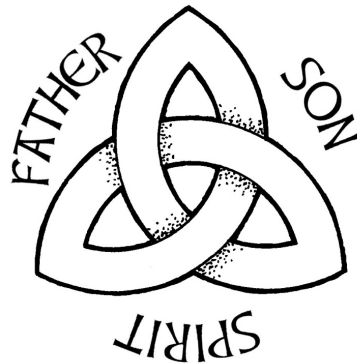


St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

Web Address: www.stnicholasedinburgh.org.uk

Congregational Magazine

JUNE 2019



Communion Sunday 23rd June 2019 at 10.30am

Officials of the Church

Minister	Rev Tom Kisitu 07931606330 Email: kisitu@btinternet.com
Session Clerk	John Wallace 44 North Gyle GroveTel: 539 0667 Email: j Wallace44@hotmail.com
Clerk to the Board	Heather Seggie heatherseggie@blueyonder.co.uk
Church Officer	Margaret Weston 124 SighthillLoanTel: 453 6045 Email: maggieweston24@hotmail.co.uk
Church Lets	Muriel Gilligan Tel: 07519725240 Email: stnicholashallhire@gmail.com
Convener of Finance	Douglas Webb Email: cdk.webb@btinternet.com
Covenant Treasure Freewill Offering	Joyce Buchanan Tel: 442 2219
Roll Keeper	Thelma Hunter Tel: 538 3154 Email: thelmahunter@virginmedia.com
Fabric Convener	Gerry Malloy Email: gerard.malloy1@virginmedia.com
Social Committee Convener	Winnie Wallace Tel: 539 0667
Presbytery Elder Youth and Flower Convener	Maureen Samuel Tel: 442 1640 Email: Maureensamuel7@hotmail.com
Weekly Notices Sheet	Winnie & John Wallace Tel: 539 0667 Email: winwallace@hotmail.com
Magazine	stnicholaschurchoffice@gmail.com Telephone 07306 100111
Communications	Winnie & John Wallace Tel: 539 0667 Email: winwallace@hotmail.com
Church Office	stnicholaschurchoffice@gmail.com Telephone 07306 100111

A note from our minister

Dear Friends,

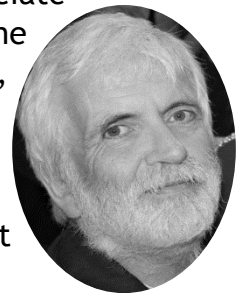
It's me again, Thomas Moore Kyegombekisitu, bringing greetings from my family. I thank you all for your prayers, encouragement and support, following the illnesses that have dogged me and my family recently. God Almighty continues to be good- all the time to my family, our congregation and community. He is good to us in many ways. I mention three:



- God is good to us as a **CHURCH IN SOUTH WEST EDINBURGH**, as we join our neighbour - Slateford Longstone Parish Church of Scotland - to celebrate the arrival of their new minister, Rev Sam Torrens. We wish Sam, his family and Slateford Longstone Church God's richest blessings in the next phase of their life and ministry.



- God is good to us as a **PARISH CHURCH**, as we give thanks for the ministry, in our parish, of Rev Stephen Manners (our volunteer associate minister). Stephen's ministry, in our parish, sadly ends in June 2019. No doubt Stephen has blessed us greatly with his time, talents and treasures. He has helped, encouraged and supported me and others in the congregation in many invaluable ways. We will be forever grateful for his ministry and engendered friendships. Join me to wish Stephen and his family God's richest blessings in the next phase of their life and ministry.



- Lastly, God is good to us as a **PARISH CHURCH**, as we edge closer to our 80th anniversary celebrations. We have come a long way and I cannot think of better words to help enrich and guide us (as we go forward together), than the reflection the Very Rev Susan Brown, the outgoing Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, shared on 18th May, during opening session of the 2019 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Susan based her reflection on the account (in Acts 3:1-10) of one of the miracles God performed through His apostles. She said,



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH
SIGHTHILL

So, every day the lame man is brought to the same spot outside the temple to beg, presumably in the hope that those going might feel inclined to be charitable, or even generous. Is the man religious? No one knows. But the assumption is that because he is outside the gate, he is not a part of the worshipping community.

Then along come Peter and John. They too, like everyone else going to the temple, are asked for help. And what do they do? The first thing they do is they notice the man and they speak to him. They do not walk on by, carefully looking the other way or pretending to be deep in conversation about something, anything. They acknowledge the man's existence. That is the first important thing to note.

Then they speak to him. Now at this point our thoughts immediately leap ahead to both the words Peter utters in verses 4-6 (*"Look at us!... Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*) and the miraculous healing of the disabled man, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. After all, this is what Pentecost is all about, that is, Jesus' followers being able to do what Jesus himself did. But if we do that, if we leap ahead straight for the man's healing, we miss another miracle that happened that day.

When Jesus' two friends stopped to speak to the man, they uttered three words; 'look at us'. They did not say this because they were worth looking at, but because they wanted the disabled man to realise that they were not different from him. Both Peter and John had been in hiding. They had no jobs anymore. They too were poor and they too had been paralysed - perhaps not physically, but emotionally. They had been paralysed by Jesus' death and by what they had assumed were the death throes of their faith in him.

So, the 'look at us' was not a looking down on the man. It was a statement of solidarity with him. It was a 'we are broken too' admission. And it was from the knowledge of their brokenness that the two disciples were able to offer help and hope and to bring about a miracle, in Jesus' name - again, not from a position of strength or power, but from weakness. This should, of course, not come as a surprise to us, given who our Lord Jesus is or what he did. But this also means that the miracles that day were twofold. The man was healed, but Jesus' friends were also made whole. They realised that their Lord could work even through them.

'Look at us'! We do not have silver or gold, Peter says. But what we do have, is faith in Jesus of Nazareth. Look at us, we do not have silver or gold. We as a church don't have unlimited resources, but what we do have, like Peter and John, is faith in Jesus - a Jesus who can and does still work miracles and who can perform miracles even through us. Let us not forget who our Lord is and what He can do.

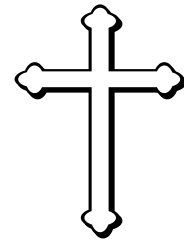
Let's keep reaching out our hands to those on the outside and, as we do, let's do so expecting to see leaping and dancing and singing as people discover what all the gold in the world can never provide, but what the healing, life-giving, liberating love of God can. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths "I am leaving the world and going to the Father"

Mrs Brown, Sighthill Gardens

Sympathy to Mrs Elizabeth Richards, 40 Parkhead Crescent. Her sister, Jeanette Harriet Proudfoot passed away at the end of February after a brave fight with MND.



FABRIC FUND

The Congregational Board would like to keep the congregation informed of the work that continues to be done to maintain the church building and the grounds. Apart from everyday maintenance one of the main tasks to be undertaken this year will be the refurbishment of the church railings and gates which are showing the effects of time and now require to have the rust removed and be repainted. The floor of the large hall also needs restored and varnished. This work was identified in a survey carried out by the Church of Scotland Headquarters in the past and the requirement for this work is essential. We would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support of the church, weekly, monthly or annually that enables this work to be done.

Ian Sutherland
Finance Team

SUNSHINE BAGS

The present total is £331. This exceeds the amount at the same time last year by £89 and continues to be greatly appreciated by the Finance Team. Thank you to all who contribute so faithfully.

Ian Sutherland and Kathleen Hogg (new recruit)
Finance Team



ST NICHOLAS NAVIGATORS & CRECHE

On the first Sunday of the month and Communion Sundays, during Rev Tom's Service and Navigators we now have a Creche for children up to 3 years old. We would ask parents or guardians to please come with the children and return to the Service once their children have settled down and are happy to be with us.

Please note there will be no Navigators in July and August owing to the summer holiday break.

Maureen Samuel



Christian AID - FORTH BRIDGE WALK

Thank you to Maureen Chamberlain and Jimmy Brown for walking with me to complete the Forth Bridge crossing. Our thanks to all who sponsored us. The final total raised for Christian Aid was an amazing **£325.00**

Anne Brown

ST NICHOLAS 80th CELEBRATION

Our Floral Art Group hope to contribute to our Celebrations. We are holding a 3 Day Flower Festival at the end of August. Date to be advised.

Maureen Samuel



CHURCH FAIR
11 MAY 2019





Editor: Tony Horsfall considers the fire at Notre Dame

God among the ruins

The tragic fire at Notre Dame Cathedral shocked the whole world. Seeing such a magnificent building engulfed in flames saddened all who saw the devastation unfold. It was a monumental blow to the nation of France. It will take years to rebuild this famous place of worship.

One striking image from the fire showed the interior of the church scorched and ruined, its art treasures lost, its contents still smouldering. But high up in the background, unbowed by the flames, stands a golden cross, brightly shining in the darkness of the surrounding debris.

Since the fire took place at Easter, it is hard not to see this picture as a parable. One Anglican vicar made this comment: ‘Notice what is left inside, untouched, after the destruction of all sorts of ‘priceless’ works of arts at Notre Dame Cathedral? The Cross. What an image for Holy Week and what a picture to describe secular Western Europe.’

As I pondered the picture it spoke to me of the abiding value of the Cross. The words of a hymn came to mind:

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

The place of worship may be destroyed, but not the God we worship. The message of the Cross, at the centre of our faith, remains a timeless, undamaged truth.

The hymn continues:

When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me, Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

Even among the ruins of our own lives the Cross stands tall, reminding us of the presence of God and His grip on our lives.

More churches than pubs

The UK now has more churches than pubs, according to new data published by the National Churches Trust.

There are around 39,000 pubs in the UK, according to the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics, with more than 11,000 pubs having closed in the UK in the last decade – a fall of almost a quarter (23%).

However, there are around 40,300 church buildings in the UK open to the public and being used for worship, according to research carried out for the National Churches Trust by the Brierley Consultancy.

The number of church buildings is also substantially higher than other key public buildings in the UK. There are currently around 14,300 supermarkets operated by grocery retailers, 11,500 post office branches, 7,500 bank branches and 3,600 public libraries.

An increasing number of churches in the UK are also becoming local ‘community hubs’, hosting children’s nurseries, senior citizen lunch clubs, concerts and exhibition venues. Some even house post-offices, GP surgeries and farmer’s markets. Around 6,000 of the UK’s approximately 32,000 polling places are located in church buildings.

READERS AT SUNDAY SERVICES

JULY 07.07.19 Rhona Ferguson 14.07.19 Winnie Wallace 21.07.19 Douglas Webb 28.07.19 John Wallace	AUGUST 04.08.19 Andrew Mackay 11.08.19 Heather Seggie 18.08.19 Ann Sutherland 25.08.19 Neil Sutherland
SEPTEMBER 01.09.19 Thelma Hunter 08.09.19 Gerry Malloy 15.09.19 Rhona Ferguson 22.09.19 Winnie Wallace 29.09.19 Douglas Webb	OCTOBER 06.10.19 John Wallace 13.10.19 Andrew Mackay 20.10.19 Heather Seggie 27.10.19 Ann Sutherland

THE CENTRE OF THE BIBLE

New King James Version Bible

Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible

Psalm 118 is in the centre of the Bible

There are 594 chapters before chapter 118

There are 594 chapters after chapter 118

$2 \times 594 = 1188$

The centre verse in the Bible is Psalm 118.8

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man”

Does this verse say something significant about God’s perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God’s perfect will for their life and they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word.

Now isn’t that odd how this worked out or was GOD in the centre of it?

Before

I saw the summer flowers on a bright and sunny day,
I heard the sound of birdsong as they fluttered on their way
I thought all this was science, only nature’s rules at play –

And that was such a shame.

I saw the stars of winter shining in a velvet sky
I knew creation’s wonders, but I never wondered ‘why?’
I thought that life was just for now and will finish when I die;

Life had no point, no gain

Before I knew your name.

I had a lot of company, of friendship I’d no lack
(I always had the feeling that they wanted something back)
Of what I spent on parties I could struggle to keep track;

My life was just a game.

I made a lot of money – I knew every business trick
I could earn it easily – I could spend it just as quick
It should have made me happy but instead it made me sick.

I lived without an aim

Before I knew your name.

I thought that church was not for me, I didn’t trust a word
I thought the things they said and did were really quite absurd!
I really thought I understood, but in fact I hadn’t heard –

I just dismissed their claim.

And then one day a truer friend came in and sat by me,
And told me things of Jesus Christ with simple clarity
Their total faith in what it meant enabled me to see

That I was most to blame

Before I knew your name.

Before my birth you came to earth because you loved me so
My sin was why you had to die but still you chose to go
To Calvary to die for me despite my sin and woe

And then you rose again.

Your triumph saved me from the grave and now from sin I’m free,
I’ve raised my gaze from my old ways and now I really see!
To live for you is what I’ll do and that eternally

And so, to live is gain

Because I know your name.

By Nigel Beeton

Right Wright

A student called ‘Wright’, so they say
Wrote ‘right’ in a wrong kind of way
His teacher, inflamed
Then loudly exclaimed

“Right Wright, write ‘right’ right, right away!”

By Nigel Beeton

To travel hopefully

Seasoned travellers, the missionary and his wife went to book reservations at the airlines counter. They humbly requested: "Two tickets to wherever our luggage is going."

With school-days in mind...

A little girl after her geography exam: "Please God make Copenhagen the capital of Japan - at least until Monday."

Miscellaneous observations

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Try Jesus. If you don't like Him, the devil will always take you back.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Crowd

The new minister, encouraged by the numbers in church for his first sermon, began: "I have never had the pleasure of preaching to such a dense crowd before."

Nun

A sister from a local convent became a certified accountant to help small shop owners manage their finances better. The title of her business? 'Nun of Your Business.'

Sins

A patient, while recovering in the hospital from a heart attack, met an over-zealous evangelist. After listening politely for over a half-hour on how thankful he should be to have been spared, and how he should repent at once, he was asked if all of his sins had flashed before his eyes during the heart attack. The patient responded, "Don't be ridiculous. The attack lasted only 6 hours."

Dictionary Definitions

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

SECRET: Something you tell one person at a time.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour-saving devices of today.

Some Clever Anagrams

Presbyterian: Best in prayer

The Decimal Point: I'm a dot in place

Eleven Plus Two: Twelve plus one

The Eyes: They see

The Morse Code: Here come the dots

All Change

This will be the last Church magazine that I will put together. Please send any articles for the October 2019 magazine onwards to the Church Office, by email if possible,



stnicholaschurchoffice@gmail.com

I take the opportunity to express a big thank you to everyone who submitted articles to me for the magazines. I send my best wishes to everyone working in the Church Office as they take on this role.

Most of all I am looking forward to receiving my copy of the Church Magazine from Heather (my Elder) in the knowledge that I haven't already read it!

Isobel

All in the month of JUNE

175 years ago, on 6th June 1844 that the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded in London.
100 years ago, on 28th June 1919 that the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Paris Peace Conference, marking the official end of the war.

90 years ago, on 12th June 1929 that Anne Frank, German Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, was born.

75 years ago, on 6th June 1944 that D-Day took place with the Normandy landings. Over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, at the start of the Battle of Normandy. The battle ended on 25th August and was an Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 8th June 1949 that George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four was published.

65 years ago, on 7th June 1954 that Alan Turing died. This British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist was noted for his contributions to codebreaking during World War II. Considered the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. Prosecuted for his homosexuality.

50 years ago, on 22nd June 1969 that Judy Garland, American actress and singer, died. Best known for her role as Dorothy in the film The Wizard of Oz. Mother of Liza Minnelli. Died of an accidental drug overdose, aged 47.

40 years ago, on 7th June 1979 that the first elections for the European Parliament were held.

30 years ago, on 5th June 1989 that the Unknown Rebel ('Tank Man') of Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China, made world headlines. He temporarily halted a column of tanks by standing in front of them on the morning after the massacre. It became one of the most iconic images of the 20th century. (There are conflicting theories about what happened to him afterwards.)

25 years ago, on 7th June 1994 that Dennis Potter, British TV dramatist and screenwriter (Pennies from Heaven, The Singing Detective, Blue Remembered Hill, etc) died.

Editor: Tim Lenton looks back on a poignant moment in recent history.

The Tank Man of Tiananmen Square

The Tank Man of Tiananmen Square in Beijing made world headlines – and became an iconic image of the twentieth century – 30 years ago, on 5th June 1989, when he temporarily halted a column of tanks by standing in front of them on the morning after a massacre in the square.

Widespread protests in China against the Communist-led Government and for basic human rights had come to a head when martial law was declared and the Army opened fire on up to a million people, resulting in more than 10,000 deaths.

Tiananmen means Gate of Heavenly Peace. The gate is on the north of the square, separating it from the Forbidden City.

The Tank Man climbed on to the lead tank and spoke to the soldiers inside. He then returned to block the tanks but was pulled aside. No-one knows what happened to him, but the authorities stated that he was not killed.

Discussion of the massacre – known as the '4th June Incident' in China – is considered a watershed event which set limits on political expression in China well into the 21st century. The Government still forbids discussion of it, and last year a church was shut down for trying to hold a service of remembrance.

**St Nicholas Church Door and Offering Duties
30 minutes before the Services**

Door Teams

1	J Wallace	W Wallace	M Robertson	S Agyapong
2	M Macaulay	K McLoughlin	I Waller	M Purdie
3	T Hunter	S Blyth	D Dow	S Smith
4	B Buchanan	J Buchanan	M Mackay	J Mackay
5	M Cruickshanks	P Mitchell	I Smith	A Mackay
6	G Malloy	M Dingsdale	D Walker	A Cross
7	N Sutherland	F Sutherland	W Pitblado	A Brown
8	I Sutherland	A Sutherland	K Hogg	J Flett

Those unable to attend please arrange a stand-in and notify the Team Leader

DATE	COUNT TEAM ROTA	DOOR DUTY ROTA
07.07.2019	B	4
14.07.2019	C	5
21.07.2019	D	6
28.07.2019	E	7
04.08.2019	A	8
11.08.2019	B	1
18.08.2019	C	2
25.08.2019	D	3
01.09.2019	E	4
08.09.2019	A	5
15.09.2019	B	6
22.09.2019	C	7
29.09.2019	D	8
06.10.2019	E	1
13.10.2019	A	2
20.10.2019	B	3
27.10.2019	C	Communion

FLOWER LIST

<p>JULY</p> <p>07.07.19 Margaret Smith 14.07.19 Hazel Bell 21.07.19 Sandra Ormiston 28.07.19 Joyce & Brian Buchanan</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>04.08.19 Maureen Samuel 11.08.19 D Carwin 18.08.19 Margaret & John Mackay 25.08.19 Flower Festival</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>01.09.19 Heather Seggie 08.09.19 Joyce & Brian Buchanan 15.09.19 Flower 80th Celebration 22.09.19 Vacancy 29.09.19 Vacancy</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>06.10.19 Pam Mitchell 13.10.19 Heather Seggie 20.10.19 Ann & Ian Sutherland 27.10.19 Tuesday Group</p>