same decade onwards and, by 1900, more than 80% of Church of Scotland parishes had an organ (and a choir).

During the course of the 20th and 21st centuries, as the Church of Scotland became home to a range of styles of worship, the extent of what has been judged as acceptable music in church has expanded as never before. The reasons for this are multiple and include the rise of the ecumenical movement, which enabled the church to embrace the musical richness of other traditions.

The foundation of the Iona Community in 1938 had a huge impact in integrating folk tunes,



or tunes in folk-music style, within worship and more generally in breaking down barriers regarding the kinds of musical styles and genres deemed acceptable for use in church. I certainly had some truly memorable experiences of worship on Iona in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

More recently, the English organist, Anna Lapwood, who is sometimes referred to as the 'TikTok Organist' due to her popularity on social media, is an example of someone who mixes and matches the sacred and the secular at will.

For example, choral recordings such as *Abide with Me* stand alongside *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and *Ubi Caritas*; or again, where organ Preludes and Fugues by the French composer Maurice Duruflé are presented, together with versions of Bob Dylan's *Make You Feel My Love*, Robbie Williams' *Angels* and Alan Menken's soundtrack for the film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.



Granted, these are all commercial recordings intended for a generalist audience, and not orders of service for Sunday worship. Nonetheless, there is nothing new in mixing the sacred and the secular.

In the Baroque period, for example, J. S. Bach included in his *Christmas Oratorio*, music he had already used in his secular cantatas and several of the most famous parts of Handel's *Messiah* had already appeared in secular duets on the theme of love.

Since taking up the temporary post of organist at Juniper Green Church, I've played a wide range of music, including traditional organ pieces, versions of 'classical' compositions and all kinds of bits and pieces from the world of folk music, film scores, prog rock and the rest.

What matters most is that the music which is chosen supports the congregational worship and is in keeping with the spirit of the service, while not becoming an end in itself.

What do you think?



Images: J.S. Bach (top)

Iona Abbey (left)

Greyfriars Kirk organ (above)

THE MARK OF GRACE



Steven Leung
Pastoral Care

I invite you to take a moment to gently massage your arms, legs and hands. Sometimes, doing this can remind us of things we usually overlook.

For me, it made me re-discover old scars on my arms and legs from my teenage years as a football defender. These scars are usually covered by clothing, but touching them brought back so many stories. We all have our own history. What stories are you reminded of through this exercise?

In Ephesians 2:11, Paul asks his readers to 'remember' their past, a story which all of humanity shares. He describes us as having been 'dead' in the bondage of sin, simply following the desires of our

own bodies and minds (2:1-3). Paul uses the word 'dead' not only to describe our broken relationship with God, but also the brokenness in our humanity - our inability to function in love and peace, or to stand against evil. These are the regrettable chapters of our stories.

"But God...", Paul writes in v4. This is the most dramatic twist in the passage. Yes, we were dead in our sins and have been so broken in various aspects. Yes, we do struggle with shortcomings. Yes, there may be wounds and scars marking our poorest moments. Yet Paul raises his voice and proclaims: *"But God..."*

Now let's do another exercise together: Place your right hand under your left armpit. Use your left hand to hold your right elbow. Hold tight, as if you are hugging yourself. While holding yourself close, listen to what Paul says next: *"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."* No matter what memories your past scars bring back, Paul asks us to remember those two words: *"But God..."*

Jesus has run to where we are and embraced all that we are. He meets us at the site of our wounds, hugging, suturing and also healing us with His unfading love. By accepting His love and good news through faith, He proclaims to us: "The old has gone and the new has come".

Today, when we look in the mirror or feel those physical or emotional marks, try this self-hug exercise again. Proclaim that, while these scars hold stories, they now tell an even greater story of God's abundant grace. The more painful they were, the more the grace and love of God flows to surround us. In Christ, our painful or unpleasant marks are transformed into marks of grace and love, just like the scars on His hands and side. They no longer make us ashamed, because we are forgiven and set free.

We are the marks of grace, our stories both past and present, reflecting the gracious love of Christ. We are not the source of light, but by grace, through our stories and the transforming lives, we are like a mirror, reflecting the light that God graciously shines on us and so we may shine for one another.

CAMPBELL PARK'S



90th

BIRTHDAY PARTY

SUNDAY 14th JUNE

2PM - JOIN IN OUR
NEW SIGNAGE TOUR
STARTING AT THE
MAIN GATE



FREE BIRTHDAY CAKE
ORCHARD SHARING
PICNIC THEREAFTER

friendsofcampbellpark.wordpress.com



A lovely, happy day was celebrated with cake, drinks, poetry, the raising of prayer flags, and a rendition of the Gaelic Blessing, sung by a small choir.

The sun shone and everyone enjoyed a blether in the beautiful garden and orchard area.





In the previous issue of the magazine I mentioned that the History Society summer outing would be a tour of Thirlestane Castle. We have now been - and what an excellent tour it was, with a first-class guide to show us round.

We heard a little bit more about the Earl of Lauderdale's patronage of Colinton Parish Church, which gave him the right to appoint the minister in the 1700s. In 1783, he appointed Dr John Walker and sparked major outrage and dissent amongst the congregation.

Another interesting titbit was that one member of the Maitland family (Lauderdale's family name) emigrated to the Americas in the 1700s and it was he who was responsible for naming Fort Lauderdale in what is now Florida.

As a result of our research for our upcoming new book, we continue to unearth many little or unknown facts about our village. An example of this relates to Dreghorn Castle, where the last owner, R. A. Macfie, lived. Macfie was a co-owner of a sugar plantation in Hawaii and, as a result of this and his connections there, in 1881 he entertained King Kalākaua (pictured on the right) at Dreghorn for a couple of nights.

Macfie was also an avid collector of monumental stoneware and when the old infirmary building in Infirmary Street was demolished he managed to salvage four great pillars. He also salvaged the Drummond Scrolls (named after Lord Provost George Drummond). He used the pillars to make the Covenanters' Memorial, located on Redford Road, and the scrolls were added to Redford House gatehouse.

Being one of the major landowners, Macfie was a Heritor of the Parish Church, playing a major part in decision-making and, of course, funding both the church and what was then the church school.

In the late 1890s he also had erected an **Iron Hall** in Dreghorn Loan, to be used as a community hall.

He later donated it to Colinton Parish Church for their use. In 1926 the church had it dismantled and had what we now know as **The Loan Hall** built. The Iron Hall was then re-erected near to Craiglockhart House and, for a short time, was used as a temporary church. We also unearthed an old photograph taken looking over Bridge Road towards Colinton Church down in the Dell.

Our exciting winter programme will start on the 5th October with a talk on the **World's End Murders**, presented by Tom Wood, followed on 19th October with Luis Albornoz-Parra talking about the **Building Stones of Edinburgh** - and there is much more to follow.

But meanwhile...a plea! If you have anything which is Colinton-related that you do not want anymore, please get in touch. We can preserve it in our archives for future generations. Just telephone me on 0131 441 3335.

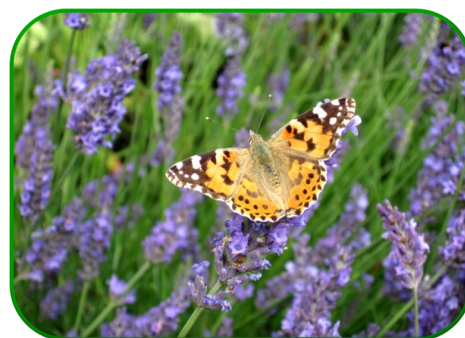
Derek Douglas
History Society Archivist





WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP BUTTERFLIES?

*Small Tortoiseshell butterfly
on Sweet William (left).
Painted Lady butterfly
on Lavender (right)*



I often look up the Butterfly Conservation website to identify butterflies and moths that I have spotted around Colinton.

When I consulted it recently, I was devastated to read that “80% of butterflies have declined in abundance or distribution since 1976. We may be the last generation to enjoy butterflies and moths in abundance”.

My life definitely wouldn't be as good if there were fewer butterflies in it. Seeing them takes my breath away and lifts my spirit. I find their designs and colours exquisite, their flight styles delightful. It's a special moment when one comes so close that I can hear its wings beating.

I imagine a butterfly might become a rare thing in the future. I can imagine children asking an adult: “What's that thing flying over there?” and an adult replying: “That's a butterfly - they used to be more common than they are now”. And children then trying to imagine what that would have been like.

This has made me wonder... what can I do to help butterflies? I have therefore resolved to make my garden into a butterfly haven. I already have some plants growing that butterflies like. But there are many more suitable plants and **Butterfly Conservation** offers a handy list on its website. My goal is to plant as many of them in my garden as will grow in the Colinton soil!

I really appreciate the time and effort that volunteers give in looking after our local green spaces. These include Campbell Park and Colinton Library garden, as well as people's own gardens and also gardens at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church and Colinton Church.

I'm also very grateful to the Friends of Pentlands for the wildflower meadows that they have recently planted to support caterpillars and pollinators. Wow! I learned about these at an absolutely wonderful talk the Friends gave during Great Big Green Week at Hub@531 in Juniper Green.



Painted Lady on Marguerite

Pollinators in Scotland now need nectar sources from February to November. I learned recently that a good way to provide nectar in February is to plant snowdrops in graveyards. If this could be done, we would help protect, care for and renew life on our planet, which is the fifth mark of mission.

I can think of no better legacy for future generations than an abundance of butterflies! And I pray that we in Edinburgh Pentlands Parish might act to help butterflies live the life God gave them. It reminds me of a verse from the Bible that's about abundance (fullness). It is John 10:10: *A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life, life in all its fullness.* (New Century Version).

You can find out more by visiting the following links:

The five marks of mission:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-faith

Guidance on how to manage graveyards to help butterflies:
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/B6-Butterflies-Moths-and-Other-Insects-2022.pdf

Wildflower Meadows for Butterflies project:
www.pentlandfriends.org.uk/wildflower-meadows-for-butterflies/

*Article and three photos provided
by a member of the congregation*



Above image from Butterfly Conservation website



EDINBURGH PENTLANDS PARISH - GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

The Guild is enjoying a summer break but the Committee is busy planning for the upcoming session.

Our meetings include talks from interesting speakers, hands-on activities, musical afternoons and, of course, a welcome cup of tea! Please come and join us at 2pm on Thursday afternoons in Hall 2 at Juniper Green Church. This is a chance to meet up with friends and get to know each other better.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday 10th September, when Rev. Callum Macfarlane-Grieve will welcome us back. On 24th September, Kath Hay will deliver an illustrated talk entitled ***The Rise of Rhubarb*** and I believe it is not just about the plant, as she will delve into history.

Look out for more details in the weekly church email update. Enjoy the lovely summer weather and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Margaret Woodrow

LADIES BADMINTON GROUP

After our summer break, we will start again on Wednesday 16th September. We meet each Wednesday at 10am in Juniper Green Church Hall 1 (entering from Woodhall Avenue) and play for fun. We also have a short break for coffee and chat.

New players will be made very welcome.

Linda Sharp



The Leprosy Mission Great Britain is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. It seeks to bring about transformation by breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. No one should suffer because of a preventable and treatable disease. The Leprosy Mission works in 27 countries with people of all faiths, and none, to defeat leprosy and transform the lives of people affected.

Update from Rita Brownlie:

I am delighted to say that I have sent a cheque for £111.01 to the Leprosy Mission. There were five full boxes plus a lovely donation from a church member. I have now put some boxes in the vestibule and also in Hall 1 at Juniper Green Church. It is always a pleasure to send our donations to the Leprosy Mission and so pleased we are supporting such a vital cause. I have pinned up 'thank you' notes in Hall 3 and also in the church vestibule.

Rita Brownlie



SINGING in the SUMMER

Open Rehearsals on 7th and 14th September

Please join us for one or both of our Open Rehearsals in the Memorial Hall at Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road. Our Open Rehearsals provide an opportunity to find out more about our choir and to see what it would be like to sing with us, but with no commitment to join.

We are a very welcoming, non-auditioning choir with a mixed range of ages and singing and sight-reading abilities. We will be learning ***The First Nowell*** by Vaughan Williams, ***In Terra Pax*** by Finzi, ***Gaudete*** and a selection of **Christmas Carols** for our Christmas Concert on 7th December. We rehearse on Monday evenings in the Memorial Hall. After the Open Rehearsals, our rehearsals will begin at 7:15pm and end at 9pm, but it's not a problem if you can't be there at the start or have to leave early.

To access the Memorial Hall, come to the main school building and turn right into the East Quad. There will be someone at the entry door in the left hand corner to let you in. We have great fun but also learn a lot with our enthusiastic Director of Music, Tim Coleman, and our Accompanist, the excellent and well-known Morley Whitehead. For further information about our choir, please consult our website www.colintonchoir.org or our Facebook page.

Margaret Kieran, on behalf of the Choir

PSALMS

I have really appreciated Minister Callum's series of services on the Psalms during the summer. It has been lovely to hear familiar Psalms afresh.

In my own bible reading time, I follow the Celtic Daily Prayer lectionary which is written by the Northumbria Community, where I love to go on retreat. The lectionary offers a set of readings - Psalm, Old Testament and New Testament - for each day, alongside a short passage of reflection. When I am using the lectionary in my own time, I find that, while I don't always read all the readings, I do read the Psalm for the Day every day.

At the end of June, I went on a retreat at the Mother House of the Northumbria Community in Acton, near Alnmouth. There, we reflected on the lives and important



places of the Celtic Saints, many of whom drew inspiration from the psalms in their lives of faith.

We also followed the Northumbria Community 'rhythm of prayer' which is time for prayer in the morning, midday, evening and compline (night). One joy for me was also a dance and liturgy workshop where Andy Raine, one of the founders of the Northumbria Community, taught a group of us the choreography for some of the songs in the morning prayer liturgy.

Then, on one Sunday, the morning prayer was a Communion Service where those of us who had learnt the choreography were invited to dance during the service.

For me, the words of the Psalms are so incredibly beautiful and express so many of our own experiences in both our lives and also in our relationship with God. I am also drawn to poetry collections and seeing what inspiration skilled poets draw from the Psalms, which themselves are beautiful poetry.

Recently, two of my favourite collections have been Malcolm Guite's *David's Crown Sounding the Psalms* and Carla Grosch-Miller's *Psalms Redux Poems and Prayers*. Both of these take the familiar words of the Psalmist and express the themes anew for today's life.

Gemma King

SOLSTICE STREET PARTY IN SUPPORT OF REDHALL GARDEN

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

The 7th Redford Loan Solstice Street Party was, once again, a huge success and raised £1,046 from generous neighbourly donations. There was also superb food and drink provided by the organising team. Each year a charity is selected to receive the Solstice party donation, and Redhall Garden, just off the Lanark Road, was this year's choice. It is a gem of a place, almost hidden away, yet provides a beautiful, nurturing and therapeutic space in which people can take part in gardening work, or simply sit back and enjoy.

Editrice



FANCY A HURL ON AN ELECTRIC RICKSHAW?

The Church of Scotland is working to support congregations in order to help reduce carbon emissions, so why not check out their Net Zero Pathway? It is pretty comprehensive! There are sections on travel, pensions, food and packaging, reducing waste in the community and much more.

The section on travel includes guidance on how to encourage congregations to use public transport, to car-share, use electric vehicles and also consider active travel, such as riding a bike, walking, helping a wheelchair-user etc. Electric bikes count too, as electrical power in Scotland is now mostly decarbonised.

In its online support sections, Net Zero Pathway acknowledges that active travel depends on how willing people are to travel this way and it quotes a Scottish Government statistic that shows more than half the journeys made in Scotland are less than 3.1 miles.

So - what could we all do to encourage and support members of our congregation to actively travel to and from church activities? Here are suggestions:



Image: Colinton Community e-Bikes

- **Walking:** Organise a 'walk buddy' scheme. This encourages people to walk in pairs and could be helpful when walking in the dark, or attending joint church services
- **Support wheelchair users:** Investigate what help could be offered to wheelchair users and their carers in order to make it easier for them to access church premises and activities
- **How about cycling?** Local people could use Colinton's Community e-Bike scheme. This organisation lends electric bikes free of charge to anyone who wishes to use them - and it includes the snazzy electric rickshaw pictured top left. Fancy a hurl to church?

Active travel is recommended for those able to do so. Travelling actively doesn't just benefit you, but everyone else - and nature too.



And look who cycled into church the other day!

For more information, please visit the following websites:

Net Zero Pathway:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/achieving-net-zero

Colinton Community e-Bike scheme:

www.colintoncargobike.myturn.com/library/

Scottish Government active travel advice:

www.netzeronation.scot/take-action/travel-less-car

Article provided by a member of the congregation

Colinton Garden Club

was founded in 1981. The aim of the Club is to enable members to share their love of gardens and to work together to preserve plants and add value to the quality of life. From September to April, the Club meets once a month in

**Dreghorn Loan Hall
Edinburgh EH13 0DE**

for an illustrated talk or event. This is followed by refreshments.

In addition to monthly meetings, members enjoy organised outings to some exceptional gardens, plus three members open their own gardens one Summer Saturday for colleagues to visit.



Programme

to December 2026

September 28th / 8pm

Talk: Sandra Goodswen - **Weeds**

October 10th / 10am – 12pm

Plant & Bulb Sale, St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Westgarth Ave

October 26th / 8pm

Talk: Keith Brand

Rise of the Phoenix

November 23rd / 8pm

CGC Gardeners' Question Time

December 17th / 8pm – 10pm

CGC Christmas Party

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