

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill Congregational Magazine

web address: www.stnicholasedinburgh.org.uk

October 2019



Communion Sunday
27th October at 10.30am

Remembrance Service
Sunday 10th November at 10.45am



Officials of the Church

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A wee note from the manse!

2019 is a momentous year for St Nicholas Church, Sighthill (The Children's Church). This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of our church. It is a time to



give thanks for our 80 years of life and work, as a local parish church. I know some might ask why we celebrate, especially at a time when our church, the Church of Scotland, struggles, in many ways, to remain relevant and unmistakably visible in a fast-moving nation and on an evolving Scottish 'landscape'. Our response is, why not celebrate? Why not celebrate God's mighty hand on, in and through a community of faith and action like St Nicholas Church, which only 50 years ago, had the largest Sunday school in Scotland, peaking at just over 1000 children! We must celebrate, and as we celebrate, we echo the reflection of a Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard that,

It is perfectly true, as the philosophers say, that life must be understood backwards. But they forget the other proposition, that it must be lived forwards.

Journal IV A 164 (1843)

Now, I must confess that I am not an ardent student of philosophy or even of Kierkegaard himself. But, and in the context of our church (as we celebrate 80 years of existence as a local parish church), I discern, in his beautiful words, the suggestion that the practice of looking back to see, understand and appreciate God's footprints in our life and work must enrich (and indeed be followed by) the living of our lives together, forwards - as we break new ground, take new actions and make new choices. We, at St Nicholas Church, Sighthill, choose to celebrate our 80th anniversary by shouting Ebenezer! (this far the Lord has brought us) and, with greater breath and faith, trusting Him to lead us on to a better, fruitful and glorious future. We soldier on, with the confidence, 'that He who began a good work in [us] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 1:6). Amen

THE NEXT 80 YEARS....

(John Wallace special at the 80th anniversary celebration service on 15/09/19)

Written by John Wallace and Rob Rawson

80 years ago, I doubt that the fledgling congregation in their wooden hut gave much thought to what church life would be like 80 years in the future. Theirs was a much shorter focus as they contemplated and prayed about the impending war.

Today, we do not have the dreadful scenario that people worried about back in 1939, but our society in 2019 has its own unique problems, stresses and deep concerns. Some face unemployment, others wrestle with drug issues, and a recent report highlights that our children are the unhappiest they have been for decades. Not everything is rosy in this 21st century digital age. Indeed, many may not even have seen the inside of a church building or been aware of the fellowship, love and support that its congregation, as a family, can give.

Of course, the intervening years have seen momentous changes to the church, as well as in society at large. Gone are the days when we just had to open the church doors on a Sunday morning and watch as half the neighborhood poured in. As we here in St Nicholas like to remind people, at one time we laid claim to be the largest Sunday School in Scotland with just over 1,000 youngsters. That seems an impossible number today, but back then we did not have to compete with Sundays that offered numerous sporting activities and all-day shopping. The 'secular society' was not something contemplated, as we picked ourselves up from a bitter and costly world war.

Money was uppermost in people's minds when we needed a bigger, purpose built church in the 1950s, but we achieved the impossible when the children in Sunday Schools throughout Scotland and, indeed, from elsewhere, funded the majority of the costs for this building that we are in today – and given the name of "The Children's Church" in recognition. A unique legacy that we are proud of today.

However, post war building materials were not robust, and a roof patched up beyond its design life was proving a nightmare. As a result, after much soul-searching and an awareness of a smaller congregation, we recently decided to look at the feasibility of a new structure to replace this very large building. It was to be a state-of-the-art building to act both as a church and as a focus for the community. However, the good Lord had other ideas and during this process, we found the building to be listed by Historic Scotland as a construction worthy of preserving since it was a good and rare example of a *Festival of Britain*-style church building. (Rare, I suspect, because all the others had long gone!) After the initial shock, the congregation, with Tom Kisitu's leadership – far from being downhearted by this apparent setback – reset our objectives, decided to fix the roof, and to move forward with God's work.

To this end, in the spring of 2018, we engaged with the Church of Scotland's 'Future Focus' process to help us better discern God's vision for us over the coming years. The whole process was enjoyable and stimulating. In the end, we discerned a God-given vision of having even closer links with our community, of supporting and attracting young people and of sharing the gospel message through both word and deed.

So, from the past and the future, let us come back to today.

Look around you and ask yourselves why we have come here. Well, it's true you have been invited for this special occasion and we are delighted that you have responded in the way you have.

But all of you have a **connection** with this church. It is such connections that we need to continue to establish and develop for the future.

Conscious of the need for change in how we do “church” we have been pro-active in involving the wider community – for example, in special services such as the annual Remembrance Day Service and St Nicholas Day when we encourage all the young people who use the facilities here throughout the week – and there are some 150 of them – to come together for a special service. These events are now well established and supported. We also have an annual fair to encourage the community to come and enjoy the fellowship on offer. We have also developed good links with the Burton’s biscuit factory and after this service, you’ll enjoy some of the benefits of this!

We have recently started a joint initiative with Bethany Christian Church going out into the Calder’s area of the parish. One development from this is a “Together at Lunch” when we offer a free lunch in the hall and an opportunity to meet others in the community. We also have a Wednesday café “The coffee Stop” where people can come and enjoy a bacon roll, a cup of tea and some great fellowship.

We are conscious that we have a very diverse and ever-changing community in our parish. We envisage a “one church, many meetings” approach where the freedom to develop forms of worship that are appropriate to various groups can be celebrated. One new example of this takes place once a month on a Friday evening and is based on songs of praise. We also have an African Christian Church that worship here on Sunday afternoons.

But we are still very conscious of our past and the significance of the church here – especially in the lives of children, young people and families. In common with many other churches we have introduced a monthly “Messy Church” aimed at young children accompanied by a parent or grandparent. Here we can gently introduce the children to Bible stories, while enjoying fun, fellowship and food.

We have developed strong links with the two primary schools in the parish, especially with Murrayburn Primary who also celebrate their 80th anniversary this year and some of their choir have just performed here this morning. We can, however, only do so much with our limited time and talents and so in order to strengthen these links, we are seeking the help of a dedicated Children and Young Families Worker.

This, I feel, will be a critical link for the future proofing of our church and helping us to fulfil our vision as an inviting and welcoming church that is at the heart of its community. A lot has happened to this church in the past 80 years – as it has for the wider church family – but with the Living God going before us, we can meet tough challenges and continue the legacy given to us by the children all those years ago. In summary, we aim to sustain our Christian witness and continue to develop church life so that we can offer a significant and loving presence in this parish, as we journey into the next 80 years...and beyond.



Gardening Report

We have had a very busy Spring and Summer in the garden, chasing the weeds as ever. We would welcome help from anyone who feels they would be able to do this. We usually meet at 9.30 on a Tuesday morning – work for an hour then have tea/coffee putting the world to rights – then work for another hour - this is very flexible. We are all getting on a bit – the average age of the Gardeners is 72. If you can help it would be great to have you join us.

The Gardening Team

Used Postage Stamps

I am still collecting used Postage Stamps which are handed on to the Children's Hospice who in turn sell them. I know we are only at October but with Christmas around the corner I would ask you to keep me in mind and save all your stamps.

Many Thanks.

Thelma Hunter

St. Nicholas Navigators & Creche

On the first Sunday of the month and communion Sundays, during Rev Tom's service 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.

Maureen Samuel

Sunshine Bags

The current total for donations up to the end of September is £531. This compares with £468 at the same stage last year. Once again, the finance team greatly appreciates the generous contributions to church funds.

Ian Sutherland and Kathleen Hogg (Finance Team)

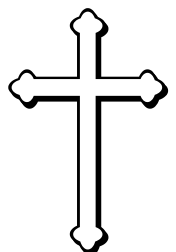
Congregational Register

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

Mrs L Black, Redhall Drive

Mrs E Elder, Royston Care Home

Mrs K Samuel, Sighthill Place



Mrs Kathleen Maud Samuel (nee Caddell) A Tribute

Kath died just 2 months short of her 100th Birthday, when she would have received a letter from the Queen, whom she greatly admired. But in many ways, she was quite like the Queen. Like the Queen, Kath always had an air of calm dignity. When you met Kath, you knew you were in the presence of a real lady. Like the Queen, Kath had a good sense of humour. Again, like the Queen, Kath was a strong and a wise person. And finally, like the Queen, Kath received first-class care. As the Queen has an army of servants to meet her every need, so Kath had devoted day-and-night care from her 2 daughters, Maureen and Irene.

Unlike the Queen, Kath was never wealthy, but never cared for wealth, so long as she had her family, her Church, her garden and her Art. Unlike the Queen, who is not particularly artistic, Kath produced beautiful pictures, and her flower studies are exquisite. She even led the Art Club at St Nicholas, after Charlie Drummond's death, till she was 93. And her maiden name, Caddell, betrays a connection with a famous Scottish Artist - Francis Caddell, of whom Kath was a distant relation.

Kath was born 100 years ago in Skegness, Lincolnshire, one of 8 children. She can remember wheeling her 2 baby sisters in a pram, but, sadly, both died. Moving to Edinburgh when she was 6, worse was to come, because her mother died when she was only 10, and Kath at 10, the oldest of the children, had to become a mother figure to her 5 siblings. She kept them together when, understandably, her father couldn't cope, and all 6 of them had to go into Deans Orphanage for years, where the regime was strict. Sadly, all 5 of the 6 have died before her, though it's good to see some of their families here today. Two other sad losses were of her husband Charles, who died in 1983, and her only son John, who died in 2013. Kath has had a lot to bear in her life, including years of ill health, but you would never know it having conversation with her, as she was always more interested in your troubles than her own.

Kath began her working life at 16 in McVittie's Guest, where the regime was also strict. No girl could stand up without permission. But Kath did, and with good reason! She said, "look, German Bombers". And then they ALL stood up, to see the first Air Raid of World War 2 on the Forth Bridge, which was foiled. She also worked at Edinburgh Castle. One night at the Palais, she met Charlie Samuel, and Mr Guest gave her a pink Wedding Dress when they married. They moved into number 25 Sighthill Place in 1941, where all our memories of Kath are fond ones, of cakes and cuppas, of admiring the lovely, almost private garden, and later of admiring the beautiful pictures crafted by Kath.

Later, after all 3 children had been born, Kath worked at the Civil Service at Saughton, but was annoyed to be made redundant in Mrs Thatcher's cutbacks!

Kath enjoyed holidays to far-flung places with Maureen and Irene, she loved her Garden, but above all she loved the Lord Jesus, whom she served all her life, including 20 years as President of the Guild at St Nicholas. She went twice to Disneyworld with Dreamflight for disabled children, an idea largely inspired by her daughter Maureen and other British Airways Staff.

We could say much more about this remarkable lady, the oldest member of St Nicholas, but others also want to pay tributes, and they have known Kath all their lives. I have only known her for 43 years!

We do extend sympathy, on behalf of all our St Nicholas family, to Kath's daughters Maureen and Irene, her grand-children Emma, Louise, Neil and Jennifer, and her great-grandchildren Cara, Charlie and Caitlin, Kath's cousins and their families, and all friends and neighbours.....and to ourselves, who will really miss this gracious, intelligent, caring lady. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Rev. Ken Mackay

JUMBLE SALE

11am on Saturday 16th November at St Nicholas Church Hall

Bric a Brac, books, toys, good quality clean jumble, tombola, home baking and cafe.

50p entry

Donations of goods for stalls can be handed into church between 4pm and 8pm on Friday 15th November.



Friday 18th October

7:30pm at Sighthill Bowling Club

£3 per person

Murrayburn primary school are celebrating 80 years. Pop in and visit then on their open day Friday 25th October from 11am.

Sunday 27 th October	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 24 th November	Bereavement Service
Sunday 1 st December	St. Nicholas Day/ Gift Day
Sunday 15 th December	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 22 nd December	Nativity Service
Tuesday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday 25 th December	Christmas Day Services
Tuesday 31 st December	Crossing Over Service



DATES
FOR THE DIARY

Weekly Schedule of Activities

	Groups	Time	Time	Location
MONDAY				
	ACU Training	09:30	12:00	Sm/Lge Hall
	Elite Dancers	16:00	18:00	Large Hall
	Rainbows (5-7yrs)	17:45	19:00	Small Hall
	Brownies (7-10yrs)	18:30	19:45	Large Hall
	Karate	19:45	21:00	Large Hall
	AA	19:30	21:30	Session Room
TUESDAY				
	Toddler Group	09:30	11:30	Large Hall
	Tuesday Group	13:30	16:00	Small Hall
	Rainbows (5-7yrs)	17:45	19:00	Small Hall
	Brownies (7-10yrs)	18:00	19:45	Large Hall
Every Quarter	SWI Meeting	19:30	21:00	Small Hall
WEDNESDAY				
	Coffee Stop	10:30	13:30	Small Hall
	Prayer Group	10:30	11:30	Vestry
	Deeper Christian Life Ministry	19:00	21:00	Small Hall
THURSDAY				
Fortnightly	Bethany Community Lunch	11:00	14:00	Small Hall
	Demarco Project Dance	17:00	19:00	Large Hall
	Karate	19:15	21:00	Large Hall
FRIDAY				
1 st of Month	Messy Church	13:00	15:00	Sm/Lge Hall
	Church Use	16:30	18:30	Large Hall
3 rd of Month	Remnant Christian Network	16:30	20:30	Large Hall
	Church Use	18:00	21:30	Large Hall
SATURDAY				
	Church Events			Reserved
	One Off Annual Events			Reserved
SUNDAY				
	Worship	10:30		Sanctuary
	Sunday School	10:30		Small Hall
	Deeper Christian Life Ministry	14:00	17:00	Sanctuary

St Nicholas Church Door and Offering Duties

30 minutes before the Services

DOOR TEAMS

1	J. Wallace	W. Wallace	F. Winton	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	Vacancy	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 TEAM ROTA	READERS	FLOWERS
03.11.2019	D	6	N. Sutherland	S. Ormiston
10.11.2019	E	7	T. Hunter	M. Cruickshanks
17.11.2019	A	8	G. Malloy	Vacancy
24.11.2019	B	1	R. Ferguson	M. Samuel
01.12.2019	C	2	W. Wallace	St. Nicholas Day
08.12.2019	D	3	D. Webb	M&F Weston
15.12.2019	E	4	J. Wallace	Vacancy
22.12.2019	A	5	A. Mackay	W&J Wallace
29.12.2019	B	6	H. Seggie	Vacancy
05.01.2020	C	7	A. Sutherland	Vacancy
12.01.2020	D	8	N. Sutherland	Vacancy
19.01.2020	E	1	T. Hunter	Vacancy
26.01.2020	A	Communion	G. Malloy	Vacancy

