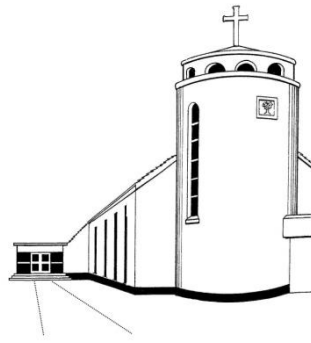


**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE
CHURCH
KIRK NEWS**

We want to keep you up-to-date with what's happening in and around the Church! Do remember that the Kirk News is not always about official stuff—we like to have funnies and things that make us laugh. Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition is Sunday 19 February 2017. I'm on holiday so please give to Alison Fairley.



**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE
PARISH CHURCH**

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am

New Month, New Worship events at 6.30pm in various venues as announced

Monthly Prayer Service as announced

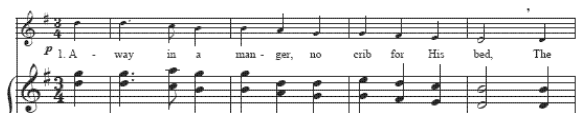
Guild – Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Over 50s – Thursdays at 2.30pm

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☆ | Christmas Services at Slateford Longstone | ☆ |
| ☆ | Dec 11 - 3.00pm | ☆ |
| ☆ | Memorial Service specially for the bereaved | ☆ |
| ☆ | Dec 18 - 10.30am | ☆ |
| ☆ | All-Age Nativity Service followed by social | ☆ |
| ☆ | Dec 24 - 11.00pm | ☆ |
| ☆ | Refreshments | ☆ |
| ☆ | 11.30pm - Watchnight Service | ☆ |
| ☆ | Dec 25 - 10.30am | ☆ |
| ☆ | Christmas Day Family Service | ☆ |

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



CAROL SINGING

Once again, we will be going Carol Singing at Sainsbury's on Saturday 10 December and Saturday 17 December from 2pm on both days.

If you would like to come along and sing with us, please see Bob and Marion Henderson for details.



Fridays from 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Nothing in December but the last Friday in January, February and March 2017

As before, the events start with activities in the hall before informal celebration worship in the church, followed by a simple meal. Messy Church is for all generations together, so the one rule is that children don't attend on their own. So come along and enjoy all that Messy Church has to offer

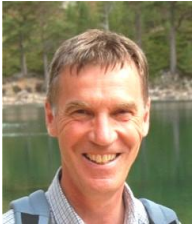
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL

We have managed an incredible 571 boxes this year which has surpassed all of our expectations. Sarah and I, along with the rest of the team would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all who made this possible.

The response we got from everyone was immense. From those who handed in a few tubes of toothpaste to those who spent days knitting and filling pencil cases along with the team who turned up every Thursday to help fill the boxes. It takes a lot of commitment from a lot of people to pull together this mammoth operation that grows each year.

Of course, each shoe box that we send away needs £3.00 towards postage. We have raised this through holding 2 coffee mornings and selling quizzes and have received many generous donations of money.

We don't yet know where the boxes are off to this year. We will get confirmation later on and I will advertise it then. Once again thank you very much for all your support. **LIN BAILLIE**



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

First of all let me thank you. Thank you for the interest, encouragement and sponsorship you gave me for my participation in the recent Cycle the Galilee Bike Ride I took part in. The aim was to raise money for a new paediatric ward at the Nazareth Hospital. So far the total amount I have brought in is just over £4000! It was a great experience, with excellent camaraderie among the 15 cyclists and support team, superb guides to help us on our way, plus fantastic Middle Eastern food - especially the dates, figs and salads, not forgetting a lunch of St Peter's fish by the Sea of Galilee. You can read more in the extracts from my diary elsewhere in Kirk News

But I want to tell you a little about Nazareth and particularly the Basilica of the Annunciation. This is a huge church, built over the site of what many believe to have been the home of the Virgin Mary, so it may be the place where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with the news that she would give birth to Jesus. Above the entrance to this church is the inscription (in Latin) which reads "The Word became flesh", a quotation from the Gospel of John affirming that the Son of God came to this world as a flesh and blood human being. Inside the church at the very spot of Mary's "home" there's another inscription - this time reading "The Word became flesh **here**". It's a staggering thought and a powerful declaration that the One born in Bethlehem was conceived in Nazareth at a real place and at a real time in human history. This is what Christmas is all about.

You may know that the Oxford Dictionaries have chosen "post-truth" as the 2016 word of the year. We live, they say, in a post-truth society and I for one think this assessment is spot on. Speaking the truth, or not, doesn't seem to matter any more. But there in Nazareth is the proclamation of **the** truth. God himself has come among us, has stepped into our human life, has become one of us - then, now and forever. This is the truth. This is our hope. This is what Christmas is all about. Enjoy!

Maggie and I wish you all God's blessing at this best season of the year.

CHURCH REGISTER

New Members

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven"

30 October Ms Carolynne Mitchell

Funerals

"I am the resurrection and the life"

7 September Mrs Sandra Davidson

22 September Mr Eddie Prosser

27 September Miss Shona Duncan

31 October Mrs Marjorie Morrison

FLOWER CALENDAR

There are lots of vacant spaces on our Flower Calendar for 2017. Perhaps you'd like to remember somebody special, a birthday, an anniversary or would just like to enhance the Sanctuary of the Church. When the service is finished on a Sunday, the flowers are then taken to members or friends who are ill, unable to be at Church or if they have a special anniversary of their own to remember. Once you've decided on a suitable date, contact Elizabeth Strong on the back of the Kirk News. She'll be delighted to hear from you!

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers I received from the Church on 14 August. They were much appreciated and a special thank you to Elizabeth for delivering them.

ISOBEL DENNIS

Douglas and I greatly appreciate the visits, flowers, cards and good wishes received during our recent difficulties. Your support has been a great encouragement to us and I am pleased to say that Douglas went back to work on Monday 19 September. Also, at long last, after many problems, the house is drying out.

CHRIS CAMPBELL

Thank you so very much for the lovely flowers I received on Sunday 11 September. Their beautiful colours really brightened my day.

BETTY BALD

A little note to thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received from the Church for keeping with the Summer Sunday Club. I really enjoyed doing it. Thank you again, a very lovely thought.

JENNIFER GILL

As Church members, we thank **YOU** Jennifer and appreciate all you did during the summer.

THE ED

Thank you for the flowers I received from the Church for my 'special birthday'. Thank you also to Alison Fairley for delivering them. It was a lovely surprise.

GLADYS BYRNE

Thank you very much for the flowers given to me by Jean Gordon on my birthday. It was a lovely surprise and the flowers were beautiful.

JEAN HOWES

Thank you very much for the flowers that were sent to me from the Church last week. They are still beautiful and much appreciated. Kind Regards.

MRS HARRIS

CYCLE THE GALILEE BIKE RIDE

Extracts from the diary of a wannabe cyclist

Monday 7 November - From our base by the Mediterranean Sea cycle a few km up the coast to Rosh Hanikra and the border with Lebanon. Then a big climb inland to 650m of hill. Nearly got lost as the back marker because 2 guys had to walk with their bikes and somebody didn't wait at a junction to point the right direction. Fortunately we guessed right about which way to go, enjoyed a great lunch then an exhilarating downhill back to our kibbutz. What goes up must come down!

Tuesday 8th - Lots and lots of climbing to Upper Galilee. Stopped for lunch at a quirky blacksmith's shop with a restaurant above. Then more climbing to Bi'ram (a ruined Arab village with an unfortunate history). It was dark by the time we reached our stop for the night. Was to share a room with an infamous snorer but there was a spare room so off he went and I was spared the snores! Total ascent today was 1700+m

Wednesday 9th - Began with a steep descent to the Hulah Valley nature reserve. Saw massive flock of migrating cranes and a coypu (big rodent which looks like a beaver). The plan was to follow the Jordan River south to the Sea of Galilee down a great track, but we were turned back by military police. So we were bussed to the Sea and our boat across to the next overnight stop

Thursday 10th - Mostly downhill! Followed the Jordan from the Sea, next to the border with the country of Jordan, then a climb to the Sachne Springs (famous biblical story of Gideon) for a nice dip. Hottest day so far of over 30°C

Friday 11th - More climbing - up to Nazareth. Great views over to Mt Tabor and the Jezreel Valley. Visited a monument to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary. What's it doing up a mountain in Galilee? Anyhow, after a total ascent during the 5 of something over 3 times up Ben Nevis, we got a great welcome from staff at the hospital and were shown round the existing paediatric ward to be given a sense of the plans for the refurbished and extended one. A fitting end to five great days

TREASURER'S REPORT Thank you to all who gave so generously on our Gift Days towards covering the costs of sanding and varnishing the Activities Hall floor. The sum of £1420.00 was raised. We were also awarded a Grant of £575.00 from Presbytery to cover the shortfall. I'm sure you will all agree that the Hall is now looking splendid.

The Session Room floor has been re-carpeted; this was funded from the legacy received last year from the family of Lottie Maurice. Unfortunately due to vandalism a window had to be replaced in the Session Room at a cost of £249.00. (This thankfully was before the new carpet was laid)

To date our voluntary income is below budget, therefore we have kept our expenditure as low as possible. At the end of October we have a surplus of £414.00.

There are no further fundraising activities for this year so our income is reliant on Congregational Offerings, donations from organisations and Hall Lets. It has been estimated that we may end the year with a small deficit, but in the hope that we will not incur any unexpected expenditure, and that our income will cover the next 2 months' expenses we may just be able to reduce any deficit. **ELIZABETH CHALMERS**

KIRK SESSION AND BOARD NEWS

Unitary Constitution Slateford Longstone is now governed by a new constitution. As agreed unanimously at the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation in March, we have now been issued with a Unitary Constitution, bringing all the responsibility for the governance of the congregation under the Kirk Session. This means that the Congregational Board has now ceased to exist. However, the aim of this new way of operating is not about concentrating power in the Kirk Session, but giving our various teams more authority to get on with their jobs. So the Pastoral Care Team, the Worship Team, the Finance Team and the Property Team remain in existence; they just don't have to report to two different bodies

every time they meet. They will simply report from time to time as required to the Kirk Session, which will have the ultimate responsibility for church life and mission. One advantage of this new constitution is not having to find so many office-bearers, a task that was becoming increasingly difficult. It also gives us more flexibility in setting up different groups to tackle various issues and hopefully will involve more, rather than less, people in the ongoing life of the congregation. It's up to us to make it work!

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL

A couple of months back, Lily Campbell introduced me to this programme on True Entertainment. The Channel varies according to the different packages you might have.

I have just watched my 40th Episode. Some folks might say it's corny but I now love it. Like any programme you've started watching, you don't yet know the characters and it takes time to feel they are part of your home! I love it and have to tell you that I have a **LARGE** box of Man-Sized Tissues at the ready.

It's clean, no smut and no bad language. It's classed as 'fantasy' which to me, is based on true life activities where angels try to help out. If you believe in God – this will touch your heart! Enjoy watching. **THE ED**

I hope I've managed to get everything in this time round. Last week, I hardly had a thing, then I was inundated with big articles. The Ed

Here's Mike on his travels. He looks really fresh and cheerful!!!!



NEW DAYLIGHT – DAILY BIBLE READINGS

An insight into what regular reading of the Bible can do for you.

For Nalda, the Daily Bible Readings are a major and essential part of her life. She keeps the book on her pillow and reads it every night because it's less busy and always more calm and leisurely.

It's Nalda's special time when she lies back and 'talks to God'. Although, she says, that she speaks to God all day and thanks Him for 'everything that I have'. More so lately when I've been so ill! I thank Him for my good family who look after me well; for friends who pop in or phone me and the carers who make sure that I'm up and about in the morning and see me right at night. All the words come to me from my Bible Readings and I know that God is listening to me all the time.

I don't manage to Church so often these days but constantly think of the good times we've had in the past and hope to get back to see you all as soon as my health will allow. **NALDA COLE**

THERE IS ALSO A LARGE PRINT VERSION WHICH IS MOST RELAXING ON THE EYES.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sitting in Church on Remembrance Sunday, my mind went back over some **Eighty Years** of such events – the grief of the 1930s, the mixed emotion of the second World War and of the many conflicts since. Much distressed I looked around me. What I saw was not the empty seats of today but Choir and Congregation of the 50 plus years I have been a member here and row upon row of friends and colleagues – those who had helped, guided and encouraged me in good times and bad – in all that life flings at you – but still the remembrance hurt.

Then the service began. Our Preacher took us through the sacrifice and suffering – the courage and fortitude of war and its aftermath which Remembrance brings back to us. Through it all there was a message of **HOPE** - hope not only for the ills of today – and they are indeed plenty – but hope for a brighter tomorrow in a spirit in which our Faith is based – our love for each other and a hope for today and for eternity.

CHRIS CAMPBELL



SLATEFORD LONGSTONE BROWNIES



Pack Holiday - The Brownies were busy and excited for 2 weekends in October! They enjoyed a Peter Pan themed weekend, which included archery and a Peter Pan pizza party. We had a Halloween party then The Edinburgh Challenge Badge we're working towards. Mary Hynd visited us to tell them what it was like when she was a Brownie and a Brown Owl at Slateford Longstone Church. The girls loved hearing the stories about polishing pennies and trying on a uniform from the 1960s. They weren't so keen on us reintroducing inspection each week though! The next clause of our badge was to learn about Foodbanks. Jean Gordon explained what it was all about and how important it was to help others. The girls all brought a tin to be donated.

November- Gang Show and this year we were very proud that two of our Brownies made it into the junior gang, Well done to Neve Crawford and Ali McGinn- 2 of the biggest smiles on stage.

Brownie Coffee Morning- Thanks to all who supported our Fundraiser and for the donations of home baking or money that was handed in. We really do appreciate the support of the members of the Church.

It's only 3 weeks(eek!!!) till the Christmas Party which signals the end of Brownies for 2016. It's been another fun and busy year! **SARAH JOHNSTON, Brown Owl**

EDINBURGH DIRECT AID had an appeal for winter clothing for Syrian refugees who were living in Lebanon, where the weather was getting very cold. Within a day of my announcing the appeal and putting a box in the church's vestibule, the box was full and I took a carload of clothing home to store. Over the following weeks I took 2 full carloads to their warehouse in Granton. On my second visit, there was a huge removal lorry packed top to bottom and side to side with boxes all set to be taken to Lebanon. I thought I was too late but was assured they were still collecting. Thanks to all who donated. Below is a picture of the lorry all set to go.



As Missionary partner to Paraic Reamon, Minister at Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem, I was delighted when he and his wife Vivien were coming to Scotland for a visit. I had been to his church on my recent visit to Jerusalem, but had not managed to speak with him.

Poraic came to and spoke at a prayer vigil at St Michael's Church which I attended, and he also visited and spoke at our New Month, New Worship meeting at the beginning of October.

In his recent blog on the Church of Scotland website, he spoke of his church's connection with Robert the Bruce which surprised me. Here is part of his blog:

The Scots poet Robert Burns wrote a song that some of you may know. It's almost a hymn to the Highlands of Scotland.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here

My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

I'm not sure my heart is in the Highlands. Last week my wife Vivien and I drove up through the West of Scotland in the spills of rain; and our hearts were very happy to arrive in Nairn where the weather was clement and dry.

But I don't want to talk about my heart or about Rabbie Burns. I want to talk about the heart of another Robert: Robert the Bruce.

The first place we visited after Edinburgh was Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders. The woman at the desk told us about the Abbey and said that, "the heart of Robert the Bruce is buried in the chapter house." The rest of his body is buried in Dunfermline Abbey. But the interesting thing for me was that Melrose Abbey wasn't where the Bruce wanted his heart to be buried. He wanted it to be buried in Jerusalem.

In St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem, there is a plaque set in the floor of the church in front of the communion table. It says: "In remembrance of the pious wish of King Robert Bruce that his heart should be buried in Jerusalem." This was the Bruce's dying wish. His friend and companion-in-arms Sir James Douglas undertook the task. Carrying Bruce's heart in a silver casket on a chain around his neck, Douglas set off from Scotland for the Holy Land. But in 1330, while travelling through Spain, he was killed in battle at Teba. Bruce's heart was returned to Scotland and buried in Melrose Abbey.

What I want to say to you is that all our hearts should be in Jerusalem – your heart and my heart – even if, like Sir James Douglas, we never get there. Why should our hearts be in Jerusalem? Because it is there, in Jerusalem, that Jesus of Nazareth died on a cross, was buried in a tomb, and rose again at Easter, to show to us in human form how much God loves us and to turn our stubborn hearts to God.

SHEILA WARD

THE GUILD



OVER 50S GROUP



The Guild meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Activities Hall. All welcome. The Leadership Team wish you a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2017.

December

- 6 Christmas Dinner
- 13 Carol Service – A Scots' Christmas (Open Evening) – All welcome

January 2017

- 10 A Magical Evening
Speaker: Rev Bill McGillivray
- 17 Playlist for Life
Speaker: Liz Wilson
- 24 Wojtek the Bear
Speaker: Alan Heriot (Sculptor)
- 31 Spires/Soirees/Studies/Success
Speaker: Rev Fiona Mathieson

February

- 7 Beijing to Gobi Desert Overland
Speaker: Fred Daniels
- 14 Swinging into the 60s
Speaker: Tom Kelly
- 21 Breaking the Cycle of FGM (Project)
Speaker: Marie Ogilvie
- 28 Cherry Blossom to Geisha
Speaker: Gordon/Helen Lobban

March

- 7 The Church in Castro's Cuba
Speaker: Carol Finlay

The Over 50s meet on a Thursday afternoon from 2.30-4pm in the Session Room.

December

- 1 Childhood Christmas Memories
Rev Bob Henderson
- 8 Carol Concert
- 15 Christmas Party

January 2017

- 5 New Year Welcome
- 12 Wheels of Fire – Rev Mike Frew
- 19 Macraes Battalion – Mr Jack Alexander
- 26 Uganda Update – Rev Dr Tom Kisitu

February

- 2 A Look at Life Part 2 – Mr Martin Pearce
- 9 The Eden Project – Mr Ian Dale
- 16 **BRING AND BUY SALE**
- 23 **TEA DANCE – Alastair and Tom**

March

- 2 Hobbies – Mr Ian Welsh
- 9 Keyboard Favourites – Mrs Marion Henderson
- 16 Salvation Army – Major Kathy Betteridge
- 23 **BEETLE DRIVE**
- 30 A Tie of Different Colour?
Rev Bob Henderson

April

- 6 Young at Heart – Mr Ian Brown
- 13 Maundy Thursday Communion
Rev Bob Henderson
- 20 I Survived OLM Training – Dr Rita Welsh
- 27 **CLOSING MEETING AND QUIZ**

A NIGHT AT THE GUILD - My sister-in-law, Elsie and myself spent an enjoyable evening at the Guild with shared fellowship, fun and laughter. The theme was Desert Island Discs. There were 4 would be castaways – Mike Frew (our own minister), Winifred Kisitu (who was with us in the Congregation last year), Helen Clayton (a former member of the Choir here) and Iain Whyte (the General Secretary of The Guild). Alison did a great job in 'interrogating' them! We heard a little about their life then Alison asked them their favourite song and why? There was a wide selection from the Mikado to Elvis Presley and Mike told a hilarious story about Return to Sender!! There were lots of funny stories told. Alison then asked what luxury item they would take with them and a cardboard cut out of George Clooney was mentioned! There was a display of photos and it was good to see and reminisce about members who are no longer with us. There was also tea, coffee and delicious cakes. Thanks to all the Guild members who made us feel so welcome. **JEAN GORDON**

DUTY ROTAS – January - March 2017

| Date | Door Duty | Date | Flowers |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Not available at time of printing. Team will be advised. | | 1 Jan | N Williamson |
| | | 8 | M Hynd |
| | | 15 | Vacant |
| | | 22 | Vacant |
| | | 29 | Vacant |
| | | 5 Feb | A Thomas |
| | | 12 | Alice Fergus |
| | | 19 | N Cole |
| | | 26 | Vacant |
| | | 5 March | J Fox |
| | | 12 | C Campbell |
| | | 19 | K Clement |
| | | 26 | M Frew |

To assist with the Church flowers either by placing in Church or helping to deliver them, please contact **Elizabeth Strong on 07745 346878** Elizabeth would like to thank all those who help in this much appreciated Ministry.

Communion Duty – January – March 2017

| | 10am Prep | 10.30am | | 10am Prep | 10.30am | | 10am Prep | 10.30am |
|-------|-----------|--|-------|-----------|--|-------|-----------|---|
| 1 Jan | B Bald | N Baillie I Brown E Chalmers M Marshall | 5 Feb | B Bald | L Baillie M Fulton B Bald M Ritchie | 5 Mar | B Bald | A Fairley J Ormiston J Gordon S Ward |

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| | | |
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