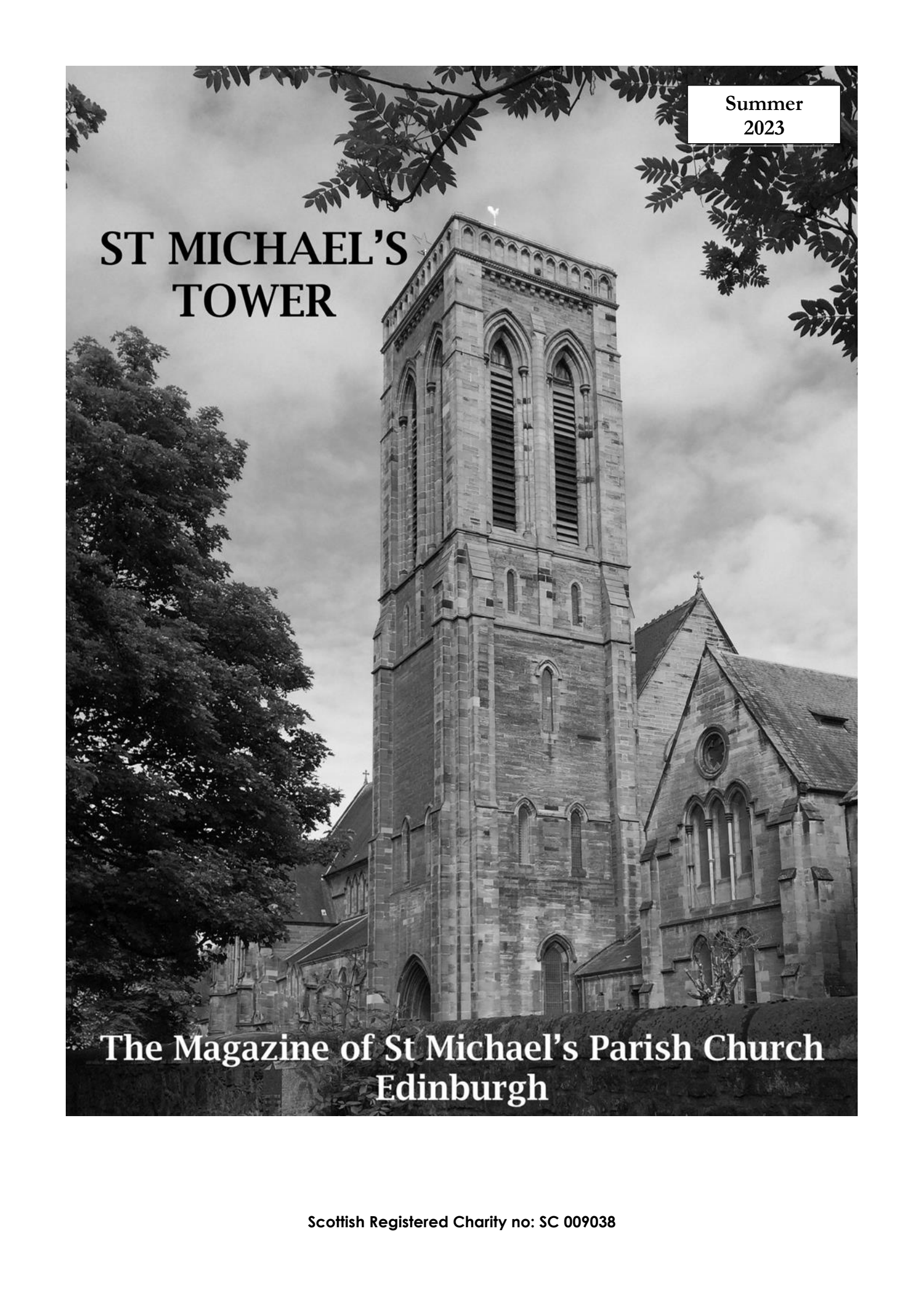




Summer
2023

ST MICHAEL'S TOWER

The Magazine of St Michael's Parish Church
Edinburgh

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Dear Members and Friends of St Michael's,

So, the King is crowned and celebrations were enjoyed by many. Those who listened to the Coronation Service surely could not help but be impressed.

Yes, there was a lot of pomp and ceremony and, given the current cost of living crisis, the costs were still high, despite this more modest version as compared with Queen Elizabeth's Coronation 70 years ago. But, the Coronation marked the beginning of a new period of history and also set the tone in highlighting the King's values.

At the beginning of the Coronation Service a 14 year old choir boy welcomed King Charles in the name of the children of God's kingdom: *'Your Majesty, as children of the Kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of Kings.'*

The King replied: *'In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve.'*

The gospel of Luke tells us this of Jesus: Luke 22:24-27

“²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ But he said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.’”

So, good on King Charles III and may he be able to serve as he declared.

But what about us? Do we want to sit at the table or will we follow Jesus' example and serve?

Our world and society is in danger of forgetting Jesus' example of sacrificial service. More and more people know their rights and expect services without ever thinking that they could serve as well. Who is willing to serve without reward? Who is volunteering, spending time and expending energy for others who may not say thank you or show gratitude?

We live in a world where many people are on the move needing, for one reason or another, to find new homes and safe places to live. As wars rage and displace people, as the climate crisis bites and forces people to seek cooler climes, as technological development changes industries and forces people to seek work elsewhere what will we do as new neighbours arrive and new needs emerge near us?

We will need Jesus' attitude of service to form new bonds and networks between us if we want to become a caring, supportive community – making friends out of strangers.

As we are travelling as a congregation towards working ever closer with our neighbours and as we need to reach new people to join our work we need to live God's love and the hospitality of Christ as never before, serving as He did or we will lose our identity and calling.

So, bring your friends and neighbours to Church or Coffee Mornings, the Summer Morning Coffee catch ups, Concerts in July and August and to any of our other gatherings and help us to ensure that St Michael's continues in whatever form we choose by our participation and service.

Enjoy the Summer and I hope to see you soon.

Andrea, the minister

PRAYER:

Teach us good Lord to serve thee as thou deserves:
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labour and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.
(St Ignatius Loyola)

Summer Morning Coffee

In July and August 2023 we will meet on Wednesdays for Morning Coffee. If the weather is good we shall enjoy the Church Garden, if it is wet and cold we shall be in the Hall from 10.30 am to Noon. There will be toys for young ones, cups of tea, coffee or juice for all. So come and bring family, friends and neighbours to relax together.

Gardening

Do you have green fingers? Yes? No? There are jobs for all skill levels. Come on Tuesdays to the Church Garden to help keep the weeds and ivy at bay. Your help will be much appreciated. If the weather is wet then we have a rest. Timing is 2pm to 4pm.

Be Happy or Beatitudes

In July and August the Minister will preach a series of sermons on the Beatitudes. They are found in Matthew's gospel in Chapter 5 at the beginning of Jesus' sermon on the mount, the great opening speech Jesus makes in that gospel at the beginning of his ministry.

There are eight Beatitudes, all starting with 'Blessed are ...', which, in Latin, reads 'beati'. This means happy, rich, contented, blessed. And hence the word beatitude developed.

So come to our services and help us think about the meaning of Jesus' statements on how to be happy in our time.

The Devil's Beatitudes

Blessed are they who are too tired and busy to assemble with the church on Sunday; for they are my best workers.

Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes; for they get nothing out of the sermon.

Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church; for he is important to me.

Blessed are they who do not meet with the church on Sunday; for they cause the world to say, "The church is failing."

Blessed is he who has no time to pray; for he should be easy pray for me.

Blessed are they who are easily offended; for they get angry and quit.

Blessed are they who do not give to carry on God's work and mission for they are my helpers.

Blessed are the troublemakers; for they shall be called the children of the devil.

Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother; for he will be with me forever.

(Source unknown)

Presbytery Mission Plan – Update

On Tuesday 25 April 2023 Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery agreed to accept the Presbytery Mission Plan. Now the hard work begins to make it a reality.

Some congregations are well advanced in their planning. The word on the street is that Presbytery will have to deal with three applications for unions in the June Presbytery. Around ten may be submitted in the Autumn Presbytery.

So, after all the pain and shock, we are entering a new phase for our churches and it seems that some, at least, are ready to move forward and reshape the local church in radical ways.

We, at St Michael's, are not quite there yet. We are to unite with Barclay Viewforth, Craiglockhart and Polwarth Churches. Rev Jack Holt, at Polwarth, is retiring on 30 August 2023 and Presbytery will need to appoint an Interim Moderator for them. My post, along with all reviewable tenure charges, will be reviewed by Presbytery at some point next year and, thus, we have to move forward with making plans.

The Session Clerks, one Elder and the Ministers of the four congregations will soon begin to meet to gather information and tasks to shape the future union. They will write a report which will then be submitted to the four Sessions to approve. The union is envisaged to become active on 1 January 2026. Much needs to be discussed and organised before then, not least the question of which buildings are to be kept and which building(s) is/are to be released.

In September we are all invited to a meeting to explain the possibility of embarking on a process of 'missional listening', a process which used to be called a Community Audit. This is a way of analysing the needs of the people in our area and, if we decide to undertake it, it will inform the future of our Church's work.

Missional listening is not only for Elders but for all Church members who want to serve their Church and community. So please do come along if you want to know more and be able to have your say.

Saturday 30 September 2023 in Craiglockhart Church. From 10am to 3.30pm. Speaker: Diane McWilliam from the Cinnamon Network. Everyone is welcome.

Canal Festival – Saturday 17 June 2023

For a second year we are hosting a stall at the Canal Festival. The stall will be in Harrison Park East, near the Boys' Club, and will have a Tombola and home-baking.

The Minister will also invite anyone who might be interested to walk with her to the Church to have a look at our stained glass windows and to tell their stories. Why not come along for a guided tour?

Please come to our stall to support us. If you can then please give us an hour of your time to man the stall and/or contribute some home-baking. There will be sign-up sheets in the Church or let the office know if you can help.

Time Out Evening Service

Once a month the Minister invites you to join her for a 30 minute reflective service in the Church. We are nearly finished thinking about the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Come along and have some quiet time:

Wednesday 31 May: 'Gentleness'

Wednesday 28 June: 'Self-control'

Wednesday 26 July: 'the Fruits of the Spirit as a whole'

Wednesday 30 August

Wednesday 27 September

Picnic in the Park

Our four congregations, working together, have formed a Joint Events Team. They have now met and have begun to think of what activities could be arranged to help us get to know each other. This will be important going forward when we are formally working together as one church.

The first joint social event will be a **Picnic in Harrison Park** on **Sunday 27 August** after Church. If the weather is inclement then it will be held in St Michael's Church Hall. More details will be confirmed following the next meeting of the Joint Events Team.

Put the date in your diary, come along on the day and help where you can. We will let you have more details in the news at Church and via our Weekly newsletter.

Coronation Day Celebration at Ruth Andrew's Flat

Ruth very kindly invited her two neighbours and me to watch and celebrate the Coronation of Charles III on 6 May 2023. Her neighbour and friend, Christa Black – a Church member, Guild Member and Friendship Club stalwart - and other neighbor, Beryl Johnston – all of us 80 plus, indeed Christa 90 plus.

Beryl and I turned up, dressed to the nines, with me in royal purple, Beryl in her posh velvet trousers and Ruth with a crown brooch on her jacket and dangling glitter earrings shaped as orbs with the Union Jack pattern.

Up in the lift came Christa and there in the hallway stood what Ruth described as a 'Duchess' to her home but was, to me, the epitome of Britishness – reminding me of the late Queen, Queen Mother and Britannia

all together. She was wearing a beautiful navy hat, blue jacket, white top and trousers and a red pashmina artfully draped around her shoulders. The older generation certainly know how to dress for an occasion and how to arrive at a party! I could only gasp and curtsy at this vision of chic red, white and blue style and taste.

Here was Christa, German born, who left a war-torn Europe in 1951 to come to Edinburgh to work and where, in her own words, was made welcome and loved. She also found love with her husband John (sadly now deceased), whom she met in nursing training and they had three of a family. A stranger in this land then but now, she says, she is more Scottish than the Scots (debatable by some Scots) but probably true. What a compliment to our country and a compliment to Christa who totally embraced her new country with all its customs, language and foibles!

As we watched the procession we all remembered what we were doing at the last Coronation in 1953. Ruth and I were in our parents' friends' house, sitting cross-legged on the floor, with lots of company, in front of a small TV (we had no TV ourselves then). Our brother Tom, who was on active service in Malaya with the 1st Battalion Cameronians (SR) had been flown over with the regimental pipe band to march and pipe in the procession. Never mind the gold coach, the Guardsmen and the horses – we were all looking for 'oor Tom' in the parade! We remember the adults telling the children present that 'this was history' and so it was.

Beryl remembered being a window dresser in Hull and dressing the windows in flags and bunting and Christa remembered being with the family she worked for in the Barnton Hotel with flags flying and guests toasting the new Queen with Gin and Tonics! We found it a bittersweet moment as we recalled friends and family no longer here – though their influence on us, for good or ill – is still very much alive.

The four of us followed the religious Service, sang the hymns and gave the responses. We delighted in our Moderator presenting the King with the bible and opened the champagne when the King was crowned. Zadok the Priest being performed with a champagne cork popping sounded great! We ate well at Ruth's ever open table and really enjoyed the day. Watching it in like-minded company certainly added to the enjoyment. Our one complaint was the lack of attention to the pipe bands in the parade and in the garden at Buckingham Palace, although the pipes and drums made a fitting finale to the parade on the ground. Ruth had a royal quiz in which we participated and who won the quiz prize of a coronation mug? Christa!

We left late in the afternoon with corgi (sorry doggy) bags having seen history take place once again. The shout of the day may have been 'God Save the King' but I reflected on Charles Dickens in the final chapter of A Christmas Carol with Tiny Tim saying – 'God Bless us, Every One'.

By Fay Anderson



St Michael's Friendship Club

I wonder how many people remember the American singer, Jim Reeves? In the 1960's he had a succession of popular hits, "Adios Amigo", "Welcome to my World", "I love you Because" and perhaps not so well known, "A Stranger's just a Friend you do not know". Today, in our cynical, suspicious and unsentimental world we scoff at homespun, folksy American sentiments, calling them "Corny", "Old fashioned" or "Soppy", but the sincerity and deep mellow quality of Jim Reeves' voice, really sold his songs. The words of "A Stranger's just a Friend you do not know" are:-

*"I pass along this way just one time only,
A fleeting moment in eternity.
Why should I spend my life alone and lonely
If just a word of friendship is the key.*

*Whenever you're feeling lonely,
Whenever you're feeling low,*

*There's one thing you must remember,
A STRANGER'S JUST A FRIEND you do not know.*

*A warm smile can bring you true love,
A warm heart can make it grow.
There's no need for being lonely;
A STRANGER'S JUST A FRIEND YOU DO NOT KNOW."*

Since returning to Edinburgh, I have made some wonderful friends in the Friendship Club and it's always good to meet up and have a chat with them, sharing opinions and ideas. However, perhaps we should bear in mind that new people must be made to feel welcome in a warm friendly environment.

Mr. Stuart Montgomery brought along a friend to entertain us on 20th February. His friend Mr. John Sampson played recorders and trumpets, including the rare piccolo trumpet. Their concert was a great success. They managed to include something for everyone, Mozart, Schubert and Handel for the classical music lovers, Scottish music for the traditionalists and Victorian music hall favourites (giving the audience the opportunity to sing,) accompanied by the organ.

In March, a psychology expert came along to talk about "Health and Well Being". I have been practicing the breathing exercises she gave us. We all felt better for her visit. She demonstrated how we could benefit by using our imaginations to help us to relax and feel better.

A fortnight later, we hosted two four legged friends, Olly the Collie and his beautiful Golden Labrador friend Marley. Their handlers spoke to us while they walked around the room with the dogs. We heard about their visits to hospitals, prisons and care homes, making friends and encouraging people with communication difficulties to open up and engage with the wider world. Olly, the Collie made happy little grunting noises, almost like speaking. The two dogs made lots of new friends. Yvonne, one of the dog handlers, brought along lovely hand-decorated cakes for us to have along with our tea.

We were also given excellent home baking for our Easter "Daffodil Tea" on April 3rd. Cathy Neil often brings home baked cakes and scones to the club, which are greatly appreciated. We also appreciated Mr. Neil Price's contribution to our "Daffodil Tea", when he acted the part of "Uncle Mac" in a spoof we did on the old radio programme, "Children's Choice". He really threw himself into the part, utilizing his best BBC voice and Andrea

(our Minister), also came along to help get everybody singing! It was a lot of fun and two "Heat Heroes", Andy Price and Sue Fuller, came along to give us advice on how to heat our homes, help to save the planet and save money on our energy bills.

We get very helpful advice from experts and I have learned a great deal from our speakers. Did you know that we have about 500,000 nerve endings in our hands and 700,000 nerve endings in our feet? I gleaned that information from Pamela Couper, the Reflexologist who demonstrated her skills for us.

When we compile our Syllabus, we try to persuade interesting people to come along and share their expertise with us, or entertain us in a lively manner. Our door is always open to new members, who will be made welcome, always bearing in the mind the old Jim Reeves song, "A STRANGER'S JUST A FRIEND YOU DO NOT KNOW.

Submitted by Ruth Andrews

FREE to anyone who needs it!

Could you do with a seat while chopping vegetables or working on a hobby? This stick seat has seem some use but is sadly no longer required.

The height is adjustable. It weights 900g (21lbs) and is of solid construction.

If interested please contact Derek Wilson, 0131 447 9059 or dexwilson@blueyonder.co.uk



Fresh Start

Update on the Cookers for Christmas Appeal 2022

Fresh Start was delighted and overwhelmed by the support received for the Cookers for Christmas 2022 campaign. With all your help and support an amazing £30,470 has been raised.

What happens to the money raised ...?

... well can you imagine moving into your new tenancy, only to realise you don't have a cooker to make dinner, have no washing machine for your laundry and don't even have a fridge to keep your milk fresh. This situation is all too real for people throughout the year. Fresh Start can help to source a brand new cooker, washing machine and fridge freezer.

So, a BIG thank you to everyone at St Michael's for your very generous donations and for gift-aiding them where possible.

We also want to say THANK YOU to those who bring regular (and not so regular) donations of food and cleaning materials for the Starter Packs. It really is very much appreciated.

Please do have a look at the Fresh Start display in the Vestibule and pick up a shopping list and copy of the Spring 2023 newsletter.

There are many 'forgotten essentials' that are required to enable people to live with dignity and to make a house a home.

Fresh Start regularly has to purchase these forgotten items and we would love it if you could help us out.

Take away Lists of the 'forgotten essentials' are available in the church vestibule.

Alasdair and Babs Webster



St Colm's @ St Michael's Guild

The Guild session ended on 12 April with our Business Meeting. At a previous meeting we had heard from The Northern Lighthouse Board, an extremely interesting presentation from Mike Bullock. We held a quiz on trees at another meeting which was a great success, one member, who shall be nameless, said the only tree she knew was a Christmas Tree! Much laughter and fun at that meeting. Catherine Steyn from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf brought her dog along to that meeting. She also ran a stall with items for sale – another success.

Our Guild has an interest in the allotment at Slateford Green which is run by Deaf Aid and the vulnerable deaf who are housed there. I visited recently with a donation as the Rev Tom Gordon wished his speaking fee to go towards this project. Sadly they are having huge problems with vermin and this is preventing some planting going ahead. They were, therefore, going to use the donation for a gathering together for the Coronation – either a barbecue at the allotment or a celebration indoors. All, as always, weather dependent.

At our business meeting we disbursed funds to the Toy Library run by St Martin's Scottish Episcopal Church and the Guild project UNIDA in Brazil – which helps empower young women for ministry and service through theological educational opportunities at affordable prices (especially to those from low income backgrounds - including Afro-Brazilians). The amount raised for the 2021 – 2024 projects to date is around £250,000.

We are to support the Vine Trust project 'Village of Hope Tanzania' during our 2023-2024 session.

As reported in the Spring Tower we received a donation of £1,000. From this amount we have funded a screen for the wall in the Lower Hall. It works like a blind which can be rolled up and down as required. This will be a great asset to all using the hall for meetings including Guild, Friendship Club, Film Club and for anyone who has film/slides to show. We are now looking at some other needs in the Church with which we can help.

We had a lovely afternoon tea on 10 May at the Mercure Hotel. This was an afternoon of cakes, fellowship and was intended as a big thank you to all members for their unfailing support to the Guild. We look forward to the Big Sing at the Assembly on 23 May and a summer meeting on 31 May when Leona Thomas will let us in to the secrets of lacemaking. The new screen should be in use then.

Although we do not meet during high summer months work still goes on as our worthy secretary, Catherine Denham, will be arranging meetings for the 2023/2024 Session which starts on 13 September at 2pm. Our theme being 'New Wine, New Wineskins'. All are welcome to come and explore this idea.

The Guild wish everyone a relaxing summer, may summers suns glow on all of us.

Fay Anderson, Co-convenor Guild

A St Michael's Memory

I want to put this record down on paper as I mentioned the story to a couple of people in passing one Sunday, during the coffee/tea after the service. I am putting it down on paper not because it is necessarily the correct version, but because I am still in touch with at least two of the principal characters involved.

After eight years in India, working in Madras Christian College, Duncan and I returned to the UK where we were based in Sussex, he as Chaplain and Lecturer at the University and I doing pulpit supply and, finally, called and ordained in the excitingly new URC. In 1978 he was appointed to the Chair of Christian Ethics and Practical Theology in the then Faculty of Divinity.

In the 1990s he collaborated with Christian Aid and, in partnership with them and the University, it was agreed to bring a number of 'Church Leaders' from the developing world to study at New college and then return to their own countries. OF COURSE the first attendees were self-appointed church leaders, bishops, college principals and the like. ALL men. I fumed quietly and, eventually, a goodly number of women were also appointed.

However ...

In the 1990s one of the men appointed was Tharcisse, a Rwandan Christian working for the YMCA. It was around that time that the Rwandan genocide blew up. Tharcisse had been an outspoken advocate for peace and was forced to flee with his wife and three children – first to Nairobi and then, as the family situation became critical and with only 24 hours' notice, the whole family was flown out of Nairobi carrying only one briefcase and possibly some hand luggage.

As Tharcisse had a place at the University of Edinburgh that is where they had to go. They arrived, as I remember it, on a very hot Saturday during the hottest year that we had experienced for some time. Duncan met them at Turnhouse Airport and brought them to our house in Kingsburgh Road – Tharcisse, Josephine, his wife, two daughters and a little boy, not yet two years old. The little boy was carried by his father while the girls, probably around 5 and 7 at the time, clustered around their mother.

The vivid memory that I have is of the little boy crawling under the big table in the front room downstairs where we gave, what seemed like, endless parties for students. Also, although I had made up a double bed in the room next to ours for the parents and baby, and twin beds in the little front bedroom for the girls, they all slept in one room together, either in the double bed, or possibly even on the floor. And why not? After all they had been through of course they wanted to be together.

The next day was Sunday. From the pulpit I explained briefly what had happened and advised that there were two lists, available to the congregation, of items required to help the family settle in. One for 'Things in Due Course', and indeed the Treasurer had already started a specific fund for items like kitchen utensils and so on. The 'Urgent' items were required, however, not merely for the following weekend but for **this afternoon!** The Church Hall was to be opened from 2pm to 4pm. And, with the help of the Women's Guild and the Kirk Session, donated clothes would be arranged according to type. I know that I asked for anoraks, woollen goods of all kinds, pullovers, jumpers, cardigans, old school blazers along

with nightwear, underwear, socks, travelling rugs and shawls. Plus, once feet measurements had been taken, slippers, shoes and trainers. I also requested new underwear, assuming any shops were open that afternoon. There is something respectful about offering **new** underwear in our culture – or is that just me?

Anyway – St Michael's has never disappointed when asked for help. That afternoon we did a roaring trade! When the doors closed at 4pm all of the donated items had been laid out tidily according to type and size. The family were then brought in to choose what they wanted.

Not only were there the plentiful items my meagre imagination had suggested but there were some picture books and toys, crayons and jotters, board games like Snakes & Ladders and Ludo, a skipping rope, bats and balls .. We went home with bags full of good things.

Eventually the family was housed in a University flat near the Commonwealth Pool. Later accommodation was found, I think, in the Oxfgangs area of Edinburgh and the children attended Boroughmuir Secondary School.

Josephine, with immense determination and with this new Scottish/English language to contend with, retrained as, I think, a social worker. Now they live in Dunfermline.

And the little boy who crawled under our table, too scared to come out? His name was Ncuti. He became an actor. Ncuti Gatwa, the new Dr Who.



Summer Concerts

St Michael's is a magnificent venue for music. Until recent years Edinburgh did not seem to be aware of this but we are now trying to put the record straight. Many satisfied people have come to our events and have said afterwards that they had passed by the building for years, never realising what a jewel it was.

This Summer we shall continue with our week of concerts to take place during the last week of the Edinburgh International Festival (19 to 27 August). We shall precede this with visits by two youth ensembles from France and Germany on their respective Scottish tours.

On **Thursday 20 July** we shall be treated to a concert by the Strasbourg Youth Symphony Orchestra, a 60-piece orchestra who should fill the building with glorious sound. And then on **Saturday 29 July** we will be visited by a youth choir from Germany, called **TOOKULA** (aged 13 to 20). They sing a wide repertoire including classical pieces and German and international folk songs as well as Spirituals/Gospels, pop songs and choir pieces/arrangements of contemporary composers (both secular and sacred). Former summer tours have taken them to Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the USA.

Our August series will be as follows:

Saturday 19 August at 3pm	Stuart Montgomery , our own organist, will give a piano recital, hosting his usual tea afterwards
Sunday 20 August at 3pm	Giocomo Susani (classical guitar) from Italy and winner of numerous international awards
Monday 21 August at 7.30pm	Nikita Lukinov (piano) whose programme will include Mossorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'
Tuesday 22 August at 4pm	Brian Bannantyne-Scott (bass-baritone) and friends in 'A Celebration of Songs in English and Scots, New and Old'

Thursday 24 August at 7.30pm	Brass Tracks , a 5-piece brass group with a broad and exciting repertoire
Friday 25 August at 6pm	Hugh MacKay (cello) with a programme of music for solo cello including Bach
Saturday 26 August at 7.30pm	Jill Crosland (piano) an English pianist who specialises in repertoire from the classical period
Sunday 27 August at 7.30pm	The Renaissance Group Corncrakes , a reunion of past students from St Andrews University, celebrating the remarkable choirs to which they belonged. Directed by Neil Price, they will sing some of the music performed in the King's recent Coronation Service

As before there will be no tickets on sale for any of the concerts.

We can seat 850 in the Church and while capacity crowds will be welcomed, we do not anticipate having to turn anyone away!

Admittance will be free, but there will be retiring collections at each concert, most of the proceeds going to the musicians, who will not be charging fixed fees. The remainder will go to church funds.

It is hoped that all those who attend will give what they would expect to pay for a ticket to such a concert.

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Neil Price

A Green Summer

We've been spending a lot of time at St Michael's thinking about the environment and doing our part to contribute to the care of our environment. Over the summer, a time where we can maybe slow down, re-charge our batteries and take some time out, there are still things we can think about doing that will contribute to the health of our environment.

REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE.

Here are some ideas for you ...

REDUCE your use of plastic.

July is Plastic Free July

Plastics can now be found at the tops of our highest mountains and has even been found as microplastics in the very deepest parts of our oceans. Take time in July to see if you can get through the month without using plastic.

Sign up to Plastic Free July by visiting www.PlasticFreeJuly.org.

Get some ideas to help you reduce your use of plastic by visiting www.LessPlastic.org.uk

REUSE

By reusing what you can it saves on money, energy use and global resources.

Greenpeace, as well as Zero Waste Scotland, say it is clear that 'recycling alone isn't enough to save the planet'.

By reusing what we can we will contribute far more to end the climate crisis.

Visit the Knowledge Hub at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

RECYCLING

Here are some facts:

75% less energy is consumed when making a plastic bottle from recycled plastic than using 'virgin' material.

Recycling aluminium drink cans saves up to 95% of the energy needed to make a new can.

Glass can be recycled unlimited times without losing its quality.

Recycling can reduce the size of landfill.

So recycling plays a vital role when caring for the environment.

Continue to support St Michael's Recycling. Continue to collect the goods we have been recycling at St Michael's

Toothbrushes Toothpaste Tubes Empty pill packets Spent pens

And while we're doing all this don't forget to take time to get out and enjoy the outdoors and the green spaces around us to help recharge our own batteries.

Submitted by Pamela Couper

"SIN, WITHOUT AND WITHIN"

*It came to my door
A bundle of sin,
It came to my door
And asked to come in.*

*I opened my door
And said "Don't come in,
I will not unroll
A bundle of sin".*

*Sin said "you can't win
Sin chimes from within,
You've opened your door
I'm already in.*

*Your weakness I know
It will bring you low
Your life I will take
Your soul I will break."*

*The only way out
Is to sing and shout
Then pray from within
To be free from sin.*

*There's good news for you
It's easy to do,*

*Be brave and be clear
You've nothing to fear.*

*Don't listen to Sin
Don't let Sin creep in,
With God on your side
You have the best guide.*

*When Sin comes to call
You will never fail,
God's love is so strong
You'll never go wrong.*

*Goodbye to all Sin
You're out in the bin,
With rubbish and muck
Sin's ran out of luck!*

Submitted by Ruth Andrews.

Church House Chatter

I celebrated my one year anniversary working with the Church this May and it got me thinking about the meaning behind milestone wedding anniversaries. I was interested to find both traditional and modern meanings both, I think, relevant to life in general.

Traditionally the one year anniversary gift is paper. Paper is both fragile and withstanding. Take good care and it will last a lifetime. Handle it carelessly and it will fade, tear and disintegrate into nothing.

The modern gift symbolism is a clock – representing the movement of time – good times, change and challenge. Time is precious and the clock is a reminder to take the time to nurture your relationships for the years to come.

I was heartened to see the blossom trees springing to life in the Church grounds. Almost inevitably the petals were swept away by wind and rain but I'm so pleased to have been able to enjoy them for as long as I did.

Fiona Lunn, Editor

Colin O'Flaherty receiving the Butler Trust Commendation from The Princess Royal on 27 March 2023

Colin has been arranging the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection for the last 22 years and St Michael's has been a keen contributor. We are very pleased that he has now been recognised officially for his contribution and are proud to have played a small part in this. The Butler Trust is an organisation which recognises the very best across the UK Prisons, Probations and Youth Justice Services.



Changes to the Church Family

Joined by Certificate: Ms Linda Gartside
Rev Margaret Forrester

Deaths: Valerie Kinnaird, February 2023
John Pearson, March 2023
Margaret McTavish, March 2023
Mr R A Walker, April 2023

Jesus Fed the People Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

BREAD

COMPASSION

DISCIPLES

EAT

FISH

HEALED

HUNGRY

LOAVES

MIRACLE

SHEPHERD

TAUGHT

THOUSANDS

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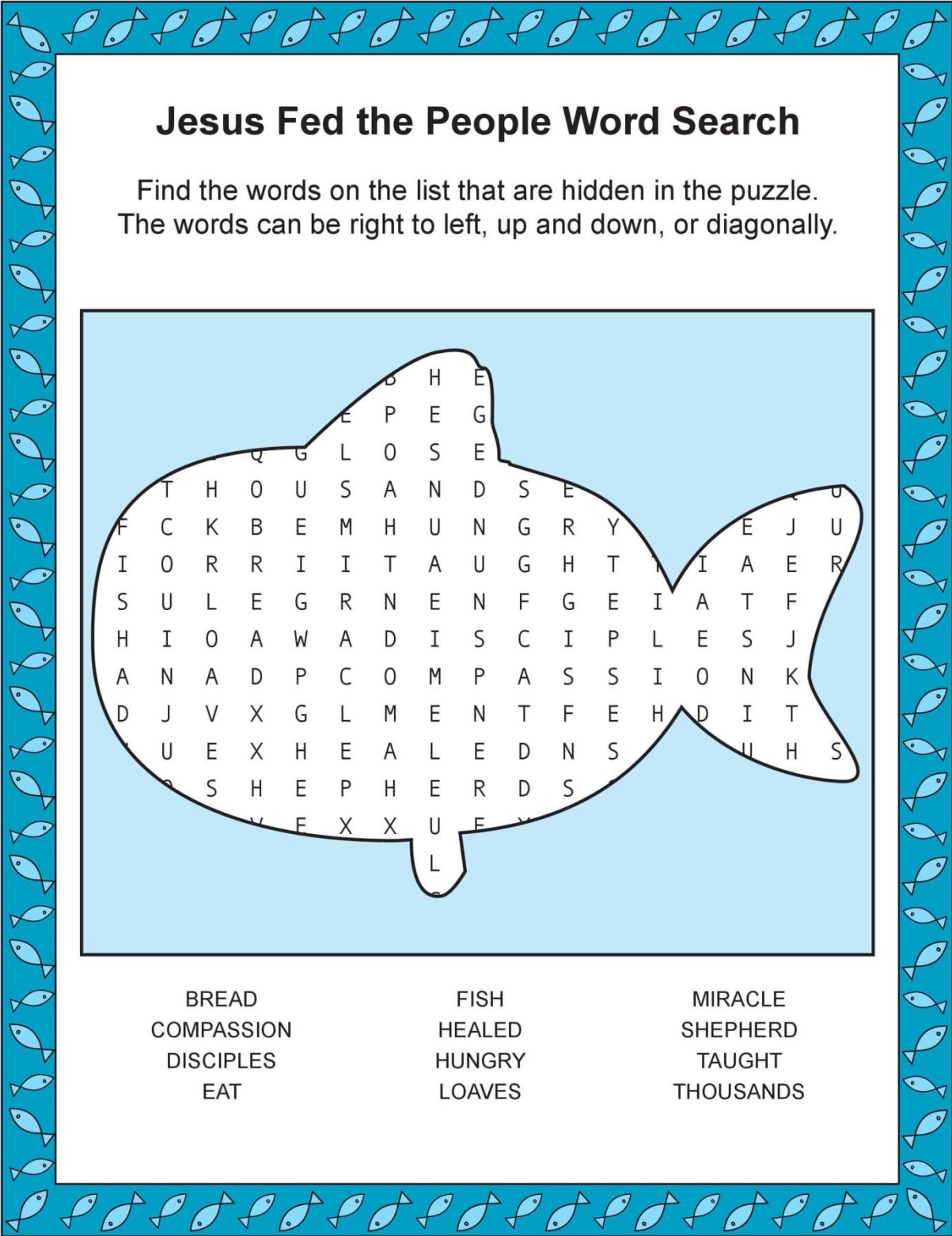
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