

Regular Weekly Services & Events

St Columba's, Bathgate

Sunday 11.15 a.m Sung Eucharist
(Second Sunday of Month is a Family Service)
Last Sunday of Month 6.30 p.m Choral Evensong
Monday 9.00 a.m Morning Prayer
Second Monday of Month 7.15 p.m Film Night
Wednesday 10.30 a.m Said Eucharist
(followed by coffee and natter)
First Wed. of Month 12 noon Community Lunch
First Thursday of Month 1.30pm to 3pm 4 C's -
Cuppa, Chat, Company & Craft

St Peter's, Linlithgow

Sunday 9.30 a.m Sung Eucharist
First Sunday of Month 6 p.m Choral Evensong
Tuesday 10.30 a.m Said Eucharist
Thursday 9 a.m Morning Prayer
9.30am Sunday Youth Group Meets Monthly at Fenwicks

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WALK TOGETHER

Summer 2019

Magazine of
St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bathgate
&
St. Peter's Episcopal Church Linlithgow



*Rector
of
St Columba's & St Peter's*



Rev'd Christine Barclay

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Dear Friends,

I write this letter as we approach mid-summer and the end of the school year. Since our last edition of Life Together we have journeyed through Lent, Easter and Pentecost and now find ourselves in that lovely period of 'Ordinary Time', not that anything is ever ordinary with God or in church life!

As I look back over the past few weeks in our two communities I see a recurring theme – that of being community, of following the different annual traditions of Bathgate and



Linlithgow. And of course the amazing hospitality that is offered and shared at each event. Hospitality is at the heart of the Gospel and our two churches and communities certainly live up to the example. And so is keeping up the important traditions of our communities – handing on the baton as it were even when it can be difficult to attract people to be

involved in the organising.....events as we have experienced this year don't happen on their own, months of careful planning and preparation go into each one and in the case of Linlithgow Marches two years of careful planning to bring the Regiment of Scotland to be centre stage this year.



'Handing on the baton' has become important to me this year; the words spoken by Jesus at the institution of the Last Supper that we commemorate each Maundy Thursday evening 'do this in remembrance of me' really resonated this year and speaks into all parts of our lives. In our church family life when we meet to share the Eucharist, with our own families when we meet and continue the traditions that we have been handed down and also in our communities marking Bathgate's John Newlands and Procession celebrations and Linlithgow's Marches and Children's Gala Day.

In times of change and uncertainty family, friends and community are so important and this was brought home to me on Marches Day morning at the Breakfast when our guest speaker Major General Bob Bruce spoke of the two invaluable areas of support to serving soldiers of every generation. Firstly their fellow soldiers – those who watch their backs, those who pull them to safety and those who sit with them in their times of need. Secondly and of equal importance are their family, friends and community waiting for them back home for knowing that they have this invaluable support can be the lifeline they need when times are dark and dangerous.

So as we look forward to summer holidays, time for relaxing and recharging our batteries these are also times for investing in those important relationships that sustain and support us through the ups and downs of life.

Whatever you are doing this summer I wish you fun and joy and hopefully some good weather to enjoy it.

With love and prayers
Christine

Open House @ The Rectory

Sunday 1st September marks the 7th anniversary of my institution and the start of my ministry among you and our communities of Bathgate and Linlithgow and to mark the occasion Millie and I invite you to drop in during the afternoon or evening for cake and coffee/tea (so predictable!) and drinks and snacks. Any time between 3 – 8pm

Old English Prayer on 'a balanced life'

Take time to work, it is the price of success.

Take time to think, it is the source of power.

Take time to play, it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read, it is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream, it is hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to look around, it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul.

Quiet Day at St Peter's



1st August 2019

10am – 3pm

12 places available

Stepping Stones

To members of St Columba's and St Peter's Churches

I would like to invite you to a peaceful time, a time to reflect and consider, to just be with the God of Love who travels with you.

We will be reflecting on a story told by Margaret Silf of how God transformed what was into a way forward through what seemed impossible.

I invite you to come and see how God has been doing and does this in your life, to give hope and peace for the way ahead.

We will have the opportunity to be outside and inside, to have times of silence and times of sharing, times of eating and times of just being.

I hope it is a day of peace and quiet but also of connecting and being encouraged and receiving hope.

Claire Starr

Refreshments and Lunch will be provided. No charge but donations welcome.

To book your place please add your names to the sheet on the notice board of both churches. The first 6 names on each sheet will secure a place but we will keep a reserve list in case people have to drop out.

My prayer last evening was that everyone who was part of yesterday's experience had been changed a little, or a lot, and gained confidence to go back to their churches and communities and perhaps share music and singing with new people and new community groups, not necessarily Choral Evensong but having found voices find ways of using them for the building of our churches and our Triune God's Kingdom. Yes still bewildered by the mystery, but drawn ever deeper into it and continually singing and saying loudly and joyfully holy, holy, holy. Amen

Dates for your Diaries

Thursday 4th July 4C's @ St Columba's 1.30 – 3pm
Thursday 26th July Cream Tea @ St Columba's from 2 – 4pm
Thursday 1st August 4C's @ St Columba's 1.30 – 4pm
Thursday 1st August Quiet Day @ St Peter's 10am – 3pm
Sunday 1st September Open House @ The Rectory from 3- 8pm
Friday 20th September Ceilidh with Livingston Fiddlers @ St Columba's
Sunday 29th September Ordination of Peter Woodfield and Susan Ward in St Mary's Cathedral

Worship in July and August

Sunday and mid-week services as per regular pattern. During the school holidays there will be no Sunday Club at St Columba's no Sunday School or Youth Group at St Peter's.

Saints Day being celebrated this summer

Tuesday 2nd /Wednesday 3rd July – St Thomas

Sunday 21st July – Mary Magdelene

Tuesday 23rd /Wednesday 24th - St James

Tuesday 6th / Wednesday 7th – The Transfiguration of the Lord

Tuesday 13th /Wednesday 14th – Mary the Virgin

St Columba's

Family Services – Sunday 14th July and Sunday 13th August

Taize Service with friends from Boghall Sunday 21st July @ 6.30pm

Evening Prayer will replace Choral Evensong on Sunday 28th July and

Sunday 25th August @ 6.30pm

St Peter's

Choral Evensong will be celebrated on Sunday 7th July and Sunday 4th

August @ 6pm

Dorothy Olwa - died in Kenya, 10 May 2019

It is twenty five or more years ago that St Peter's met David Olwa, a man driven by an ambition to help his people in his home region of northern Uganda; and through him we met his wife Dorothy. And it was a shock to us all when shortly before Easter we heard that she had collapsed and died, during their latest visit to Kenya. When we think of Dorothy, it is neither the wife nor the senior and experienced nurse we remember, but rather the lady with a gleaming smile, often with a joke on her lips, and always with an overflowing of hospitality. And a lady with a very great sense of reality, to try to keep David in reasonable check!

Our service of prayer and reflection in St Peter's was timed to co-incide with Dorothy's burial in Kenya, at her home farm; and it was good to have in St Peter's some of Dorothy and David's neighbours, with apologies arriving from others. In spirit and in timing, we joined too with their family and our friends at St Luke's, in Lira and in Bala, and also with family in London.

May Dorothy rest in peace, and rise in glory.



Paul Goldfinch

Maud Grieg

Maud was a delightful lady with the most amazing smile that would light up a room. I met her after her husband Gordon died in 2013 and she moved from Bridge of Allan to Linlithgow, to the Bield to be closer to her sons Barry and Terry and their families. By that time Maud was 90 and her mobility was restricted but that didn't stop her working at keeping her independence as long as she could. We used to have amazing conversations about faith and life and of course her grandchildren and little great granddaughter who were such a joy to her. Sadly Maud's health failed in late 2017 and she had to admit defeat on the independence front and move to Linlithgow Care Home where she was so well care for during the last year or so of her life.

GOOD BYE JENNY.

On a gentle evening in May under the soft glow of our beautiful St Peter's cross and surrounded by the sweet smelling flowers arranged by Vera, Jenny Pickwell lay in the place she loved so dearly and from where she had decreed she was to begin her final earthly journey. Jenny was the most effervescent, vibrant and friendliest of women, always ready with a huge smile and an equally huge hug for all those she knew and loved. Her talents were many, as we now know, a long list that marked out the life of this colourful lady, for that is what she was, and the cruelty of her final years, confined to a wheelchair, did nothing to rob her of that. Jenny's children came to join her that Thursday evening on 2nd May, to say goodbye, to talk quietly with each other and to surround their beloved mother with the love she had given so freely to them in their young years, in their grown years and also to her grandchildren who had brought new joy into her life.

The Friday morning brought blue skies and brilliant sunshine as Jenny left St Peter's for the final time and with the solemnity and dignity which would have delighted her she was transported to St Michael's Church to be met by her friends Rev Pip and our Rector Christine. The church was filled with colour, with sunlight and soon with the many friends who had known Jenny throughout her long life as well as her sad but proud children and grandchildren, gathered together to remember a lovely Lady who will live long in the memories of those who have loved, known, worked and walked with Jenny through so many years.

Jane.

The Spirit gazes at the Father but points towards the Son with one hand, and opens up the circle with the other making room for others to join in the sacred meal. The scene exudes openness. There is space at the table for the viewer of the icon – for you and for me, for us. The great Three in one is not exclusivity, the point of the Three is always to add one more, to extend the invitation, to make the holy table more expansive and more welcoming. And the deeper the intimacy between them grows the more expansive the table becomes.

In looking at the nature of God we see that at its heart the Trinity is an expression of deep, unfaltering and life-giving love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is not a relationship of domination, of power brokering, of manipulation or of jealousy. Rather it is a relationship of unselfish, sacrificial love.

So if God's very being is grounded in love and we are created in God's image, children of a mysterious, dynamic, diverse, communal, hospitable and loving God then surely we can allow ourselves to be guided and transformed so that our lives may, day by day, reflect the truth and beauty of our Triune God as we live out our calling as Kingdom builders, disciples who work together for the building of God's kingdom.

Yesterday afternoon Liz, Gordon and I hopped onto a train at Linlithgow and headed into Edinburgh and up to our Cathedral for Choral Evensong at the end of the Diocesan Big Sing Day. It had been a day when people across the age spectrum from around churches large and small with different experiences of churchmanship in our diocese gathered in St Mary's Cathedral to spend the day together, under the direction of their musical director, with the Cathedral's choristers, for singing workshops and rehearsing for Choral Evensong...it was day about being together in the magnificence of our cathedral and of sharing with one another. Others of us joined later in the day, we met Jill and Sandra from St Columba's when we arrived and we all enjoyed wonderful hospitality, almost extravagant in the size of the cakes! Then we shared in Choral Evensong worshipping God in music and prayer and boy did we experience Christian love and delight in sharing something so very special. And I hope that those who were terrified by the thought of standing up and leading with their singing not only overcame their fears but were transformed by the experience. Sitting in the congregation and immersing myself in the words and music of Evensong that go back through time I felt so small in the presence of something so great - a little cog in the wheel that turns and turns moving forward as the procession of our triune God's heavenly and earthly kingdom grows.

Trinity Sunday 16th June 2019
Sermon for St Peter's and St Columba's

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy words Christian words that we sing and say. Holy Trinity of Holy's! Today, Trinity Sunday, means Threeness: today we affirm that we know God as our Creator and loving heavenly Father; we recognise the character of God in the words and the life of Jesus and the Spirit of love working in our hearts. The Father is God, the Son is God and the Spirit is God, yet there are not three God's but one. Do you understand this? No...and neither do I and neither has or indeed is anyone ever likely to. For this is a mystery; we believe it to be true, we sing/say so in the Creed each Sunday, but it is incomprehensible. So we celebrate the trinity today with the humble acknowledgement that we are out of our depth.

However, the Franciscan priest and theologian Richard Rhor gives us a lifeline that we may wish to grasp and it requires us to orientate ourselves in a new way. "Don't start with the One and try to make it into Three" he suggests. Start with the Three and see within the three the deepest nature of the One.

So what do we see? Well we see God is diverse; if God exists in three persons, then each person has their own way of expressing goodness, beauty, love and righteousness in contrasting ways. And God is communal, God is relationship, intimacy, connection and communion.

As we continue to look at the Three to discern the nature of the One we see that God is also dynamic. In God there is life, relationship, vitality, movement; at the heart of God there is a divine dance, twisting, turning and circling with eternal life. Father, Son and Holy Spirit move and flow and draw life from one another in a bond of perfect love. And this is so wonderfully illustrated in the 15th century Russian iconographer Andrei Rublev's icon which draws us into another nature - that of hospitality. Its title is 'The Hospitality of Abraham' but it is better known to many as 'The Trinity' and is one of the most well-known of the Christian icons.

In it the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (depicted as the three angels who appeared to Abraham near the great trees at Mamre) sit around a table sharing food and drink. Their faces are nearly identical but they are dressed in different colours – the Father wears gold, the Son blue and the Spirit green. The Father gazes at the Son and the Son gazes back at the Father, but gestures towards the Spirit.

A Curate for St Columba's and St Peter's

I am delighted to share the great news that, following a meeting with Bishop John this week, Peter Woodifield has satisfied all the necessary criteria and will be ordained on the 29th September and thereafter come to our two churches to serve almost 2 years of his curacy. Peter has kindly written a little profile to introduce himself to us and sent us a photo of himself.

This is a very exciting time for Peter and his wife Margie and for us as the two charges that he will serve and be trained in. I thought I would share with you the criteria that we had to meet in order to have Peter and these highlight that it won't be just me who will be responsible for his training, each one of us will play our part!

A congregation that:

- Offers a variety of missional, liturgical and pastoral experiences
- Is open to ongoing learning
- Is world-facing and innovative

We obviously fit the criteria and we fit the criteria for being stable charges too!

Peter and Margie will be over to Bathgate and Linlithgow to meet us all before the 29th September and dates will be intimated in our Church Notices. As Peter prepares for his Ordination please do keep Peter and Margie and their family in your prayers.

Susan Ward

This is a very exciting time for Susan who is worshipping with us this summer as she too has met with Bishop John this week and satisfied all of the necessary criteria for ordination. Please keep Susan and her family in your prayers as she prepares for 29th September after which she will serve her curacy shared between our diocese under Bishop John and St Catherine's Bo'ness and St Mary's Grangemouth under Rev Willie Shaw.

I am really looking forward to joining you all as your curate in October following my ordination in St Mary's Cathedral on September 29.

For most of my working life of 40 years I was a journalist, including working in the House of Commons for 12 years during the late 1970s and most of the 1980s. I moved up to Scotland in 1988 and swiftly switched to business journalism from politics, including a spell as business editor of The Scotsman from 1989-1994. I then spent a few years in PR before returning to journalism in 2000 when I worked for Bloomberg, the financial news and data agency until we parted company almost six years ago.

I am married to Markie and we have two children and two grandchildren. Our daughter and our two grandchildren live in West Linton, the next-door village, and we are very involved in helping to look after them. When I have time, I enjoy playing golf and bridge and Markie and I have both relatively recently started as volunteer visitors at The State Hospital at Carstairs.

I am looking forward very much to learning with you all and from you all over the next couple of years on what I am hope will be an exciting and thought-provoking Spirit-filled journey of discovery about what it means to be a Christian in our modern world.



Peter (Woodifield)

From our Service Registers

Friday 3rd May 2019

Funeral of Jenny Pickwell in St Michael's Parish Church

Thursday 16th May 2019

Funeral of Maud Grieg

Sunday 19th May 2019

Baptism of Noah White in St Columba's

Sunday 2nd June 2019

Baptism of Ella Louise Cross

Iona 2020 September 3rd – 5th

It hardly seems any time since we were last on Iona and the memories still burn brightly for those of us who were fortunate enough to share time on that beautiful green place, away from the hectic noise of our everyday lives. Now the opportunity to return is being given to those who would love to follow in the footsteps of so many in making a short pilgrimage to Bishop's House and the warm welcome awaiting us there.

On September 3rd we leave Oban and set sail over the hopefully blue and sparkling smooth seas to Mull, across that dark and mysterious island to the little ferry port of Fionnphort and onward across the narrow strip of sea to return to Iona and rekindle old memories whilst making new ones. There is only **one double room left** so if you are still at the "thinking about it" stage it might be time to make that decision and grab those rooms whilst they are still available!

Please email me – jane.ramsay48@gmail.com or phone – 01506843176 if you would like to join this little happy band of pilgrims.

ST PETER'S TALENT SHOW

The brainchild of Judy Barker, the making of St Peter's recent concert was fraught in the creation: much cajoling required; acts pulling out - and in- and out again; shyness overcome, reluctance surmounted; excuses defeated. There were apparent objections to the original concept of a Talent-Competition (albeit a light-hearted one) so it was changed to a simple talent show - and what talent there was - from everyone concerned: the Duncan and the Veitch families; Rev Christine, Anne Moir and Jane Ramsay; Ian Wallace; Gordon and Liz Beetham; Mel Oxenbrow; John Barker; Jamie Szudlarek; Paul Goldfinch; the St Peter's Choir Corinne Anderson and some of the children of the Sunday School. Judy herself, of course, showing off her acting talents and, all the way from Bathgate, David Dobson who suitably ended the evening. The whole event was pulled together by the "incomparable wit" of Bruce Jamieson who also led the nostalgic "Seaside Mission Singalong". A good-sized audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening (and the supper) and were left asking for more - just as any good show should. The next such evening of thespian fun - and more serious stuff - will be the 'Victorian Advent' in Rivaldsgreen on Friday, December 13th - don't miss it.



Play Church @St Columba's

The young people of St Columbus have had so much fun over the last few weeks exploring and learning with Play Church. The excitement started on the day it arrived from St Peter's as we completed the inventory. The temptation to start trying things on couldn't be resisted and we had a fully dressed Bishop and Deacon ticking off the list of items! The following Sunday we had a Christening and the young people were able to explore some of the Christening items during the service which was lovely. At our Sunday Club the following week we took time to explore the different items and look up what the different things were and what part they played in the Eucharist service.



The icing on the cake however, was our amazing family service for Pentecost which centred around the Play Church alter. All our young people were involved in the service; reading, leading prayer, helping Susan demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit and of course getting dressed up again!

We have loved having Play Church at St Columbus and hope other churches get as much enjoyment from it as we did as I hope these pictures demonstrate!

Rachel Bell



New Wall Hanging for St Peter's

Every visitor to St Peter's remarks on the beautiful wall hanging that Liz Beetham created in 2003 to mark St Peter's 75th birthday. Alongside the lovely, and very fitting symbols are the names of the Priests in Charge going back to 1928. Sadly there was no space for Rev Pip so to mark St Peter's 90th birthday and the new annex the Vestry asked Liz if she would create another wall hanging to 'continue to story'. It is very fitting and tells the story in symbols of our new build and the garden. Please so look closely to see how many little animals and insects you can find hidden in the patchwork.



St. Andrews then for a lovely high tea and home. Unfortunately something devoured on the day rendered me terribly sick during the night and I was unable to attend Church on the Sunday.

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In Grief.

Be not weary be not sad
try your hardest to be glad
the burden of a loved one's pain
is GONE ne'er to return again
and now in Heaven's pleasant land
protected by our Father's hand
our loved ones rest their journey done
they are at peace, with God they're one

So let's remember happy days
a smiling face, their special ways
and in our thoughts and many prayers
we too will find the peace that's theirs.

Margot Watson.

Margot's mo's

Gosh it seems such a long time since the last magazine and I have put off doing anything about contributions so here I am at 20.16 on Sunday evening trying to think of things to say.

Today David Olwa thanked us in Church for all the prayers and support he had received following Dorothy's death. It was just so beautifully delivered from truly a man of faith. He described her death as an unexpected invitation from God to join him in heaven. I have to add however that I was not so happy at the thought of us all carrying appointment letters in our pocket. We know not the day nor the hour but to think of carrying the letter does unnerve me somewhat!

...The Garden.....

The church garden is looking BRAW and today I found where Johnny's Rose was planted and I had a little "Moment." I took a picture and sent it to family members. It is so lovely to see it there and hopefully to watch it bloom for many years. Roses were Johnny's favourite and he always said it was almost impossible to kill a Rose so here's hoping St. Peter's soil will nourish and cherish it.

.Buddies.....

I have been fortunate in becoming friends with Sylvia Buckley who recently joined our Church. We met over coffee upstairs and both have recently lost our beloved husbands which gave us an immediate bond. We now meet most Wednesdays to share foody adventures. Sometimes lunch sometimes coffee or occasionally in each others homes. It is nice to have a friend who fully understands what it is like to be widowed and we can share hubby stories easily with each other although that is not our sole topic of conversation.

Sheila has joined the St. Michael's Ladies' club with me and recently accompanied us on our annual trip which this year was to the V&A museum in Dundee. That was a lovely day with a visit to the museum followed by a visit to the Discovery.

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Marches Day 2019.

Our very own brave soldier Bruce marched, with temporary wooden stick as company, along the still empty streets of Linlithgow on the bright and breezy morning of this year's Marches. He was not alone for long however, and was soon meeting and greeting his family in St Peter's where they gathered together for refreshments in our budding and beautiful church garden. So much hard work has gone into creating beauty out of chaos that Bruce and his team of gardeners must feel proud every time they look at the result of their hard labour.



As it was with the happy band of workers who toiled from early morning until mid-afternoon, to provide and serve refreshments to the many visitors and old friends who were keen to buy our filled rolls and tasty sweet treats, and of course a refreshing cup of tea or coffee. The hilarity of the roll filling group sitting in the sun-filled extension early in the morning, set the scene for the day. Laughter and nonsense accompanied the cutting, the slicing, the spreading and the bagging, with this feeling of good will to all men filling the church and spilling out into the street where all were served by smiling faces and lots and lots of chatting.

The parade was magnificent, led by the moving sight of the Royal Regiment (SCOTS) with their gorgeous Shetland Pony mascot and who were given space and time to be admired and applauded as they marched along the High Street. The sun shone all day, the crowds cheered, the bands played, the good people of Linlithgow marched behind and between them, with my favourite, the Samba Band bringing their own special rays of sunshine along the street.

This was truly another wonderful day to remember in the life of not only St Peter's but for the community of Linlithgow. Jane.

St Columba's Italian Lunch

After our Pentecost Family Service we were all treated to an amazing Italian Lunch prepared, cooked and served up by a lovely Italian family – Lorena and Luigi Berandino and their son Francesco, who have recently started joining us for worship. We all felt that we were sharing in an extended family lunch so traditional in Italy. On the menu was *troffie alla genovese*, a traditional pasta dish from their native Genoa, and this was followed by strawberries steeped in lemon and sugar. We are so enjoying getting to know Lorena, Luigi and Francesco and are grateful to Alastair and Carola who help us when we come unstuck with words!



St Columba's end of term picnic

After worship and Sunday Club on Sunday 23rd June we had a picnic in the church garden, people brought food to share, including another Italian dish! The energetic played a little football working off lunch while the rest of us enjoyed ice cream and coffee. Again the photo's say it all.....

A DAY TO REMEMBER.

The sun shone, the sky was blue and what a sight came into view - along the ancient byway from Linlithgow Bridge to Linlithgow Cross. The good folk of Linlithgow appeared in all their summer colours to greet the parade, four deep on much of the route, happy faces amongst old and young. The feeling of goodwill wrapped around every one of us who were privileged to be part of this special day for our children, and what a wonderful sight they were with more than a few of our very own St Peter's children taking part.

Danielle one of the tiny fairies who skipped hand in hand down the winding Peel path to take her seat on the stage. Junior guardsman Lochlan who had marched along the High Street then down the steep slope to take his place on the sun-drenched, brand new stage. In a beautiful blue gown was Freya with a circlet of flowers on her dark curls and as ever a lovely smile on her little face playing her part as one of the flower girls. There was Anna looking so grown up in her flowing dove grey, sparkling dress, shining bright as a star in the warm sunshine. Robbie in his smart red uniform, brass buttons gleaming, a proud member of the Town Band, leading the musical way along the High Street, setting the feet tapping and the cheers growing ever louder.

It was a magical parade, with marching bands sending the music, along with the greetings from the gathered crowds, soaring over the grey and red roof tops of the town. Queen Emilie in her royal purple, her sparkling crown soon to be relinquished to the new Queen Ambra. There were the decorated floats, one with Dumbo and the tickly feather on the end of his trunk, definitely being a favourite of many. The primary school children dressed for this most special day in an array of different themes from mini chefs to princesses and fairy tale characters. Anna, Alissa and Devyn and mum Anne Marie took their first steps into a Linlithgow tradition too, the long walk proving testing for little legs.

So many memories were made on this soft, warm Gala Day, memories which will bring joy to so many families as they look back and remember Saturday 22nd June 2019. A day full of happiness and of colour, a day to remember for many years to come.

Jane.

Marches Stall 2019

What an amazing congregation we have! After my (somewhat desperate) appeal, we ended up with loads of helpers this year, meaning that no one had to work on the stalls all morning and get tired and frozen like last year. The weather was kind and dry but still very chilly, so lots of customers came in to look round our little church and chat. We made an amazing total of £450 (the actual total after expenses - no cheating to get it so round!). We ran out of filled rolls quite early, and sold almost all of our home-baking and tablet. Many, many thanks to all who took part - I think we all enjoyed it too!



St Peter's Plant Sale 2019

After our 'gap year' in 2018 (well, not quite, we did have a stall at the Street Fair, but it wasn't a patch on the real thing!), the annual Plant Sale was back in business. Our new venue at the back of the extension and in the garden seems to work, and at least the new carpet is spared!

As you may guess, a lot of preparation goes into this event, not least because plants don't grow overnight! Potting up garden plants starts as soon as the previous Plant Sale is over, and sales trickle along throughout the year as flowers come into season: Michaelmas daisies in October, snowdrops in February, Easter cacti in April... so by the time we opened the doors on the day, we already had a healthy profit of over £60. And thanks to the great work put in by so many people - from all the plant growers (some of them mysteriously unknown), to the taxi drivers ferrying plants (Paul, Richard, Jane), to the stalwart team setting up on Friday afternoon (Vera, Lynn, Marilyn and Sue), and the sales team on the day (no names as I may forget someone, however I would like to mention our young helpers Rosie and Freya), we totalled £470.15 at the end of the day. Not bad, though down on the previous two years, probably due to a combination of the unusual venue, not having a raffle, and a rainy end to the sale. But it doesn't end there! Further sales and donations during the following week brought the grand final total to £515.50!

A great result, and we have upheld our reputation in town.

Corinne Anderson



Lourdes - Easter 2019 By Rosie Pink

I was very lucky to go H.C.P.T to Lourdes again. There was a space at the last minute. I felt so excited and I had tears in my eyes. It was the best news ever.

These were different people in this group this year. Same helpers but two new ones. We met a few times before going. I was really happy to see all my helpers and friends, again.

The first time I went to Lourdes (Easter 2018) I was very nervous and happy. I did not know where to go. The first time I didn't know anything. This time my best friend Olivia came too. She had been last year with group 88. This year she came in my group - Group 23. I shared a bedroom with Olivia.

Like last year, we did lots of different kinds of things - mass on the beach, went to the zoo, played lots of games, went to the torchlit procession, cafe visits and going to parties.

The Truist mass was incredible, because it was beautiful to hear all the groups singing the hymns with us. I think 1,000 people were there. I felt very happy afterwards.

The theme this year was "God's love is the best love." (which is Welsh for love).

When I am 18, I can help out with the new children coming to Lourdes and go as a helper. I have to save up lots of money and do sponsored things to raise the money. I am very excited to help others.

St Columbas 3'C's Club.

This club has been meeting on a Thursday since September 2018. Attendance has varied weekly from 5 to 12. The club has remade the link with a local care home "Meadowvale care home" (which sadly are now unable to attend), but the link is still open as they regularly attend the Wednesday Communion Service and David has organised two film show afternoons, which they have enjoyed. The 3'C's club have also over the time, been to the Care home to do singing, and to help celebrate a member of staff's 75th birthday.

The 3'C's club has now finished, thank you to everyone for their attendance and prayer support. It is not over but has evolved into the 4 'C's club.

4 'C's club (cuppa, chat, company and craft)

The 4'C's club will still be meeting on a Thursday but in the afternoon's from 1.30 p.m. till 3.00 p.m. Once a month on the first Thursday of the month starting on 6th June (this date may have passed by the time you get this magazine) so few dates of the next meets are 4th July, 1st August, 5th Sept., 3rd Oct and every first Thursday of the month except for January. The Craft part of the 4'C's is for you to bring your own craft project to do while enjoying cuppa, chat and company, anything from knitting, to drawing, or if you are not into craft just come for the cuppa, chat and company.

Elaine Ross

CHRISTIAN AID BOOK SALE IN EDINBURGH

Sandy McAlpin, Alastair and I took TWO extremely full and heavy cars of books to Edinburgh at the end of April in time for the sorting of books, and other bags continued to come in to us for the next two weeks. These came mostly from St Columba's and St Peter' with a few other contributions from other people in the area so I thought I would send a brief report. The sale is held in St Andrew's and St George's West church in George Street. There is an enormous number of books, too many to fit inside the church, so some parts of the sale have to be held in the open spaces on either side of the building, including Archaeology, History, Politics, Biography, Children's books, and Paperback fiction. This works well if the weather is good, and badly if the weather is nasty. This year the weather was mostly sunny, and the sale outside the church went really well for those of us who have to work there (Alastair and I are responsible for a small team dealing with Archaeology and History). The buyers could browse happily in the sunshine and totals in all these areas were up. The total for the books sold inside the church (Scottish books, Art, Travel, Classics, foreign books, Science, Music, Hobbies "ephemera" etc.) was a little down but not substantially. The whole sale has made £130,210.00 so far. There will be some expenses to be deducted from that total, but there will also be a bit more revenue to come - we sell on books to second hand bookshops and there will be another mini sale in October. We believe that this is the biggest book sale in the world. It is certainly a useful contribution to Christian Aid.

As always some people produced amazing items. You may have seen newspaper reports about the Ortelius Atlas of 1601 (very rare anywhere and this is the only one in Scotland) which turned up in a bag of paperbacks and was snapped up by Edinburgh University Library. It got a bargain - but Christian Aid did pretty well too. Then there was a signed first edition of T.S. Eliot's Dante, a first edition of Orwell's 1984 and an interesting and, I thought, rather lovely water colour inspired by a visit to Assisi, by Victoria Crowe.

So a big thank you on behalf of Christian Aid for all your contributions. Please bear the sale in mind for next year, if you are thinking of getting rid of books. And consider going - it makes an amazing visit with lots of really worth-while bargains for a good cause but is also fascinating to see.

Carola Small

SALUTE TO OUR CHILDREN.

Another school year has come galloping across the finishing line with all of us probably a wee bit exhausted from the busy, successful and happy year we have shared with each other in St Peter's and with our sister church St Columba's. The year really has gone at break-neck speed, surely it was only the other day our children were grumbling about going back to school or excited about going for the very first time. Parents wiped tears away as they let their fledglings leave the nest for that first day at school or heaved a sigh of relief that the long summer break was over the peace could return to the family home.

We have been so very busy in church, so much happening and many changes and challenges having to be faced and over-come. Our children too have had their own mountains to climb whilst we adults watched and waited to applaud and encourage them to achieve each small or huge step. Watching proudly if with a little apprehension as they grow in maturity and confidence.

There are so many of them to name individually, but it is with the fondest of love that we wish them the happiest of futures as they go off to primary school, to secondary school for the first time, face their exams, cope with the discomfort of braces, develop and mould new experiences in college or university,

chosen to be the leader of their peers or overcome tests to their resolve and manage to fight back when life seems too hard at times.

Well done to each and every one of you, beloved by your parents, your families and most of all by God who as always holds every one of you gently in the palm of his hand. Jane

St Peter's end of term

Sunday 23rd June saw worship in church, Sunday School in the extension and the Youth Group in Fenwicks sharing the meaning of life over hot chocolate before we all came together for communion and a song from Ali, Stewart and the younger children called 'God Beside' words that remind us that God is with us when we are eating our breakfast, out in the sunshine and the rain, when life get hard and even when someone in our family drives us mad! The children and young people received Book Tokens from Far From the Madding Crowd who very generously donated towards them.

ST PETER'S LABYRINTH



The Labyrinth

At Rev. Christine's request the Church Garden Group have recently constructed a labyrinth in the upper rig. It is quite a small one following this simple design:



considerably smaller than, for example, the famous, 13th century, indoor labyrinth in Chartres Cathedral which I walked some years ago.

Chartres Labyrinth



However, the purpose is the same – to walk a 'pilgrim's journey' round the twists and turns of life - meditating and praying as you go. In our time of speed and fast living, the labyrinth is designed to be as a path to inspire, console, calm and awaken us.

The concept is thousands of years old and was used as an aid to contemplation by early civilisations all over the world. Most Christian advice is to enter the pathway by asking God a question or presenting an issue for which you need God's help.

As you walk slowly through the twists and turns, pray and listen for an answer. Some walkers like to unburden their worries as they go - casting off any matters that are troubling them and asking God's help to do this. The slow steps should invite God's presence. Some begin their 'journey' with confession - leaving their sins behind with every slow step they take.



Creating the labyrinth

When the centre is reached you are invited to put your troubles, fears and doubts into the hands of God. To help you do this in our labyrinth a beautifully sculpted pair of cupped hands has been placed on a pedestal, which formerly was our church font.

You should pause to thank God for taking your burdens on himself, following the words of St Peter in Chapter 5, verse 7: "Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you."



The caring hands.

As you walk out, retracing the original pathway – walk out with affirmation – feeling strength and renewed spiritual awareness, laying down your burdens.

Some like to follow a ritual as they exit – perhaps counting their blessings and thanking God for what they have. Others like to recite a well-known mantra – the Lords Prayer, the 23rd Psalm or perhaps a 'breath prayer' - a simple, meaningful phrase repeated in synchronization with breathing. Perhaps something like:

"Let me know your peace, O God.
Jesus, let me feel your love.
Eternal Light, guide me in your way."

A labyrinth is not a maze- there are no dead ends, no wrong turns. It leads onward following the one route, giving an opportunity to be inwardly observant, to pay attention to one's feelings, to explore challenges and to be open to new thoughts and ideas.

Why not give it a try?

Bruce Jameson