



ST MICHAEL'S TOWER

The magazine of
St Michael's Parish Church
Edinburgh

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Recommended Donation £1

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Dear members of St Michael's,

It seems like a game of musical chairs: your previous minister goes to St Ninian's and the person who was locum there for most of the vacancy (me) comes now to St Michael's. However, unlike the game which we all played when we were young, in this case no one loses out and has to leave the game. At least that is how I hope it will play! I will have the pleasure and privilege of being your locum for the foreseeable future, working with Rev Angus Mathieson, your Interim Moderator, and he will make sure the process goes smoothly and you will get a new minister asap.

Naturally some of you will be anxious about this time of change. A locumcy has challenges for both minister and congregation, especially if it follows a much-appreciated ministry. No two ministers have the same strengths, but I will try my best to meet your expectations. I hope you will see this period as an opportunity to adjust to changes in style that will come inevitably when you find a new minister. For example, I will be working two days per week plus Sundays, but am very flexible as how this time is divided and will be guided by your needs and expectations. I may look fairly traditional but I do like to bring the contemporary world into sermons and believe religion is enriched by science and the arts. Themes that may recur in my sermons are the need to balance compassion with commonsense, and the need for lateral thinking to avoid polarised, either/or thinking. Although I like traditional hymns, formality in worship does not mean that we cannot share a laugh together. I love music and am looking forward to working with your gifted organist.

Perhaps I should say a little about where I come from. I was ordained to religious broadcasting in the BBC in 1972 and worked in radio and television as producer and presenter for twenty years, overlapping with twenty as a columnist with the (Glasgow) Herald newspaper. In the nineties I was minister in Kinning Park in Glasgow before working in an ecumenical post in Brussels for three years. After six years as minister of Gibraltar in the Europe (now International) Presbytery, they sent me as locum in

vacancies as far flung as Bermuda and Sri Lanka, and European cities such as Lisbon, Turin and Paris. When I returned from abroad in 2011, I had a charge in twin rural parishes in Angus (near where I grew up). These experiences brought home to me the diversity and relevance of Christianity to human life wherever it is. It is only when it is turned into 'Churchianity' that it loses its animating and creative spirit.

My wife Lara is Russian by birth and grew up in Kazakhstan. She has shared enthusiastically in the church life wherever we lived and when she returns from visiting her mother in Russia in October, will be a regular presence at St Michael's.

Thank you for your warm welcome when I took the service on Aug 27th. I look forward to starting at St Michael's on return from holiday in mid-September.

Yours sincerely,
Stewart (Lamont)

Church Family

Deaths

Margaret Wait
Alexander Burke

Baptisms

Eve Flora Langley on 18th June 2017
Rosie Elizabeth Gray on 16th July 2017

Weddings

Caron Warner to Ropo Bankole on 26th May 2017

Rev Dr Margaret Forrester

St Michael's was delighted to learn that during the summer the University of Edinburgh awarded Rev Margaret Forrester an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity in recognition of the part she played in petitioning the General Assembly to allow women to be ministers of Word and Sacrament in 1967.

Stuart Montgomery

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Stuart's appointment as Director of Music at St Michael's. The Kirk Session plan to mark this on Sunday 24th September: the morning service will be led by Rev Dr Margaret Forrester and Stuart will choose his favourite hymns. This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in the hall.

Harvest and Dedication

Sunday 1st October will be Harvest Thanksgiving with the focus of gifts for Freshstart. More details will appear in the Order of Service. This will also be our annual Michaelmas Dedication and we would invite the organisations to decorate a window in the Church for Sunday 24th September for both Stuart's service and Harvest.

Christmas Fair

This year the Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 4th November from 10.30 – 12noon.

A box will soon be placed at the back of the church for donations of toiletries, jewellery, gift boxes and bottles of wine.

If you would like to become involved in helping to organise the Fair, speak to Moira Gray or Douglas Bannatyne.

Farewell to James Aitken

(sung to the tune of the Hearts Song. By Debbie Baxter)

A way up in Slateford near Harrison Park,
There's a fine minister who is loved to the heart.
Us all at St Michaels would like to convey,
That we're going to miss you in so many ways.
Here's to James, here today!
We all wish you well as you head on your way!

James! James! Glorious James!
There's Sarah and Aidan with you.
For 12 years you've been,
Part of St Michael's team
And we are all grateful to you.
Kept us updated, politically
Your passion for justice is so clear to see
Oh some say your weddings and funerals are grand
But your sermons are often the best in the land!

This was your first charge in to pastoral care
We've all seen you flourish and losing your hair!
You've steered us through hard times and good times as well
Now it's time for new chapters, fresh stories to tell.
Here's to James, here today!
We all wish you well as you head on your way!

James! James! Glorious James!
There's Sarah and Aidan with you.
For 12 years you've been,
Part of St Michael's team
And we are all grateful to you.
Ministers great we can often supply

There's Margaret, a legend, and others forby
We hope you'll remember the good times there's been,
And think of us fondly when you're watching your team.
Here's to James, here today!
We all wish you well as you head on your way!

James! James! Glorious James!
There's Sarah and Aidan with you.
For 12 years you've been,
Part of St Michael's team
And we are all grateful to you.

Time for a fresh start as you head away
We're all going to miss you, that's fair to say!
It's St Michael's loss and St Ninian's gain
But it won't be so easy to get to the game!

Ahoy All Wool Workers

I wish to thank all the ladies who knitted hats, cardigans and blankets which I delivered to the Royal Infirmary Neonatal Unit. The staff were very grateful for all these items.

Irene Herd

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings will be held on Saturday 7th October and 2nd December; that on 4th November will take the form of a Christmas Fair.

Come along to sample some home-baking, enjoy a bacon roll and meet and chat with friends new or old. You may even be lucky at the bottle stall.

StColms@StMichaels Guild

The Guild starts its 2017/18 Session on Tuesday 12th September at 7pm. We are very fortunate to have The Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan as our opening speaker. Andrew is a wonderful speaker with a wealth of experience in Church life, being an ex-Moderator, and in the field of business where he was HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. The Guild hopes to have a good attendance at this meeting. All Guild meetings are open to everyone and whether you come as a member or a visitor you will be made very welcome.

The theme for this Session is 'Go in Love', the last of the three year strategy of 'Be Bold, Be Strong'. The discussion topic we have been asked to consider is Tackling Hard to Love Situations - not one that always comes easily but one that the Guild will give thought and discussion to at our first meeting of 2018 on 9th January, it may even encourage some new resolutions!

The syllabus is being printed and should be available in time for our first meeting. We have a varied programme ranging from speakers on our chosen topic - Mission International on Haiti to life in the Shetland Islands plus many more interesting subjects.

Two social evenings are planned both with Fred and Rita Daniels continuing their journey in America. Golden America part 4 is being shown on Tuesday 14th November and part 5 (premiere) on 13 March 2018. Previous nights in this series have proved very popular, so mark your diaries now.

St Michaels is facing a challenging time but to meet and worship together in a spirit of love makes for a sense of belonging within the Guild and the Church both local and national. With such a strong basis we again, in Guild and Church, can gain strength through the love that binds together.

Fay Anderson, co-convener, Guild

**MUSIC AT ST MICHAEL'S IN SEPTEMBER
PLAYED BY STUART MONTRGOMERY ON THE PIANO AND ORGAN**

SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

J.S. Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565)
A. Hollins: Trumpet Minuet
(reflection): C. Debussy: Clair de Lune
(offering): F. Schubert: To Music
(postlude): G.F. Handel: Allegro, from Concerto no 10 in D Major
(opus 7 no 4)

SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

G.F. Handel: Concerto no. 6 in B flat Major (opus 4 no 6) 'Harp'
Stuart's Hymn Tune Medley no. 2
(reflection): Stein / Merrill: People
(offering): C. Delibes: Flower duet (Lakme)
(postlude): J.S. Bach: Prelude in G Major

SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER

G.F. Handel: Concerto no 9 in B flat Major (opus 7 no 3) 'Hampton Court'
J.S. Bach: Adagio, from Toccata and Fugue in C Major (BWV 564)
(reflection): F. Chopin: Prelude in E minor
(offering): F. Chopin: Waltz in C sharp minor
(postlude): H. Mulet: Carillon Sortie

**SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER : SONGS OF PRAISE
Stuart Montgomery celebrates 25 years at St. Michael's**

G. F Handel: Concerto no. 2 in B flat Major (opus 4 no 2) 'Royal Pageant'
Stuart's Hymn Medley no. 3
R. Prizeman: Songs of Praise
Music in Worship: G. F. Handel: Rejoice Greatly, from Messiah
(Fiona Malcolm soprano)
(reflection): J. Massenet: Meditation for Violin & Piano
(Lucy Ruuskanen violin)
(offering): G. F. Handel: Lascia chi o piange
(postlude): E. Elgar. March no. 4 in G Major

Finance in St. Michael's

Report on the General Fund

The day to day running of St Michael's is dealt with through our General Fund. Your weekly offering is used to pay for heat and light, cleaning, salaries, Ministry Costs (to the Church of Scotland) and all the other expenditure to keep our church open.

The figures below are from January to July 2017

Income

Weekly offering Envelopes (non Gift Aid)	£4,529
Gift Aid Envelopes/Bank	22,844
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	10,640
Cash in Plate	2,010
<hr/> Regular offering total	<hr/> 40,023
Fundraising (Teas, Soup etc)	1,556
Use of premises	4,920
Interest on Investments	1,082
<hr/> Total Income	<hr/> 47,581

Expenditure

Ministry & Mission to the Cof S	29,773
Minister's Council Tax, travel, pulpit supply	2,496
Salaries (Cleaner, Secretary, Organist)	8,740
Heat & Light, Water, Insurance	8,555
Gardens, Cleaning & Pest Control	2,627
Telephone, Printing	1,195
Organ Maintenance & Music License	777
<hr/> Total Expenditure	<hr/> 54,163

As you can see we are around £6,500 off meeting our expenses

Fabric Expenditure

The building always needs regular maintenance and upgrading and using money in the Restoration Fund we have spent:

£16,966 on eradicating dry rot in the annex

1,425 refurbishing the annex

1,960 on upgrading our Fire Alarm system

1,505 refurbishing the disabled toilet

1,130 erecting fencing around the back of our building

1,785 electrical repairs, boiler and fire alarm maintenance & plumbing repairs

It should also be noted that following the latest Quinquennial report on the church building and an electrical survey required by our Insurance company there are some considerable amounts of money required to be spent on the Fabric of the Church building.

As we enter a Vacancy period at St Michael's it is important that we maintain and if possible increase our level of giving to show we are able to support our Church.

There are many ways to contribute to St Michael's, we operate a weekly offering envelope scheme, you can donate through our bank (details below) or why not come along to one of our regular monthly Coffee Mornings or stay behind for a good plate of Soup on Soup Sundays.

Bank of Scotland	Account Name:	St Michael's Parish Church
Dalry Road Branch	Account number:	00419030
1 Ardmillan Terrace	Sort Code:	80 02 28

Moira Gray

Treasurer

Moira_gray@blueyonder.co.uk

The Friendship Club

Monday, 2nd October sees The Friendship Club resume after the summer break. Meetings begin at 2.00pm and are held in the lower hall. The opening meeting will be a chance to issue membership forms and have a blether over a welcome cup of tea.

Beginning this session meetings will be held every second week, so dates to note in your diary are: 2nd October, 16th October, 30th October, 13th November and 27th November.

Everyone will be made most welcome to any, or all of the meetings.

Flowers

Unfortunately donations for the Flower Fund have fallen since we started using silk flowers. All donations received go towards buying the silk flowers - which are initially more expensive than fresh flowers - and the bricks of oasis for them to go in to.

Another thing I do with the Flower Fund donations is make up posies for each child who is baptised in St Michael's: these cost approximately £4 each. I would like to point out that the parents appreciate these very much, since they can be kept with the baptism certificate.

If you would like to give to the Flower Fund please speak to me or place your donation in the "Flower Fund" box at the back of the church.

I have never had to ask for money from the Treasurer.

Irene Herd

Thank you for my swing. Aidan



The Tower

“The Tower” is published every 3 months. The Next issue, covering December, January and February will be ready for distribution on Sunday, 3rd December. If you have something you would like to share through the Tower, please send it in by letter, leave a note in the box marked “items for Fiona” which lies at the back of the church, e-mail office@stmichaels-kirk.co.uk or ring me, Fiona on 0131 478 9675 by Friday 24th November.

If you would like to join the team who deliver the magazine, call Fiona in the office on 0131 478 9675.

If you would like to receive your copy of the magazine in electronic form, e-mail Fiona in the office to notify your request and give details of your e-mail address.

Church House Chatter

Have you noticed the number of rainbows there's been recently?

Seeing the rainbows made me re-read the story of Noah. In Genesis 6:5 I was reminded that, looking down on earth, God was so shocked by the behaviour he saw, he "was sorry that he had made man on earth, and it grieved him to his heart." But further on in verse 8, "Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord" and we get the well-known story of Noah's Ark and the reminder that a rainbow is God's promise to "never again curse the ground because of man". The story of Noah's Ark and the subsequent rainbow should also be a reminder to us of how we should behave.

A friend once sent me the following, 'everything I need to know, I can learn from Noah's Ark.'

1. Don't miss the boat. Stop procrastinating
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat! Others are going through similar experiences.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. Like Noah, when you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on firm foundations.
7. Travel in pairs. Share the work load. Journeys go much faster when you have company.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage; snails were on board the ark alongside cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile. Take time out - scientists have shown that people in prayer have lower blood pressure.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals. What you do matters - You influence the next generation!
11. No matter the storm, when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Plants named in the Bible Wordsearch

E	L	T	S	I	H	T	W	E	H	A	U	I	T	D
L	I	R	W	H	E	A	T	O	R	S	S	A	R	G
I	P	X	U	L	K	C	I	L	R	A	G	A	E	O
L	A	O	R	S	E	M	K	V	Y	M	N	Y	E	U
I	C	A	M	P	H	I	R	E	M	E	W	K	D	D
E	C	U	N	E	R	N	S	C	K	O	A	O	V	B
S	E	R	A	T	G	T	Y	I	X	R	E	S	O	R
C	U	M	M	I	N	R	P	T	D	A	L	F	E	D
H	Y	S	S	O	P	S	A	N	F	S	W	D	S	L
S	X	A	I	F	D	U	A	N	K	D	N	R	I	E
U	B	R	L	R	Q	M	S	E	A	A	P	A	N	N
R	C	A	U	O	W	A	E	C	I	T	X	T	A	T
L	V	O	L	E	E	L	T	R	J	A	E	S	O	I
U	G	P	Z	M	S	A	O	G	L	K	L	U	D	L
B	A	R	L	E	Y	C	H	F	N	I	M	M	U	E

ANISE (Matthew 23:23)

CAMPHIRE(Song of Songs1:14)

FLAX(Exodus 9:31, Joshua 2:6)

GOURD(2 Kings 4:39)

HYSSOP (Exodus 12:22)

LENTILE (2Samuel 17:28)

MANDRAKE (Genesis 30:14-16)

MUSTARD (Matthew 17:20)

REED (1Kings 14:15)

SPIKENARD (Song of Songs 4:14)

THISTLE (Hosea 10:8)

BARLEY (Ruth 1:22)

CORIANDEr(Exodus 16:31)

GARLICK (Numbers 11:5)

GRASS (Genesis 1:11)

LEEKs (Numbers 11:5)

LILIES (Matthew 6:28)

MINT (Matthew 23:23)

POMEGRANATE(Numbers 13:23)

ROSE (Song of Songs 2:1)

TARES (Matthew 13:25,36)

WHEAT (Genesis 30:14)

Life and Work

If you are interested in ordering a copy of "Life and Work", the official Church of Scotland magazine, please let Fiona in the office know.

"Life and Work" is now also available as a digital edition for computer, tablet and smartphone. Online you can visit www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, find on Facebook and follow on Twitter@cofslifeandwork

From the mouths of babes

A father wanted to read the paper, but was being bothered by his little daughter, Susie. Finally, he took a sheet out of his magazine, on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Susie, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."

After a few minutes, Susie returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was very surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

"Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus in His place, then the world came out all right."

How does Moses brew his coffee?

HEBREWS it!