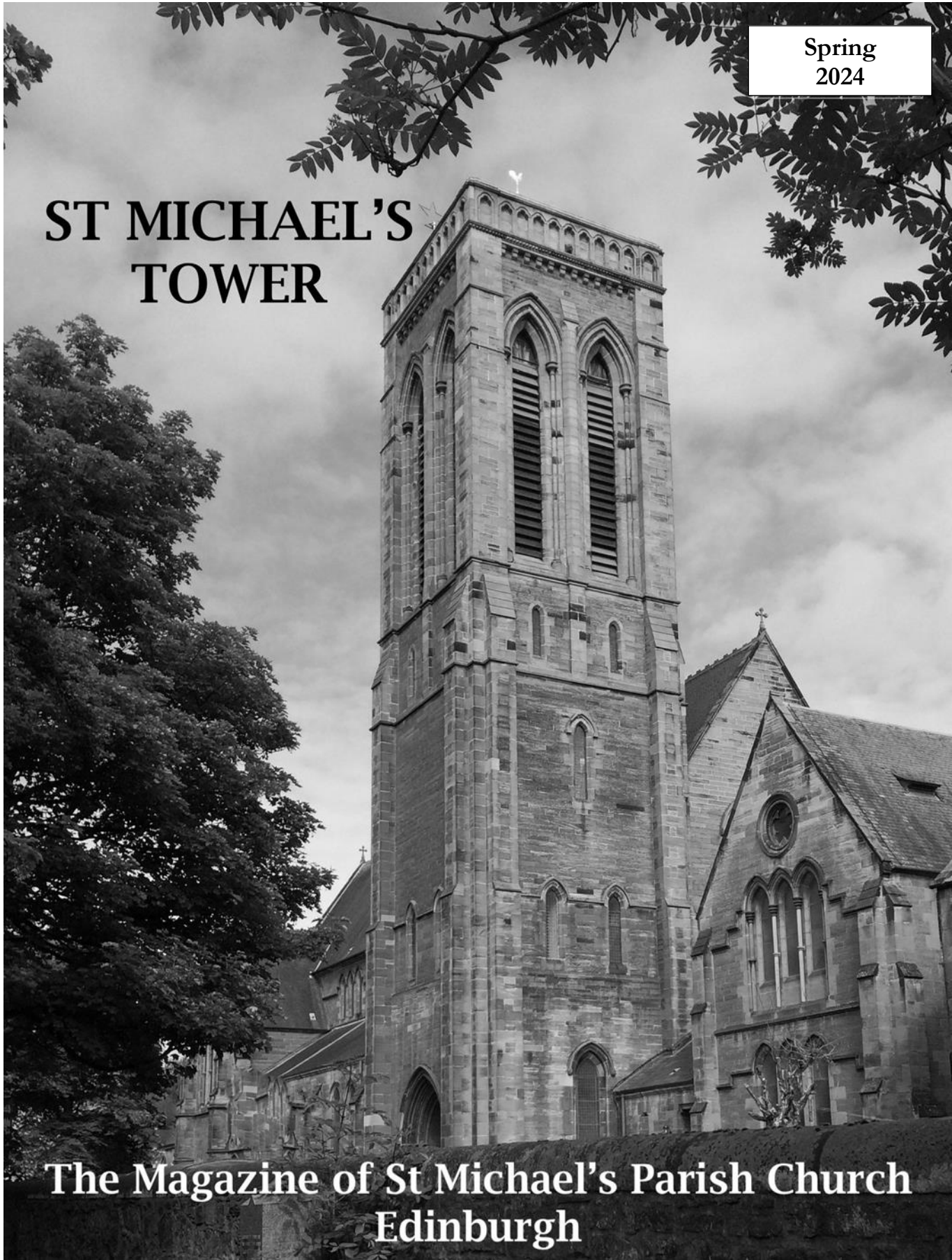




Spring  
2024

# ST MICHAEL'S TOWER

The Magazine of St Michael's Parish Church  
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## Dear Friends

The days are getting longer again and we are hoping for warmth and sunlight to cheer body and soul soon on walks or as we potter in the garden or on the windowsill. After a long, wet and cold winter we all long for warmth.

I remember singing in our choir one year a piece by the Norwegian composer Edward Grieg, called "Våren" – the Spring. The song is a wistful melody full of longing for nature to be released from the darkness, deep snow and frost of a Norwegian winter. The poem was written by Aasmund Vinje and recalls the emerald meadows, butterflies dancing in blossoms and spring-laden vales. The poem and the song by Grieg are rather solemn as the speaker/singer imagines this spring to be their last on earth. Yet, in spite of this, it is a most beautiful song, full of longing.

As we all face life's challenges, be it ill-health, problems in our relationships or with work or finances we can well feel as if darkness and winter are here to stay for us. As we begin again to remember the journey of our Lord Jesus into increasing fame and also increasing hostility, which ended for him with his cruel death on the cross, a colourful and joyful awakening into new life seems far.

When we walked in Perthshire at New Year and saw hazel already pushing its blooms out I was worried. Here too was evidence of climate change.

When storms and floods come thick and fast and destroy homes and farmland we are worried. When earthquakes ruin the lives of millions and wars senselessly destroy without thought for thousands of lives we are right to be anxious. Where is this world heading?

And yet our faith teaches that death and destruction are not the end but God's Springtime, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead and his continued love and inspiration offered for our help. The small light lit at Christmas in the dark has overcome and grown to lighten the world and bring forth much good for all who embrace his good news of God leading us, cheering us and changing the world.

So listen to the angels, who are sent again and again in the stories of the bible to people to say: 'Do not be afraid! Walk with hope in your hearts though the darkness into the light of God's love.' Even if this Spring should be our last we may be content and comforted in the knowledge that we are on the way home, to the source of life, God our heavenly Father.

So join in with our journey together through Lent, exploring how to act on the many places of poverty in the world and remembering the teaching and suffering of our Lord culminating in new life at Easter, Jesus' resurrection and our renewed hope and continuing transformation into God's people.

#### **Dates**

|             |                                                                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14 February | Ash Wednesday: St Martin's Ashing Service                                               |
| 10 March    | Mothering Sunday                                                                        |
| 24 March    | Palm Sunday: with update on 'Fresh Start'                                               |
| 28 March    | Maundy Thursday Supper of the Four Churches at St Michael's                             |
| 29 March    | Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7.30pm                                                  |
| 31 March    | Easter Sunday Garden Service at 7am followed by breakfast and Communion Service at 11am |

### **Lent Course 2024: 'Act On Poverty'**

Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty, the Trussell Trust and a number of ecumenical partners have teamed up to offer a Lent course on Poverty. The course aims to help us gain a deeper understanding of what poverty means in the UK and abroad and what can be done about it.

The course will share stories of faith and activism that challenge the status quo. It will offer ideas for action, big and small, on how to tackle poverty together.

There will be Bible study and audio recordings of conversations with those who live and challenge poverty in the UK and worldwide. There will be discussions and inspiring videos from churches taking practical action on poverty.

Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings - 20 and 27 February, 5, 12, 19 and 26 March in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Alternatively you are very welcome to attend St Martin's Church on Saturdays at 10am for their Lent Course.

### **Charity and church leaders call for urgent action on rising poverty in the UK and around the world**

On 5 January a joint statement was issued:

*'We believe that poverty is a scandal, the root causes of which have been neglected by our political leaders in the UK Parliament for too long. As this new year begins, the cost of living scandal is clearly not over for the poorest people in the UK. Around the world poverty holds too many individuals and communities back from fulfilling their potential.*

*But we know that poverty is not inevitable – it's a consequence of political choices and priorities. With a General Election on the horizon, we call on our political leaders to make tackling poverty a priority. In line with our existing commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, this should include setting out clear plans to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce overall poverty by at least half, in both the UK and globally by 2030.*

*Whilst our work to tackle poverty in the UK and around the world takes different forms, we are united in our belief that the human cost of failing to take action now is too big and too damaging to ignore. This year must mark the beginning of the end for poverty.*

*Inspired by our faith, we believe in a future where everyone has an equal share in the world's resources. Where everyone has enough to eat. Where all of us are able to wake up in the morning with hope, opportunities and options for living a fulfilling life.*

*This year, our Churches and Christian charities are committed to putting poverty on the agenda through practical action, prophetic words and courageous campaigning. Our elected politicians need to take responsibility too. Now is the time for action.'*

**Signed by:**

*Christine Allen, Executive Director of CAFOD*

*Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford*

*Niall Cooper, Director of Church Action on Poverty*

*Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, The Baptist Union of Great Britain*

*Nigel Harris, CEO of Tearfund*

*Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church*

**Emma Jackson., Public Life and Social Justice Group Convener, The Church of Scotland**

*Revd Gill Newton and Kerry Scarlett, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*

*Kate Nightingale, Deputy CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society*

*Commissioners Jenine and Paul Main, Territorial Leaders, The Salvation Army UK and Ireland*

*Stewart McCulloch, Chief Executive of Christians Against Poverty UK*

*Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain*

*Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary, Churches Together in England*

*Right Revd Mary Stallard, Bishop of Llandaff*

*Most Revd Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church*

*Patrick Watt, CEO, Christian Aid*

## **Joining the Church**

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining the church?

Are you interested in asking the Minister some searching questions?

If your answer is 'Yes' why not come along to the Manse on **Monday 4 March at 7pm** to share a conversation with others about what it means to believe and become a church member. Phone Andrea on 0131 443 4355 for more information.

## **Maundy Thursday – 7.30 pm**

Last year we met with our neighbouring congregations at Polwarth to remember the events of Jesus' last supper with his friends on Maundy Thursday.

This year St Michael's shall host this supper and Communion with a difference. Do come along and remember one of the most important

events of Holy Week during which Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loved us.

**Where:** St Michael's Church Hall

**Time:** 7.30pm

### **Tenebrae Service on Good Friday at 7.30pm**

What is 'good' about Good Friday? Tenebrae is Latin for 'darkness'. In a service on Good Friday evening we will remember the events of Jesus's trial and crucifixion. As daylight fades we will extinguish candles and listen to the events leading to Jesus' death - read in increasing darkness.

Nothing seems particularly 'good' about a kind man being murdered. But the 'good' in Good Friday means 'holy' or 'pious'. It is a day of great importance in the Christian calendar as we remember the Son of God laying down his life that we might know the greatness of God's love for us.

Jesus held nothing back to safeguard himself, nor did he collude with the powerful to gain for himself. Instead he gave himself up to love the lowest and least with utter passion which ended on the Cross. Or so the world thought. Little did they reckon with Easter ...

### **Easter celebrations**

7am Easter Communion in the Garden followed by breakfast for all in the Church Hall

11am Easter Communion

Join the celebrations of new life, the new life of Spring, the resurrection life of Jesus and the promise of renewed life for all of us.

### **Easter Eggs for Sick Kids Hospital/Barnado's Visitor Centre, Edinburgh Prisons (Saughton)**

Once again Alex Anderson has begun to put the word out to friends and family that he will be collecting Easter Eggs for the children who have to spend Easter in hospital. Alex writes:

*'A lot of people ask me why I do this, apart from the main reason. When a child or a young adult is admitted to the hospital it can be very stressful and traumatic for them and their families. I know that the hospital staff*

*work very hard to comfort the patients so, by doing this very small thing, I know that helps as well'.*

In addition, this year, we are also contributing to the Barnado's Visitor Centre at Saughton Prison in the hope that this might bring some cheer to some of the children visiting relatives over Easter.

If you would like to help this Easter then please bring your Easter Eggs **by Sunday 24 March** to the Church or Church Office. These will be passed on to Alex who will ensure they are delivered safely.

### **Update on Presbytery Planning**

Looking ahead and looking at the age profile of our and other congregations the time will come, in the near future, when we will be unable to keep all of our congregations going in the way we have done for many years.

Thus plans are being made for St Michael's to unite, according to the agreed Presbytery Plan, with three other congregations (Barclay Viewforth, Craiglockhart and Polwarth) on 1 January 2026.

For this to happen many things need to be discussed and decided by the four sessions and members of each congregation.

The Joint Implementation Team, made up of the Ministers and two Elders from each congregation (for St Michael's – Douglas Bannatyne, Judith Merten and Andrea Price), is working its way through a number of topics and will ask for the prayerful and active support of the members of the congregations.

1. **We need a new name:** please read below how we hope to find one and join in with your thoughts and ideas
2. **We need to decide which building to give up:** this will be hard for one of our four congregations. The decision does not mean its immediate closure. The building will only close when it is sold - thus ensuring good stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us and for the safety of our neighbours
3. **We need to decide the Vision, Mission and Outreach Focus and the activities of the new congregation:** to discuss this a second group has been formed incorporating the Minister and two Elders from each Church. Its first meeting took place at 1pm on 4 February in



Craiglockhart Church. Representing St Michael's are Sheila Bremner, Allan Gordon and Andrea Price.

### **A new name for our United Congregation**

Our four Kirk Sessions agreed a process for selecting a new name for our united congregation. We began work on this in January and aim to have a new name agreed by June this year.

The General Assembly instructed that Congregational names must have three elements, a geographical reference, additional words to identify the congregation within that location and the words 'Church of Scotland'. For our congregation this will look like:

**'Edinburgh: ... ? ? ..... (Church of Scotland)'**

The central element is what we are seeking to agree at this time. The four Kirk Sessions decided not to consider a new name which was simply a long list of the names of the existing congregations.

The first step in our process was to invite members of the congregation to contribute ideas (the deadline for this has now passed). Thank you to all those who contributed.

During February each Kirk Session considered all proposed names and selected three from those suggested. Each Kirk Session shall then submit their three chosen names to the Implementation Team, giving a total of 12 potential names for further sifting. There will be a additional round of congregational and Kirk Session involvement in April and May and details of this shall be given nearer the time.

Please do pray that we will agree a new name for our united congregation which will reflect our mission.

### **Celebrating 50 years of Ordination**

On Sunday 28 January we celebrated Communion but also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Margaret Forrester in 1974 and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (in April this year) of her being licensed – meaning she was permitted by the Church to preach the Gospel.

Many of you will have wonderful memories of Margaret being your minister and we are delighted that she is worshipping amongst us.

Margaret has many good memories of her younger days and is deeply grateful to her parents and grandparents for shaping her. She needs to write her biography to record it all, a story of women and men coping in difficult times.

One of her grandmothers left school at the age of 10 – before the Act was passed ensuring that children went to school rather than to work. Her family needed their child to help earn a living as a new baby was on the way.

Margaret's father died when she was only eight years old and her mother went back to teaching – showing her what a woman can do when needs be – at a time when most stayed at home after marriage.

One year a Missionary visited her Sunday School and Margaret remembers the children behaving rather badly – her included. In the end the Missionary closed her talk by saying that maybe one of them would be called by God as a missionary one day. This stuck with Margaret and she decided that she would become a medical missionary, as women then could not be parish ministers.

When she finished school Margaret began to study medicine but changed to study English and Mathematics. But times were changing and, thanks to the amazing Mary Lusk who petitioned the Church of Scotland to test her call, people began to debate the role of women serving in the Church.

And so, after graduating with an MA, Margaret began to study theology at New College. Technically she was a student of the University but New College was the training college for ministers. All candidates had to sit an entrance exam in NT Greek and the English Bible.

Margaret reckoned she could get away with the Bible exam (set chapters, one third of the Bible each year) as she had breathed/read/memorised bible texts for many years. But Greek! She studied eight hours a day, six days a week for one summer and went in to the exam a bag of nerves. The hard slog worked and she passed both exams – first in one and second in the other.

She loved her time in New College, winning a couple of prizes and becoming the President of the University Theological Society. She was soon deeply involved in the debates about women's ordination and became a regular speaker at Guilds on the subject.

On 15 April 1964 Margaret was licensed to preach as a deaconess in her home congregation of St George's West. She remembers wearing the smart grey tailored skirt and jacket and the 'bowler' hat.

However, only a few weeks later – after her final exams - she married Duncan Forrester (ending her being a deaconess) and moved with him to Madras College, near Chennai in the South of India.

She was extremely busy there preaching once, and often twice, a week. She had two children and the family returned to the UK in 1970 to settle in Sussex.

In 1974 Margaret was ordained by the United Presbyterian Church into the charge of Telscombe Cliffs near Brighton. She was the first woman of the Church of Scotland to be ordained.

The family moved to Edinburgh in 1978 and Margaret became the minister for St Michael's Church and university chaplain (two days a week). She worked hard for St Michael's and soon the reviewable charge became a full charge again.

The photos in our recent exhibition of St Michael's reminded us of the many joyful and fun times shared by many people with Margaret. Margaret's ministry was shaped by her strong faith, her kindness and fondness for people and their stories. We are grateful for all she has done over her long career and ministry and thank her.

God bless you

***Andrea, Your minister at St Michael's Church***

### **Fresh Start**

Moving into a new tenancy can be an exciting, but daunting time for many. Having the funds to purchase all the essentials to make a house a home is something many people will not be able to afford – this is where Fresh Start can help.

They have a number of starter packs available to help set up a new home or to help sustain a tenancy for anyone experiencing financial difficulties.

Their standard essential packs consist of bedding, curtains, towels, crockery, pots and pans, small electrical items, cleaning materials, toiletries and basic food packs.

They also offer a number of other items that are kindly donated, such as toastie makers/grills, hairdryers, food mixers/blenders, microwaves, lamps, irons, vacuum cleaners, cushions and artwork.

Please see below to see what items they accept:

Dishes and Cutlery • Dinner Plates • Side Plates • Bowls • Cutlery • Glass Tumblers • Mugs • Tea-Towels

Cleaning Items • Washing Up Liquid • Toilet Cleaner • Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Hand Soap • Toilet Rolls • Bin Bags & Liners • Dustpan & Brushes • All Purpose Cleaners • Laundry Tablets • J-Cloths

Pots and Pans • Soup Pots • Frying Pans • Milk Pans • Cooking

Utensils • Can Openers • Potato Peelers • Wooden Spoons

Bed Linen and Towels • Single, Double & King • Duvet Covers • Pillow Cases • Blankets • Towels • Curtains • Face Cloths

Small Household Electric Items • Kettles • Toasters • Lamps • Irons • Vacuum Cleaners • Radios • DVD Player • Microwaves • Music Systems

Long Lasting Food Products • Tins & Jars of: Beans / Spaghetti / Soup / Vegetables / Meat / Fish • Cooking Sauces • Packets of Pasta • Rice • Cereal • Porridge • Biscuits • Sugar • Tea Bags • Instant Coffee • UHT Milk

Fresh Start is unable to accept or offer items of furniture. They work, however, in partnership with the Bethany Gateway Project which can help with these items. If you have any questions about the Project please contact them on 0131 561 8903. The Bethany Gateway Project also accepts donations of furniture items.

Once again thank you very much to everyone who has given so generously to Fresh Start. If you are unsure what you can donate or would like us to come and collect your donations please give us a call on 0131 441 1328 or speak to us at Church.

**Alasdair and Babs Webster**

## **The Pitcairn/Carnegie Windows in St Michael's**

When taking some photos for the recent 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition and booklet, I was intrigued by the two inscriptions at the foot of the windows at either end of the south aisle. The one at the east end reads:

*'TO THE GLORY OF GOD, in beloved memory of William Pitcairn Esq of Burnhead, Dundee, died 1831 aged 68 years, Robert Dall Esq of Cedar Valley, Jamaica, died in Edinburgh 1850 aged 62 years, and his wife Jane Pitcairn, died 1842 aged 51 years.'*

And the one at the west end reads:

*'TO THE GLORY OF GOD, in beloved memory of Sir George Ballingall MD, Professor of Military Surgery, Edinburgh University, born 1780 died 1856, John Pitcairn MD, died in the island of Java 1840, aged 40 years, David A Carnegie MD, Surgeon-Major (Retd.), Indian Army, born 1814, died 15<sup>th</sup> May 1887.'*

My nosy curiosity was arisen. Who were these early 19<sup>th</sup> century Pitcairns, Dalls and Carnegies, and what was their relevance to St Michael's which was only built in 1883? And the mention of Jamaica and Java (in modern Indonesia) was unexpected. Could there be some overtones which we today might find difficult to accept? I decided to do a certain amount of poking about and see where it led me.

Douglas Bannatyne told me there were some relevant graves in St Cuthbert's Churchyard at the West End. So off I went on my bike and found them very quickly – two big stones laid in the ground, covered in moss. Some deciphering revealed the following inscriptions.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>TO THE MEMORY OF<br/>MY BELOVED FATHER<br/>WILLIAM PITCAIRN ESQ<br/>SON OF PROVOST JOHN PITCAIRN<br/>OF DUNDEE<br/>OBIIT 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 1831<br/>ANNO AETATIS 68</p> <hr/> <p>HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.<br/>THIS IS GOD'S COMMAND AND<br/>WITH SORROW DO I MOURN<br/>THE MELANCHOLY OCCASION<br/>WHICH RENDERS ME<br/>UNABLE LONGER<br/>TO OBEY HIS<br/>LAW</p> <p>JAVA 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 1832                      JOHN PITCAIRN</p> <p>IN MEMORY OF<br/>MY BELOVED UNCLE<br/>JOHN PITCAIRN M.D.<br/>WHO DIED AT JAVA AUGUST 1840<br/>IN THE 40<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE<br/>Jesus said unto thou, I am the resurrection<br/>and the life, he that believeth in me<br/>though he were dead, yet shall he live<br/>DAVID A CARNEGIE MD</p> <p>LONDON                      Retired Surgeon Major<br/>12<sup>th</sup> August 1881              Bombay Army</p> | <p>NO 4 ATHOLL PLACE    15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1843<br/>DIED HERE<br/>Mrs DALL alias JANE PITCAIRN<br/>WIFE OF ROBERT DALL ESQUIRE<br/>OF CEDAR VALLEY<br/>AGED FIFTY-ONE YEARS<br/>DEEPLY REGRETTEED BY HER HUSBAND<br/>AND ALL HER RELATIONS<br/>AND FRIENDS</p> <p>Take comfort Christians when your friends<br/>In Jesus fall asleep<br/>Their better being never ends<br/>Why then dejected weep.<br/>Why unconsolable as those<br/>To whom no hope is given<br/>Death is the messenger of peace<br/>And calls the soul to Heaven.</p> <p>TO THE MEMORY OF<br/>ROBERT DALL ESQ OF CEDAR VALLEY<br/>ISLAND OF JAMAICA<br/>WHO DIED HERE OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup> 1850<br/>AGED 62 YEARS</p> |
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There was enough information here to get me going on the Ancestry website and I soon managed to construct an interesting family tree.

William Pitcairn was indeed one of the nine children (six sons and two daughters) of John Pitcairn, Provost of Dundee 1782-84 and again 1786-88. His portrait was painted by Sir Henry Raeburn, William's mother was Jean Robertson whose father Alexander had also been Provost of Dundee 1730-31.

William Pitcairn and his wife Euphemia Chalmers also had a large family of five sons and four daughters. It is his oldest two daughters, Jane and Ann, who are featured in our windows. In 1809, Jane Pitcairn (18) married Robert Dall (21), about whose early life little is known. However, in 1815, he purchased the sugar plantation of Cedar Valley in Jamaica and the couple left their house in Edinburgh and lived in Jamaica until the early 1830s. The hard fact for us to swallow is that, over this period, Dall consistently owned over 110 slaves to work on the estate. By 1833, the

couple were back in Edinburgh living at 1 Randolph Place. By 1841, they had moved to 4 Atholl Crescent where Jane died in 1843 aged only 51. They appear to have had no children.

Meanwhile, on 19 August 1811 a marriage took place in Bombay, India, between Ann Pitcairn and David Carnegie, a minister's son from Angus. So what? - you might ask. The unusual facts are that the bridegroom was 43 and the bride only 18 – William Pitcairn seemed to be keen on marrying off his daughters very young. There seems to be a whiff of Jane Austen's contemporary novel *Pride and Prejudice* in this true story!

According to his army record, David Carnegie was born in 1754 but further research has almost certainly proved this to be wrong, the correct date being 1767. He became an army Assistant Surgeon in 1788, gaining various promotions up to Superintending Surgeon by 1814. How he came into contact with the Pitcairn family remains a mystery. After their marriage, David and Ann had three sons, John, David and Robert, but tragedy struck on 3 July 1818 when David died in Bombay, cause unknown. Ann was left a widow at the age of 24 with the sons aged 5, 4 and 8 months. She had little option but to return home to Edinburgh to her family and with their support bring up and educate her sons.

David Carnegie's will is a revealing document. Should it be necessary (which it wasn't), he appoints his wife Ann, her siblings Margaret and Alexander, and his brother Rev Alexander Carnegie as guardians for the boys. He leaves a legacy of £500 (about £50,000 in today's money) to his wife's younger sister Margaret Pitcairn "now residing in my family". Margaret would have been 21 when David died. She was probably in Bombay with her older sister to find a husband in the army or the civil service. In this she succeeded, meeting John Sandwith, a solicitor in the civil service, with whom she had seven children. The oldest of these, John Pitcairn Sandwith, rose to be a major-general in the Indian Army.

It is the middle of David Carnegie's three sons, David Alexander Carnegie, who donated the windows in St Michael's. Why would he dedicate a window partly to his aunt and her slave-owning husband, Jane and Robert Dall? The likely explanation is that, when his mother returned to Edinburgh in 1818, the Dall's house would have been vacant as, by then, they were in Jamaica. His mother was perhaps allowed to live in the house for at least 10 years whilst the boys were being educated. And his grandfather William Pitcairn (also a dedicatee of the window) was also still thriving. So perhaps the window was given in thanks for those who had been instrumental in his upbringing following his father's death. This would explain the subject matter of the window being Jesus blessing the children.

With the grave slabs being in St Cuthbert's Churchyard, we can assume that William Pitcairn, his daughter Jane and her husband Robert Dall were members there. It would also seem reasonable to assume that William's daughter Ann Carnegie with her three young sons also attended. But the interesting point is that William's slab was placed there by his youngest son John Pitcairn of Java on 19 July 1832, the year after his father's death.

John Pitcairn MD was the uncle of David A Carnegie and it states on both the window and the slab that he died in 1840 in his 40<sup>th</sup> year (i.e. born around 1800). However, the baptismal records clearly state that he was born on 9 February 1805 and baptised on 7 March 1805, making him only 35 when he died. So, in fact, he was only 9 years older than his nephew David A Carnegie MD.

The other window at the west of the south aisle would appear to be a tribute to Carnegie's teacher Prof Ballingall and his role-model uncle, John Pitcairn MD. These were the people who had been the main influences in his chosen career. This would explain the medical theme of the window being Jairus' daughter being cured by Jesus. In addition, Carnegie probably had a desire to follow the example of his surgeon father, whom he had hardly known.

It is not clear what took John Pitcairn to Java in the Dutch East Indies or why he gave up the medical profession. But he appears in 1830 as the administrator of a sugar plantation in Subang, West Java. The estate had been set up by the British but was now being run by a Dutch company. A piece of machinery called a Vacuum Pan was about to revolutionise the sugar industry and Pitcairn was the first to introduce it to Java. On 14 August 1830, he wrote to his bosses: "I am anxious to inform your excellency that a machine lately invented in England for boiling sugar by steam has been sent out to me, which will likely arrive in the course of this year. It possesses many advantages over the present mode of boiling sugar...". Local labour was being used and mercifully there is no record of slavery.

David A Carnegie followed his uncle into the medical profession and qualified with his MD at Edinburgh University in 1835. Following his father's footsteps, he immediately enlisted for the Army in India and was an Assistant Surgeon by 1837, seeing active service in Afghanistan from 1839 to 1841. He never married but rose up the ranks to Surgeon-Major by 1860. He retired in 1865 and returned to London where his mother and two brothers were now living.



David's older brother John had also enlisted in the Indian Army and risen to the rank of Major. He married Jane Scott in Bombay and they had four daughters. David's other brother Robert never seems to have left home and at some point he and his mother moved to London, probably to be near John and his family after he retired from the Army. They seem to have been comfortably well off and lived in houses around Marylebone and Kensington. Perhaps they were part of the Scottish diaspora who established St Columba's Church of Scotland in Pont Street, Knightsbridge, in 1884.

Ann Carnegie finally passed away in 1875 at the age of 81, having been a widow for 57 years but a proud mother of three sons who had all done well. In fact, she had buried her oldest son John the year before. He was only 61, leaving his widow and four daughters, all of whom eventually married. David and Robert lived on in what would seem to be considerable comfort. Robert died first in 1886, leaving £1,000 to David and the rest of his considerable estate inherited from his mother to two of his nieces (John's daughters).

David died six months later on 15 May 1887 and left an interesting Will. The main beneficiaries were various family members, but he also left legacies to his house servants, Edinburgh University, three medical charities and Inverkeillor Parish Church of Scotland in Angus where his grandfather and then his uncle had ministered over a continuous period of 81 years. This legacy was an endowment specifically to support the poor of the parish.

However, for our parish, David A Carnegie's most significant legacy was to "St Michael's Church, Merchiston, Edinburgh, the sum of £700 to be applied towards the endowment of the said church". The window at the west end of the south aisle bears Carnegie's date of death, so perhaps the legacy was used to fund the windows. However, it seems more likely that he had commissioned the windows before his death, and they were only completed and installed after he had died.

Thus ends the unexpectedly colourful history behind our two modest windows.

I was anxious to follow the family lines of David A Carnegie's four nieces down to the present day, as it would be wonderful to welcome a descendant of David A Carnegie to St Michael's and celebrate the two windows that their ancestor had given. It transpires that the youngest of

the four nieces, Edith Euphemia Carnegie, produced a considerable dynasty. Her great-great-great-granddaughter is Oonagh Fawcett Wood (b. 1991), now based in London and who is in fact the chief of Clan Wood of Largo in Fife. I am trying to make contact with her and invite her to our church. I am sure she would receive a great welcome.

**Neil Price**

## **St Michael's Film Club 2023/24**

Our season continues with three excellent British movies.

### **Keeping Mum (2005)**

On **Sunday 3 March** we're in the village of Little Wallop where the vicar, Rowan Atkinson, seems unaware of his family's problems. Comedy (rather dark) ensues with a stellar cast: Kristin Scott Thomas, Patrick Swayze and Maggie Smith among them. 'Keeping Mum' (2005) is in the tradition of Ealing Comedies and very funny. 7pm in the Church Hall.

### **'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' (2023)**

'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' tells a compassionate story of friendship, ageing and much else. It stars Jim Broadbent as Harold and Penelope Wilton as his wife. The screenplay was written by Rachel Joyce – adapting her acclaimed novel of the same name. Watch it on **Sunday 7 April at 7pm.**

### **'Local Hero' (1983)**

'Local Hero' is our final movie and a wonderful way to end the season. Following his success with 'Gregory's Girl' in 1981, Bill Forsyth wrote and directed this still relevant tale of oil and the environment in beautiful Scottish settings with the mighty Burt Lancaster meeting Fulton Mackay, cannily supported by Denis Lawson, Peter Riegert and Peter Capaldi amongst many. Soundtrack by Mark Knopfler. Just a joy! **Sunday 5 May at 7pm.**

**By Derek Wilson**

## **St Michael's Parish Church Architecture and Furnishings**

Thanks to a generous donation from the family of the late Joyce Macfarlane we were able to publish the book to celebrate 140 years of the building. A copy is available for each home and, if you have not received one, please contact any Elder or email the office.

### **Lent Appeal**

This year's Lent Appeal will support Medecins san Frontier in their efforts to deliver aid for Palestine. As always we encourage you to save your coppers throughout Lent or put aside the money you save from your Lenten sacrifice and bring the money to Church on Easter Sunday. .

**Douglas Bannantyne**

### **Who Am I?**

Contracts sealed by me,  
Wounds healed by me.

Lovers thrilled by me.  
Men killed by me.

Enemies made by me.  
Christ betrayed by me.

Lives rearranged by me.  
The World changed by me.

Who Am I?

You all know this  
I am a kiss.

**Ruth Andrews**

## **St Michael's Friendship Club**

A Picture in a book can be more evocative than 1,000 words. I remember looking at a picture of a Theorobo, the predecessor of the lute and guitar. It was a fascinating instrument. The bass strings were extremely long and open, (no fret board behind them). Apart from speculating how to play such an instrument, I was struck by the beauty of it. It seemed to belong to a bygone age of elegance and almost mythical charm.

I could not believe my luck therefore, when "Live Music Now" E-Mailed to say they were sending a Theorobo player and a singer to entertain the Friendship Club. Two young ladies arrived from Glasgow, they met at Glasgow University. The singer was French and the Theorobo player was Lithuanian. They had performed at the Usher Hall in the morning and we were their second Gig that day! How cool is that!! I was amazed at their stamina and energy. (In the unlikely event I had played at the Usher Hall in the morning, I would have spent the rest of the day lying in a dark room with a cold cloth on my head, after swallowing a couple of paracetamols!) Kristiina, the Theorobo player also played a Spanish Parlour Guitar. She played in an authentic Spanish manner and the sound was glorious, amazingly rich and full for such a small instrument. The tall Theorobo also did not disappoint. It was as heavenly as a harp and as sweet as a lute. When accompanying the Soprano, the Theorobo played an uncomplicated melody, supported by quite simple broken chords and the singer decorated the melodic line in a scholarly correct Baroque manner. Many singers with agile voices tend to show off excessively when tackling the Baroque repertoire, but Heloise did not fall into that trap. Her voice was lovely. Both artists displayed a high level of artistry, historical accuracy and expressive music making.

"Live Music Now" have never disappointed us. Earlier in the year they sent a Portuguese Guitarist and an accomplished pianist who came from the Shetland Isles. They were charming communicators. They encouraged everyone to sing along with the joyful choruses of their songs. Guitar and Piano together make an unusual ensemble. Surprisingly, it worked well and brightened up a dismal, cold day.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> a young American gentleman spoke to us about how to save money on our electricity bills. We were invited to question him about various methods of cooking and heating. He spoke about Air Fryers and Microwave Ovens. Gas boilers and cooking by gas was also discussed. Most of us complained about our bills and he was sympathetic and helpful.

Another very popular Artist who entertained our Club in November last year, was Violinist Sheila Sapcota. She brought along a drummer and her brother David Simpson accompanied her on the piano. They were a lively and entertaining Trio. I particularly liked their fresh approach and enthusiasm for Scottish Traditional Music. The tone-quality of Sheila's violin was superb and her accompanying pianist and percussionist were discreet, nicely blended and balanced. They provided another uplifting afternoon of music, good humour and fun.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, the ever popular Mr. Stuart Montgomery delighted everyone with his Piano Recital. He plays every year for the Friendship Club. This year he gave a thoughtful performance of Mozart's Sonata in B flat Major K570. He also played a selection of Schubert Songs transcribed for piano and four Chopin Waltzes. He closed his Recital with an exhilarating Performance of eight pieces from Saint-Saens "Carnival of the Animals". As always, he presented his programme in his own engaging manner. Many accolades followed, during the tea and home baking laid out in the church hall, provided by Fay Anderson and Cathy Neill. The happy faces of the audience as they left was lovely to see, unfortunately, I had left my camera at home. A picture can be more evocative than 1,000 words, but music can go so much further beyond words and conventional discourse. Describing music is difficult, a sound floating in the air can move people to tears of laughter or joy; we all just look forward to hearing more of it!

Before Easter we have interesting talks to look forward to. A lady has compiled a talk about Edinburgh's historic hospitals and another lady is going to talk about the excellent work the Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital do. We also have a speaker coming to talk about "The Water of Leith". On April 8<sup>th</sup> we have a "Daffodil Tea". There is a great deal to look forward to, including tea, biscuits and many friendly faces. In the meantime, we hope everyone will enjoy some lovely summer days and very happy holidays!.

**Ruth Andrews, President**

### **St Colm's @ St Michael's Guild**

The Guild started the year with an inspirational talk from the Rev David Swan from the chaplaincy at HMP Saughton. He told us about the work undertaken there in rehabilitating prisoners and how he is heavily involved as an outreach worker in the charity Junction 42. This charity's name is taken from Isaiah Chapter 42 and exists to see offenders and their

communities transformed by hope, as the chapter says in verse 7 ... 'I the Lord have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness'. David's faith shone like a beacon and his talk sat well with our theme 'new wine in new wineskins', people being transformed.

We have heard from Sarah Bennett from Friends of Saughton Park and, although very local, we were unaware of all that took place. Sarah explained the history of the park and all the activities that now take place there. It is certainly worth a visit, even for a walk and a coffee, as a new café is now open.

Mr Eric Melvin, a well-known speaker at the Guild, spoke to us on the history and ancestry of Duncan Napier, the well-known Edinburgh herbalist. Eric is coming back to speak to us on 21 February about his visit to Japan. The wall screen we put in is certainly being well used as most speakers now illustrate their talks with film.

Another two meetings are scheduled for March and our Business meeting on 3 April ends this session which has been ably convened by Cathie Neill. We hope to have one or two summer meetings and maybe an outing to the 5 Sisters Zoo.

We are coming to the end of the 3 year strategy 'Look Forward in Faith' and the new strategy from 2024 – 2027 is to be 'Let us Build a House' with the following themes: 2024/5, Sure Foundations, 2025/6, Living Stones, 2026/7, Beyond the Walls. The next few years will be challenging as we unite congregations and Guilds so this new strategy allows us to focus on our faith and the people and events who have shaped it. To date the amount raised by the six Guild projects totals £367,453.13. A splendid sum! New projects will be chosen in line with the new strategy.

Please hold the Guild conveners Fay and Cathie, Treasurer Pat (currently unwell), Secretary Catherine and committee members in your prayers.

Many changes are afoot for Church and Guild but the Motto remains the same 'Whose we are and Whom we Serve'.

**Fay Anderson, Co-Convenor**

## World Day of Prayer (WDP)

**Local Service: Friday 1 March 2024 in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place at 11.30 am**

The World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement inspired by the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action'. This international movement began more than 100 years ago when it was known as the Women's World Day of Prayer. The services were, and still are, written by women of Christian Faiths from countries all over the world. In Scotland services have been held since 1930 and, over time, the title changed to World Day of Prayer, although some countries still keep the word 'women's'. In certain places it is still the only occasion when some denominations join in ecumenical worship. It always takes place worldwide on the first Friday in March.

This year the Service has been written by the Christian women of Palestine with their chosen theme – 'I Beg You ... Bear With One Another In Love', based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This Service was developed entirely in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and was written, produced and printed before the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza. A bible study, based on the theme, was also written in preparation for the Service and our Minister, Andrea Price, led an Edinburgh group in that study last month. It was, for all present, a very moving and spiritual morning. Thank you Andrea.

Last year, again before the conflict, St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Palmerston Place offered to hold a service to include the city centre Churches and those fairly close. Our WDP ecumenical grouping of St Michael's, Polwarth, St Martin's Episcopal, St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic and Gorgie with Palmerston Place fall broadly into this category. Other city Churches will join in too and, of course, everyone is welcome to the Service whether a church member or not. The service takes place at **St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on Friday 1 March at 11.30 am**. Refreshments will be served in the Walpole Hall (in Cathedral grounds) where Palestine handcrafts will be on sale from Hadeel. Many Churches in Edinburgh will be holding Services and a list of them can be found on the WDP website: [wdpscotland.org.uk](http://wdpscotland.org.uk)

Given the sensitivities surrounding Palestine and Israel the Cathedral wish to stress that this is not a political event and that no flags will be allowed.

Looking to the future the WDP Service in 2025 is being written by the Christian women of the Cook Islands with the theme 'I Made You Wonderful'.

**Fay Anderson**

### **Church House Chatter**

With the recent seemingly neverending news about yet more 'named' storms approaching it made me think how things have changed since I was a child. When we used to call it 'a bit windy' or at worst 'blowing a gale' and the only advice you would get (from your mum!) when walking to school was to walk close to the buildings rather than the kerb to lessen the risk being blown on to the road.

Thankfully I no longer need to wear a duffle coat (remember that 'wet dog' smell?) but have progressed to a warm 'duvet' coat with a hood. Change may be inevitable but sometimes it really is for the best!



**Fiona Lunn, Editor**

### **Changes to the Church Family**

**New Member:** Ramya Devadoss, January 2024



## **Easter Eggstravaganza (Enjoy the extra activity pages)**

**1. What type of bun do we traditionally eat at Easter?**

Answer: Hot cross buns

**2. What are eggs a symbol of?**

Answer: Eggs represent new life

**3. Which is the world's most popular chocolate egg?**

Answer: Cadbury's Creme Egg

**4. What yummy treat do we make on Shrove Tuesday?**

Answer: Pancakes!

**5. Instead of the Easter bunny, some countries have a different animal delivering eggs. Guess which animal delivers eggs in Switzerland?**

Answer: An Easter Cuckoo (bird)

**6. What day of the week is Easter usually celebrated on?**

Answer: Sunday

**7. Easter comes after a 40-day period known as ...?**

Answer: Lent

**8. What's the day before Good Friday called?**

Answer: Maundy Thursday

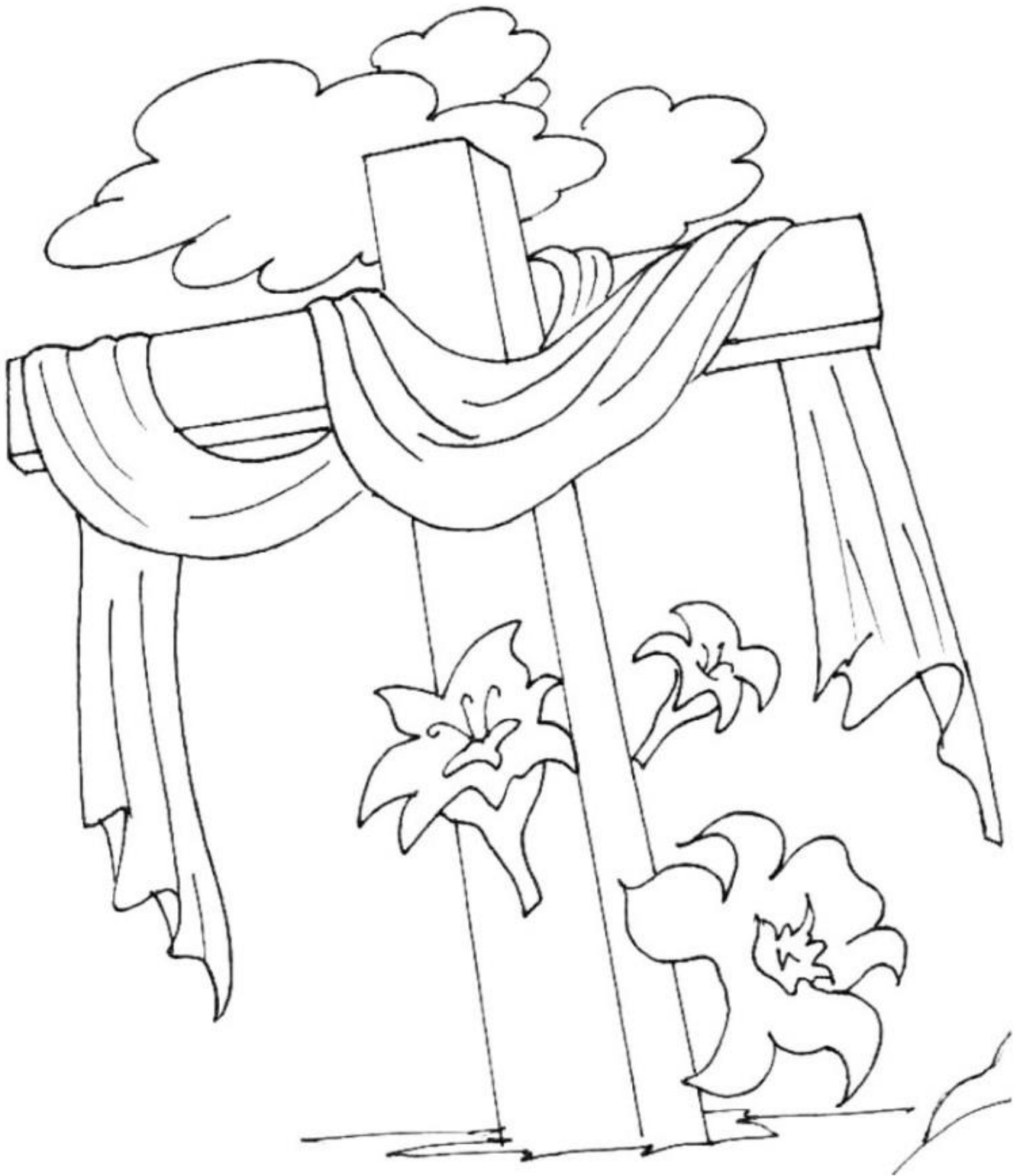
**9. How many countries around the world celebrate Easter?**

Answer: 95

**10. What type of newly hatched bird is also a symbol of Easter?**

Answer: A chick

*Good Friday is a day of  
sacrifice by Lord Jesus*



# Jesus Rises Up

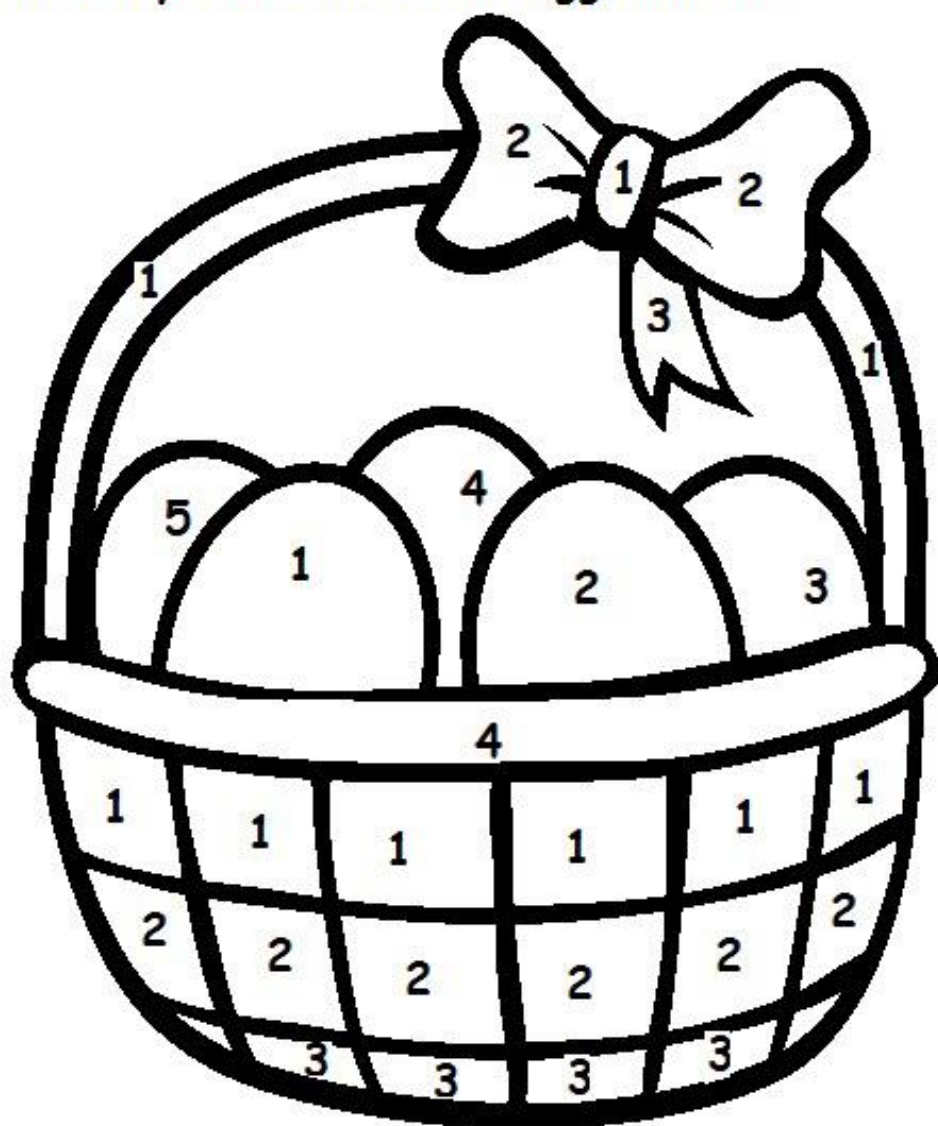
(John 20)

After Jesus died on the cross, His body was put inside a tomb. A heavy stone was placed in front of the opening. When Mary Magdalene went to His tomb, she saw that the stone had been rolled away. Jesus was not there!

Find the path that takes Mary to the tomb.



Color by number easter egg basket.



1-blue 2-yellow 3-green 4-red 5-  
pink