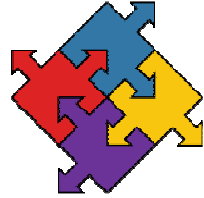


# The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh  
*Living in the Way of Jesus*



Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Dr Jared W Hay



## Jared's Napkin Scribbles

### ***Summer holidays in Bella Italia***

Jane, Ian, Angus (Ian's friend) and I had a good time in Italy at Lake Garda last July – the scenery was stunning, and the weather was both beautiful and dramatic with sun, lightning and hailstones the size of marbles (no exaggeration!). We visited Milan and saw my friend Bishop Ambrose, who lived in the fourth century – we literally saw him, as his skeleton is on display in a crypt, dressed in his Bishop's robes.

Ambrose lived at a time, after the Edict of Milan in AD 313, when Christianity was moving from being tolerated in the Roman Empire to being promoted by the governing authorities. So began the era known as Christendom, when the Church was given many privileges and, unless one opted out, everyone was considered a Christian. For the last hundred years or so, the Christendom era has been ebbing away and the Church is having to make its own way in the world which, in my view, is a good thing. But it means we need to look around us with different eyes, and think of our mission from a different perspective. Meeting Ambrose brought home the challenge of that task.

### ***Callum Weir: 21/06/06 – 16/08/11***

After a long and difficult battle with Ewing's Sarcoma, our young friend Callum Weir died peacefully on 16 August while still on holiday in Scotland. His funeral on 23 August was a memorable

celebration of his joy in life and his young, but deep, faith and hope in Jesus. There were many tears and smiles as we remembered Callum, with his sister Hannah taking a prominent role in helping us remember. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Alison, David and Hannah, as they grieve this great loss. Their courage and faith have been an example to us all, and we wish them every blessing as they await the arrival of 'Tiddler' sometime soon.

### ***Sunday Morning Studies – September to Advent***

Between September and Advent, with one or two exceptions, our main reflections will be on the Letter of James under the title Living Wisely. This short letter has had a bad press from some big names, like Martin Luther, but when we read it on its own terms, as the letter of a Christian leader on some basic practicalities of life, it fundamentally challenges the un-wisdom of so much of today's world. James presents us with an alternative ethic based on the teaching of Jesus and faith in him.

I'm sure we'll find this short book instructive and I'd encourage you to sit down and read it straight through several times so that you will grasp the flow of thought and be able to engage fully with the Sunday reflections and their implications for us.

### ***Fabric Developments – update***

The redecoration work has been continuing over the course of the summer and, from the little of the walls we've been able to see through the scaffolding, the colours work well and the sanctuary looks good. But (and, as they say, it's a BIG BUT!), while the architect was inspecting beams on the North side, an outbreak of dry rot was discovered. As we go to press, we await a full report on this and an estimate of the cost of repair. Two things are certain: it will be messy and expensive.

Rather than interrupt the redecoration work, which would have been prohibitively expensive, it was decided to complete it and then deal with the dry rot by trying to confine the mess as much as possible. Now, we have time to draw breath and consider how we will approach these problems in a way that takes into account our plans to develop the Lounge in ways that assist our mission. It is important that the whole congregation is involved in this discussion so that, when we make our decisions at a Congregational Meeting, a lot of thinking and praying will already have taken place. For this reason,

the Kirk Session is setting up a Congregational Conference.

### ***Special Congregational Conference – 24 September***

The Conference will take place on 24 September, with sessions being held both morning and afternoon, concluding with a celebration of Communion. Full details, including venue, are still being worked out, but I want to emphasise that this opportunity to reflect together will be a significant step in seeking a way forward for us in what are very disappointing circumstances. However, there is no way round dry rot, and we mustn't seek to avoid our missional call. We need to face both things head on and ask for God's help to move forward.

A pre-conference paper will be produced and circulated, and Praise and Prayer on 15 September will be specially concentrating on these issues, seeking God's guidance and help. Only God can give us the wisdom that we need to cope and, as James (1:5) says, 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.'

### ***New Organist – Robert Kimmitt***

Over recent years, we have been blessed by God at times when we have needed an organist/musician to lead the music for us in our worship. In response to our advert with the Edinburgh Society of Organists' website, Robert Kimmitt applied for our present vacancy, was interviewed and auditioned, and I'm delighted to say that the Kirk Session decided to appoint Robert as our organist from October. We look forward to his arrival and working with him in the coming days. Robert is a medical student who has experience as an organist with his home church in central Scotland. I'm sure you will give him a warm welcome.

### ***9/11 – Newington Churches Together***

It is hard to believe that it is ten years since we saw the planes crash into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and other places. Much has happened since then and foreign and military policies are still being shaped by the events of that day. There is good reason for marking this day, as Newington Churches Together will do at St Peter's in Luton Place, not only to remember with sorrow those who died, but to pray for peace and to reach across the religious divides of our land with the hand of friendship and reconciliation. The event begins at 1.30pm so please come if you can and 'stand shoulder to

shoulder' with those who died and those who live.

***Finally...***

Over the summer I have been added to the list of Honorary Chaplains for Edinburgh University and the Kirk Session has considered that I should spend around 20% of my time on this work as it comprises one of the major elements of our Reviewable Tenure. Please pray for me as I begin this new area of ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Jared.

## WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

### SEPTEMBER

Thursday	1	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	4	1030	All-age Communion Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Thursday	8		Home Groups
Sunday	11	1030	All-age Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i> <i>with Ethel Marsh of The Gideons</i>
Tuesday	13	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	15	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	18	1030	All-age Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Thursday	22		Home Groups
Saturday	24		Congregational Conference <i>(watch 'Connections' for details)</i>
Sunday	25	1030	All-age Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i> <i>with Rev George and Mrs Margaret Shand, from Jerusalem</i>
Thursday	29	1930	Praise and Prayer

# OCTOBER

Saturday	1	1000	Coffee Morning
Sunday	2	1000	<b>GodSpace Harvest Breakfast</b>
		1100	Harvest Service for all ages, with communion
Thursday	6		Home Groups
Sunday	9	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service
Tuesday	11	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	13	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	16	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service
Thursday	20		Home Groups
Sunday	23	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service
Thursday	27	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	30	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service

# NOVEMBER

Thursday	3		Home Groups
Saturday	5	1000	Coffee Morning
Sunday	6	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Communion Service
Thursday	10	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	13	1000	Remembrance Service at church
		1045	Community Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Prestonfield Avenue
Thursday	17		Home Groups
Sunday	20	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service
Thursday	24	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	27	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Advent Sunday Morning Service
Tuesday	29	1930	Kirk Session

# DECEMBER

Thursday	1		Home Groups
Saturday	3	1000	Coffee Morning
Sunday	4	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Communion Service <i>including the bringing of gifts which will be donated to the Prison Chaplaincy for distribution to the children of prisoners at Christmas.</i>

## WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

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## ~ SNIPPETS from the KIRK SESSION ~

7 June 2011

### Ministry to Students

Jared had now been invited to join the Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Team as an Honorary Church of Scotland Chaplain. The Kirk Session was very supportive of Jared accepting the invitation, given the convergence with the church's priorities and the terms of reviewable tenure.

### A Plan for Presbytery 2012 - 2022

A copy of the draft Plan had been copied to all elders for consideration. It was agreed to have a special meeting of the Kirk Session on Tuesday 23 August to consider the document and agree a response.

### Refurbishment

Norman Henderson explained that discussions had been concluded satisfactorily with the lowest tenderer and the Refurbishment Group now recommended acceptance of the tender, subject to finance being available.

The Finance Group confirmed that funds were available and recommended that the tender could be accepted and the project be progressed.

The Kirk Session approved;

1. That the £10,000 loan from the General Trustees be accepted.

2. That interest free loans from members of the congregation, totalling £14,000, be accepted.
3. That the tender from H Muirhead & Son Ltd be accepted.
4. That a Gift Day would be held in October 2011.

#### 35<sup>th</sup> Blackford Scout Group

Jim Kirk reported that he had attended the recent Scout Group Annual General Meeting. The group now had fifty boys in its constituent groups; 20 Beavers, 19 Cub Scouts and 11 Scouts. The Group thanked the congregation for its support.

#### Internal Ministry

Following the introduction of a communion service on the first Sunday of each month, the Session agreed that the time of supported prayer after the morning service be moved to the second Sunday of each month.

#### Fabric

Ian Williams reported that there was a continuing problem with dampness in the Church Officer's flat. The session approved remedial action.

#### Organist

The Clerk reported the resignation of Eun-A Kim. This was because her husband, SungKuk Kim, is to begin a one year exchange at the University in Tübingen in Germany. The family would be leaving Edinburgh in late July.

## *23 August 2011*

Special meeting to discuss 'A Plan for Presbytery 2012 - 2022'.

## *13 September 2011*

Next Ordinary meeting of the Kirk Session.

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### **~ Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal 2011 ~**

No, it's not that time again yet but it is time for a little advance notice:

**The dates for this year's Appeal are Monday 7th to Friday 19th November;** please put them in your diary, write them on your wall calendar, tell your friends and then plan some time in your own schedule to help us sort once again. THANK YOU!

*Norman Weibye, Craigmillar Park Church*



Remembering

9/11

A CHANCE TO  
pause, reflect & express  
our hope for a peaceful world

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September @ 1.30 pm

in the garden of:

St Peter's Episcopal Church • Lutton Place  
(off South Clerk Street)



You are warmly invited to join us on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **9/11**, for a simple event in the garden of St Peter's.

This short, multi-faith event includes:

- ✚ short reflections by representatives of different faith communities;
- ✚ readings by Ian Murray, MP and Jim Eadie, MSP
- ✚ a time of silence
- ✚ reflective music
- ✚ the opportunity for each participant to tie a ribbon to symbolise hope

**Please gather from 1.15pm for 1.30pm start.**

**Refreshments are available afterwards in St Peter's Church Hall**

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Organised by **St Peter's Community Outreach Group**, on behalf of **Newington Churches Together**

## ~ A Message from the Treasurers ~

We are very grateful that the cost of the redecoration of the sanctuary has been largely met, thanks to a grant and loan from the General Trustees and generous gifts and loans from members of the congregation. The position regarding eradication of the recently discovered dry rot is as yet uncertain.

Amid all this additional expenditure, we must not forget the day-to-day work of the church at Priestfield. Income from offerings for the first half of the year stands at £30,074 including Gift Aid, which is only a little below budget. However, try as we might to keep building costs down, expenditure is higher than expected to date, at £39,939.

As a church, we ask every member of the congregation to review his and her giving on a regular basis, in response to God's goodness to us all. Please continue to pray about your regular contribution to God's work in our church and in our community and respond as you are able.

*Fiona Ferguson  
Andrew Steven*

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## STUDENTS AT PRIESTFIELD

Our banners will be up again, advertising our welcome to students. We will also be distributing our free funbags, containing stationery items and information about ourselves on a bookmark, outside the Freshers' Fair in the Pleasance. Following their successful reception last year, we have more than doubled the number of bags to 500!

Kirsty, Andrew and others are going along to the Church Search in George Square on the first few Sundays of the new session, starting on 11 September, inviting freshers along to our service and sharing a lunch with them afterwards in the Blue Room. With a varied programme now arranged, student lunches are set to continue to be the focus of our student group and we hope to build upon the nucleus of students with us from the past year. As many of you have

a student living near you, please take one or two of our bookmarks to give to them and their friends.

Jared has been appointed as an honorary assistant chaplain at Edinburgh University. This new role dovetails neatly into our mission to students, as set out in the terms of the Presbytery's Five Year Reviewable Tenure.

## PRAYER POINTS -

- Pray for the freshers as they arrive and study in Edinburgh, many living away from home for the first time.
- Pray for the international students and their families as they settle into life here and adapt to the culture shock.
- Pray for Christian students, that they can continue to follow Jesus in a new environment.
- Pray that all returning students, wherever they come from, will hear the Good News and that we will be part of spreading it.
- Pray for those students who became part of our fellowship, that they will return to Priestfield.
- Pray for Jared as he takes up his new chaplaincy position and the opportunities it may offer.

*June Henderson*

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## ~ CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE ~ Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011

We, at Priestfield, face a lot of change, with all the uncertainty that change brings. Before we've even finished the redecoration of the church, we discover dry rot. We have the terms of our Reviewable Tenure, as well as the emerging Presbytery Plan, with the uncertainties and challenges that presents. And we must not lose sight of our call and commitment to mission and service to our local community.

How do all these things fit together? How should we respond to them as individuals and as a congregation?

To help us all discover the way forward we're having a conference on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. This conference isn't just for elders, or

for those who like doing that sort of thing. It's for everyone with an interest in Priestfield; elder, member or friend.

We'll have Fiona Tweedie with us to help us look at and understand our community better. We'll get an update on our building and think about how it can be best used for mission. And we'll start developing a plan for us and the building as we look ahead.

So, the thinking at the conference will help to shape our future at Priestfield, and will prepare us for when we have to make important formal decisions later.

Do put 24<sup>th</sup> September in your diaries - be part of building our future!

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*Fiona Tweedie, who has been on placement with us at Priestfield for the past year while she completed her training, recently successfully completed her Final Review and will shortly be ordained to the Ordained Local Ministry. She shares some final thoughts ...*

We've been hearing over the last few weeks about the story of Jonah – a reluctant prophet who cared more about the vine that sheltered him overnight than the thousands of people in Nineveh. While the text may be parable or parody rather than literal truth, we do learn from it that God cares about all people in the world, including those in the whole city of Nineveh, not just those in Israel, as then, or in the church today.

All the Presbyteries in the Church of Scotland are being asked to reduce the number of ministries paid for by the central church, or “121”. In Edinburgh we're trying to look at how to minister to the whole city, taking the communities as our starting point. We're asking “How can we reach the City of Edinburgh with the gospel?” and then about the congregations of the Church of Scotland that make up the Presbytery.

So, how do we find out about our City?

- ⤴ One way is through research – maps, information, Census results.
- ⤴ Another way is through finding out who else cares about the area – health care workers, schools, community centres.
- ⤴ Asking people what they think about God, the church, what the church might be able to do in the community.
- ⤴ Just being in the community is vitally important, using local facilities, chatting to shopkeepers – being part of the area we get to know people's concerns, worries, joys.

There are many ways of finding out what makes a community tick – and all are important, showing different facets of life in an area.

We have to balance these with following God's call on us in the area – where is the Holy Spirit already preparing the way? We are to “rise up” like Jonah, and follow the call of God, but we also need to be listening out for God's word coming to us. Once we hear it, can we answer Him in the correct way, going to our “Nineveh”, or fleeing to our “Tarshish”? Let's pray that together we can listen to our communities, and to God, and respond to that, bringing the people in the parish, for whom Christ died, as much as he died for each of us, to know Him.

You might like to use this prayer by James Curry to pray for the communities in our parish:

*God of the Streets*

God of the streets,  
of our own street,  
of every street;  
comforting us in the pain that living brings,  
celebrating with us our times of joy and exhilaration,  
confronting us in our confusion and in our certainty.

God of the streets,  
of our own street,  
of every street,  
walk with us through this Autumn time,  
in every street,  
in every town. Amen

## *Prayer and Meditation ~*

### **Getting out of a spiritual slump**



“AS SOON AS THEY BEGAN SINGING...”

*2 Chronicles 20:22*

Here's a simple but effective formula for handling a spiritual slump.

#### **Praise your way out!**

David starts Psalm 22 by asking, 'God, why have You forsaken me?' and ends it saying, '...You... dwell... [where]... praises... [are offered]' (*Psalm 22:3 AMP*).

You won't always feel like praising God - that's why it's called '...the sacrifice of praise...' (*Hebrews 13:15*).

But when you're in a slump you need the discipline of praise more than ever. It brings a sense of God's power and presence like nothing else does.

That's why the Psalmist wrote,

'I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise  
shall continually be in my mouth.'

*Psalm 34:1*

**By praising God in advance for the victory, you open a channel for Him to intervene in your circumstances, hope rises in your soul, and it's impossible to stay down and defeated.**

And praise fits every personality, so you've no excuse!

You can clap and shout (*Psalm 47:1*), use music and dance (*Psalm 150:4*), sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (*Ephesians 5:19-20*), make a joyful noise (*Psalm 98:4*), lift your hands (*Psalm 134:2*), be still before God (*Psalm 4:3-5*), and you can even be loud! (*Psalm 33:3, 95:1-6*).

#### **Your praises thwart the enemy's best-laid plan!**

When the Israelites were outnumbered, they prayed and God told them the battle was His and that He would do the fighting. Judah (which means 'praise') went out ahead of the army, and 'As soon as they began singing, the Lord confused the enemy... and... they turned against each other'.

**The minute you start praising God  
He releases His power to start working on your behalf.**

## ~ MISSION PARTNERS ~

*On 25 September, our Mission Partners, **Rev George and Mrs Margaret Shand**, will share in our service. Our congregation's links with George and Margaret go back to early 2009, when they moved from Scotland to Jerusalem, so that George could take up his new post as minister of St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem, with St Andrew's Church, Tiberias. All letters received from our Mission Partners are posted on the notice board in the church Lounge to encourage us to remember them in prayer. The following excerpts are from their most recent letter, dated July 2011:*



Dear Friends

### *INTRODUCTION*

We are excited about coming home for holidays and our deputation in September. But we are currently busy with a number of visitors closely connected with the Church.

We will be back in Scotland on deputation during September – in Moray Presbytery from 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, and then Edinburgh Presbytery from 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September. We are really looking forward to meeting 'face to face' with so many of the people who have been faithful and interesting correspondents over these last two years.

### *CHURCH NEWS*

#### *Family Service*

Erica Wishart is our Ministry student from Trinity College in Glasgow who is working with us for her summer placement. Erica's first Sunday with us was a Family Service, on Pentecost Sunday. We have all-age family services every six weeks. They are an important focal point for our widely dispersed congregation. During the service we quoted words by Rev John Harvey. "We believe in God's son amongst us, sowing the seed of life's renewal," (The words come from 'Fire and Bread' Iona books 2006) This became a theme for us over the Pentecost season, bringing with it the hope for renewal and peace.

## *A day out – Oasis for Peace*

Our Church of Scotland Mission Partners work in different parts of the country – Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Tiberias. We rarely have the opportunity to all meet and relax together. We finally managed to set a date for the last Saturday of June.



Neve Shalom is the village's Hebrew name. In Arabic it is Wahat Al-Salam. Translated, this means, 'Oasis of Peace'. The village was founded in 1970 when a group of twenty families (Jewish and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel) leased a piece of

land from the local Latroun trappist monastery, and created a community that would also engage in educational work for peace, equality and understanding between the two peoples. In the village there is a School for Peace, a Guesthouse, a Pluralistic Spirituality Centre, a swimming pool and a café.

Our engagement with the village on that day was entirely social and focused on the wonderfully hospitable 'Ahlan Café and Craft Shop', and the swimming pool. The café was our meeting place for lunch, but for the rest of the day the families with children found the swimming pool suited their needs best and the others, self included, visited the Mony winery and spent some time at the Latroun monastery. It really was an Oasis for peace and refreshment.

## *VISITS*

The area of disability is very significant for me. Before returning to parish ministry, I spent 10 years as manager of a disability project in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Over the past few months we have visited several projects that are committed to supporting the most vulnerable people and helping them find their rightful place in society.

## *Café Kapish*

The Café is in the Nalag'at Centre in one of the many converted warehouses in the Old Dock area at Jaffa. The café is staffed by deaf waiters and lunch was a very interesting experience for Erica, our Ministry student, and myself. It turned out that Erica has been involved in projects with deaf people in Scotland and was able to have a 'chat' with the waiter in British Sign Language. In the evening the café also organises 'Blackout' where diners eat in total darkness, served by blind waiters. What an excellent model of integration, and how enterprising.

## *Ma'an Lil-Hayat*

This is a project of the L'Arche community of Bethlehem where people with significant learning difficulties make beautiful wool felt products such as Peace Doves and Holy Family Grotto scenes. Their work is becoming more well-known in Scotland thanks to the promotion of their Peace Doves at this year's General Assembly of the Church of Scotland – as a way of 'investing in peace'. I have visited the Ma'an Lil-Hayat project several times with small groups of people. The project is very happy to have visitors and to take time to demonstrate how the wool felt products are made.



On our last visit, we found out that one of the young workers, Ashraf, had been badly bruised after a beating from a group of Israeli army soldiers. There are more details about this on my blog. Ashraf was mindlessly and violently dragged into the situation of conflict here, but it is the sort of experience that many vulnerable people in the world know only too well. Despite his terrible ordeal, Ashraf was back at his place at the project, making Peace Doves and, in his own way, continuing to 'Invest in Peace'.

## *Atfaluna Society*

We visited the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (Atfaluna means 'our children') in Gaza City in early July. The centre provides services for deaf and hard of hearing children from all over the Gaza Strip and when it opened in 1992 it was the first such school in Gaza – and the model for all others since. Deafness was considered in many families to be a mental disability and children grew up without any way to communicate. They had no education, and no prospects

for employment or living a full life. The founders took on the huge task of developing a completely new service for deaf people, which also included a considerable amount of work changing attitudes in the community.

Their services begin at an early age, and emphasise learning to communicate. A traditional school programme is run alongside sensory training. More than 90% of the children come from very poor families and a hot meal is part of every day.

After graduating from school, many of the deaf youngsters join Atfaluna's vocational training programmes in wood-working, ceramics and embroidery. The products are sold in the Fair Trade shop in their centre, and many can be found in shops like our own Sunbula at St Andrews. Or the Ha'deel shop in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, there are many barriers to getting the products out of Gaza, and this makes exporting difficult. This was an inspiring visit to Atfaluna in Gaza.

### *CONCLUDING THOUGHTS*

It is always a privilege to visit the projects here and show the support of the Church of Scotland for all those people who every day are sowing seeds of life's renewal.

Grace and peace to you all, from Jerusalem.

*George and Margaret.*

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## THE GUILD

# **“Thanking God for His creation!”**

The Guild discussion topic for Session 2011/12 is entitled: ‘**Thanking God for His creation**’, reminding us that God created the world. When we sing the first line of one of our best known and best loved hymns, ‘Lord of Creation’, we are therefore acknowledging God as Creator of our world, and it surely follows that we should also thank Him for the wonders of Creation. Many questions are raised today about our stewardship of the world and ideas are put forward about what we can, and should be, doing to ensure that following generations will continue to care about what is

happening in scientific and medical development. The Psalmist also reminds us in Psalm 115 "... but the earth He has given to man". What a gift, and what a responsibility! Do we care enough about Creation not to take it for granted? Let us walk with humility rather than arrogance through God's good creation so that we, and all who come after us, remain good stewards of this earth which has been entrusted to our care. Let us remember the words spoken many years ago by the American Evangelist, Billy Graham - "The growing possibility of our destroying ourselves and the world with our own neglect and excess is tragic and very real" - words which are still so very relevant to us today.

*Lord of creation, to you be all praise!  
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!  
Your glory and power are beyond us to tell,  
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.*

Details of the syllabus for 2011/2012 are as follows:-

### October 2011

- |    |                            |                                   |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11 | <u>Theme</u> :-            | "Called to walk humbly with God". |
|    | <u>Discussion Topic</u> :- | "Thanking God for His Creation".  |
| 25 | Mr Ian McDougall:-         | "The Great Escape".               |

### November 2011

- |    |                                |  |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 8  | Ms Margaret Tooth:-            | "The Work of Blythswood Care"<br>(Shoobox Appeal). |
| 22 | Ms Millie Gray, Story Teller:- | "Tales from A Leith Now<br>Long Gone".             |

### December 2011

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 6  | Rev Dr Harriet Harris, Chaplain, University of Edinburgh |  |
| 13 | Christmas evening.                                       |  |

### January 2012

- |    |                    |                     |
|----|--------------------|---------------------|
| 10 | Mr Sandy Cleland:- | Nature Photography. |
| 24 | Mr Eric Melvin:-   | "Trip to Malawi".   |

### February 2012

- |    |                    |                                |
|----|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7  | Rev Dr Jared Hay:- | 'In Search of a Way'.          |
| 21 | Mrs Jane Hay:-     | 'Life as a Government Lawyer'. |

March 2012

6 Mr Phil Barnes:- 'What Goes Up, Must Come Down'.  
20 AGM

Meetings begin on 11 October. All our meetings are held on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the upstairs hall. A copy of our printed syllabus will be put on the notice-board in the Church Lounge. Our meetings are always open to members of the congregation and friends. If you would like to join us at any of our meetings, do come along. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Mary McKendrick

---oooOOOooo---

*Prayer and Meditation ~*

**Living without regret**



“...THAT I MAY FINISH MY RACE WITH JOY...”

*Acts 20:24*

Imagine your life is over and you're standing in front of a big DVD player. God inserts a disc with your name on it labelled 'What might have been'.

It details everything He wanted to accomplish through you:

- How He wanted to bless you financially, *but* you were afraid to sow into His kingdom and be generous with others;
- how He wanted to use your gifts, *but* you lacked the discipline to develop them and the courage to use them;
- how He gave you great relationships, *but* you weren't truthful and loving enough to maintain them;
- how He longed to reproduce in you the character of Christ, *but* you refused to deal with your sin, resist temptation, and pursue spiritual growth.

The poet said, '*Of all the sad words of tongue or pen,  
the saddest are these - it might have been.*'

**But there's a bright side.**

As long as you're still breathing,  
you can close the gap between what is and what can be.

So stop and ask yourself,

'What can I do now to live without regrets later?'

Here's what:

- Start renewing your mind each day with God's Word instead of filling it with junk.
- Use your talents and your treasures to build His kingdom instead of your own.

If you do, you'll discover that God gives '...seed to the sower...'

*(2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV)*

The more seed you sow, the more seed God will give you.

And how about making time to disciple somebody?  
That way your legacy will be greater than your lifespan.

**It's not too late to become the person you might have been –  
if you're willing to start today.**

---oooOOooo---

*These daily devotional excerpts are taken from Word for the Day  
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Free issues of the daily devotional are available.*

---oooOOooo---

## OUR GOD IS A GREAT BIG GOD!

*Our God is a great big God and he holds us in his hands.  
He's higher than a skyscraper, and he's deeper than a submarine.  
He's wider than the universe, and beyond my wildest dreams.  
And he's known me and he's loved me,  
since before the world began.  
How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan.  
Our God is a great big God*

*[Jo & Nigel Hemming. Copyright © 2001 Vineyard Songs]*



# Church Flowers



## FLOWERS

## DISTRIBUTION

### SEPTEMBER

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs J Flett  
 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs N Miller  
 18<sup>th</sup> Miss N Watson  
 25<sup>th</sup> Mrs M Brownhill

Mrs P Smith  
 Mrs P Smith  
 Mrs H Douglas  
 Mrs H Douglas

### OCTOBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving  
 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Stiff  
 16<sup>th</sup> Miss M Weir  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Church Flower Fund  
 30<sup>th</sup> Mrs C Williams

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 Mrs D Cross  
 Mrs D Cross  
 Mrs S Kirk  
 Mrs S Kirk

### NOVEMBER

6<sup>th</sup> Mrs D Cross  
 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday  
 20<sup>th</sup> Mrs Jess Henderson  
 27<sup>th</sup> Mrs H Douglas

Mrs S Messer  
 -----  
 Mrs S Messer  
 Mrs I Murray

### DECEMBER

4<sup>th</sup> Miss M Robertson

Mrs I Murray

---oooOOOooo---

~ Within the Congregation ~

### DEATHS

June ~	Mr John Flett	Priestfield Road
July ~	Mr Ed Moretta	East Parkside
August ~	Callum Weir	formerly Lutton Place

‘I am the Resurrection and the Life.’