

**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE
CHURCH
KIRK NEWS**

June 2024



**SLATEFORD
LONGSTONE**

PARISH CHURCH

**Morning Worship every
Sunday at 10.30am**

or join us on line

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, 18 August 2024.



Dear All,

Where were you on the 25 May 1954? Let me give you a hint! It was a Saturday, the same Saturday Scotland warmed up for their first ever World Cup finals by beating Finland 2-1 in Helsinki, and hopefully they will do as well if not better in the Euros this summer, but back home in Longstone away from all of that national excitement, a crowd of worshippers gathered in what was then a field with a hut. They watched the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev E.D. Jarvis DD, lay the foundation

stone of a new Hall-Church that would replace the old hut used by the translating Slateford church and the Longstone community. Buried behind the stone were coins minted for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II along with a history of Slateford Church the forerunner of Slateford Longstone Church. These 70 years have seen the post war pre-fabs become avenues of brick houses, the saplings become trees, the community become what it is today, with the church still present alongside and within its parish. There is much to be learned from the history of our church and its relationship with the community. With the church originally at the centre of a young growing community, and its membership reflecting that growth and connection as it rose from 500 to over 800 in a short space of time. But now 70 years on, the same

church is on the fringe of the community and largely bypassed as Scotland becomes increasingly secular with 51.1% of the population claiming no allegiance to any religion at all, a massive increase from the last census. To trace the cause of this, one can refer to Callum Brown's "The Death of Christian Britain" or the very readable "Finding Our Voice" by Rev Neil Glover but the challenge to all of us is to rediscover the spirit of 70 years ago that enabled a church in Slateford to respond to the challenges it faced then as people became disconnected from local churches who then had to find new ways of reconnecting and representing the Gospel to them.

That's our challenge!

Samuel AR Torrens

Baptisms



- 17 March Cassandra Leigh Morrison
- 12 May Sophie Rose Knox (adult)
- 26 May Callie Catherine Andrea Cameron

Obituaries



- 11 March
Elizabeth "Patsy" Riddoch
- 14 March
Helen McCall Scollay (St Nicholas)
- 31 March Edgar "Eddie" Dennis
- 27 April George Marshall
- 30 April Margaret Harley
- 01 May Winifred Kisitu (St Nicholas)
- 10 May Alan Hinselwood (St Nicholas)

Please pray for the families.

END OF PLACEMENT (ALMOST)

Greetings to friends at Slateford Longstone!
I cannot believe my time at Slateford Longstone is nearly over as I will finish my formal placement at the end of June. This was my first of two placements that I need to undertake as part of my training, with a third probation year further down the road.

You have been my guinea pigs so thank you for bearing with me as I have found my feet.

Some of my highlights include the two series of All Age talks I did – art work during Advent and Scottish people called overseas to serve God during Lent. It was interesting to find relevant pictures and people; to learn about them and then share some of the story with you all. As a wee reminder here is “The Annunciation” by John Collier which we looked at in December



And the Brough family who are working in Malawi and are Mission Partners of the Church of Scotland. Do support them in your prayers.



I found doing an All Age talk that inspired adults but was accessible to children challenging. I am grateful for Sam for pushing me to think about how I do this. Overflowing joy demonstrated with cocoa pops causing mess! I hope this gave child and adult alike a sense of the excitement and joy

that the disciples felt as they experienced the risen Christ appearing to them when they were locked in the upper room, fearful of what might happen next.

How are your sunflowers doing? Ours are growing, slowly!



Contributing to worship on Easter morning was definitely a highlight. To move from the gloom of Good Friday and EVIL WON to the reversal of the resurrection morning and the invitation to NOW LIVE. Hallelujah!

It has been a privilege to contribute to worship most weeks, and especially to lead full services. As part of my placement agreement with the Church of Scotland Training team I needed to lead at least 3 full services, and this is likely to be part of my role when I qualify as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) in a couple of years' time. As well as Sunday mornings, I accompanied Sheila on a couple of pastoral visits which I found interesting, and I have observed Sam conducting funerals. I felt especially privileged to contribute through a reading and prayer to Patsy Riddoch's funeral. I still have much to learn in both pastoral visiting and preparing and delivering funeral services, but it

has been good to gain this initial experience.

Before Christmas I also enjoyed engaging with the young folk at Messy Church, and contributing to the Nativity Play that the group put on – as a Shepherd (of course!). I was unable to continue with this commitment from the start of 2024 as I needed to receive medical treatment on Friday afternoons which clashed with Messy Church time. This is also why my placement was extended through to the end of June. I am so grateful for Sam's support whilst I have been receiving treatment; for accepting me as a student; for encouraging and challenging me as I contribute to worship; and getting enthusiastic about some of my essay subjects which inspired me to push forward and get them written!

Did I say essays? The other major part of my training is the academic study. It was hard to return to study but I have found it stimulating (most of the time) and I have successfully completed and passed all my year one courses. I have one more year of part time study to complete the required Certificate of Theology.

Last but not least, you! Thank you for shared conversations over coffee or lunch; for little words of encouragement that have meant a lot to me; for welcoming me into your church family. As you continue to think how to be disciples for Christ in

Longstone, and in your own circles of friendship, extend that spirit of welcome and inclusion so that all have a sense of belonging and being a loved member of God's family.

May you each continue to know Christ's loving presence in your lives; may God be your Rock when times are hard; and may the Holy Spirit fill you with joy and peace.

Janet Shepherd



Congratulations to Mr Ken Chalmers on receiving a Long Service Certificate for 50 years of service to God through the Church mainly as convener of the Property Committee. Well done!



TREASURER'S REPORT

The Accounts for the year 2023 were presented to the congregation on Sunday 19th May, the year ended with a small deficit of £171.

We are now a third way through this year, and to date our funds are quite steady. This has been greatly helped with the fantastic amount of £5,440 which was raised for the Gift Day. Many thanks to everyone who contributed.

The Coffee Morning held in February raised £345.50 - thank you to all who helped make it a success.

Most of our expenditures have been increased this year so we do still need to fundraise. Another Coffee Morning is being planned, with the date still to be arranged.

Church Bank Account details -
Bank of Scotland
Slateford Longstone Parish Church
Sort code 80-02-27
Account no. 00127604

Liz Chalmers

Treasurer



Messy Church is meeting once a month on the last Friday of each month for families to come together to hear stories, sing songs and do crafts, all connected to a Bible story. We have eight families which involves about twelve children at any one time.

Recently we covered the Easter story, and have investigated the story of Jesus calling his disciples.

Great fun is had by all. Feel free to come and join us.

Sheila Ward and the team (07802 761525)

MESSY MEALS

We are running a pilot project over the school summer holidays for families to enjoy a complimentary hot two course meal, followed by games for the children, whilst parents enjoy some 'downtime' together over a cup of tea. This is in response to reports of "holiday hunger", where families have the extra expense of providing meals

over the school holidays, when in term time the children have their midday meals at school.

These meals will be provided in the church hall on six Wednesdays from 12.30 till 2.30, starting on 3rd July. The meals will be prepared by Pauline Halliday who prepares the meals for the Kindness Café. All families with children are welcome.

We ask that families register to book a place, so we can prepare the correct number of meals. Phone Sheila Ward on 07802 761525 for further information and to book a place each week.



**SHOEBOX
APPEAL
2024**

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 7th September at Slateford Longstone church 10am - 12pm.

In addition there will be various stalls, including cake and candy, Bric a Brac and cards from which you will be able to buy goodies to support the appeal.

Sarah Johnston

17th BROWNIE PACK

In the first weekend of May, 9 Brownies, one young leader and two (older!) leaders had a great time at PGL camp at Dalguise as part of Firrhill District event.

Friday night was a game of Cludeo with Various activities

Then over the weekend the girls were involved in various activities from canoeing, archery, aeroball, zip wire, rock climbing, assault course and campfire and s'mores!

Nine tired girls and three very tired leaders!!! But we would all do it again!

Sarah Johnston



Fresh Start urgently need - kettles, toasters, pots and pans for the Starter Packs. If you have any of these items you no longer use can you please either bring to Church or call me. Many thanks.

Jean Gordon - 07752314497



Our small group of learners has now completed their 10 week introductory course. Each of the participants say they now have more confidence to use their iPads, and have learned about new Apps to investigate.

There is a new introductory 10 week course beginning in August, so if you are interested in learning more about using an iPad or tablet please contact Sheila Ward who will give you more information and sign you up for the course.

Sheila Ward (07802 761525)



Nine walkers set out from Balerno to walk to raise funds for Christian Aid by walking over seven miles to Saughton Park Gardens. Two others joined us along the way. The sun shone and we all enjoyed the sunshine, and the picnic at the end.

We have raised £1385 online and using sponsor sheets, and are very grateful to all who sponsored us. We have collected a further £300 through church and house to house collections, with more to come in.



Christian Aid's theme for 2024 is Act on Poverty.

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. She felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence. Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Barundi. No home. No healthcare. No security.

But she was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with help from Christian Aid. She started by participating in a transforming 3 day workshop, funded by Christian Aid. "The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me" she said. She was taught how to form a

Village Savings and Loans Association and establish a steady income. These Associations enable people to save for the future, and borrow some money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible. With a small start up loan, she started to trade avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she was able to go to markets further afield. Her hard work paid off and she was able to rent a house and get her three eldest sons back. She still hopes to get her three youngest children back.

This is just one woman's story of poverty and how it nearly ruined her and her family's lives. Christian Aid steps in wherever possible to help people turn their lives around for the better. Not just by giving them money, but by teaching them and enabling them to build up their lives and to be lifted out of poverty. This is where our Christian Aid donations go, on projects like Aline's.

Sheila Ward



Many of you will be aware that Ruth Alexander sadly lost her mum very recently. She has shared a story that I feel may give inspiration to many. Perhaps you aren't able to come to the Knit 'n' Natter group due to mobility issues or it simply isn't on a convenient day for you. It doesn't necessarily mean though that you can't play your part in helping the Blythswood Shoebox appeal which you have read about earlier in the magazine. Read her story and consider whether you could knit at home. I am sure Carol would be delighted to supply a pattern for hats scarves or mitts, if that is all you are waiting for. Ed.

Message from Ruth:-

After her passing, I realise mum had had something in common with Slateford Longstone Church – her support of Blythswood Trust. Folk in the church and community do an amazing job supporting Blythswood's Christmas Shoebox Appeal, resulting in a large number of Christmas wrapped shoe boxes full of small gifts being sent abroad to children and adults who might not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas time.

Mum had rheumatoid arthritis and unfortunately in her early fifties developed severe deformity of both hands though still retaining function in her thumbs and a finger of each hand. She prided herself that she could do everything, as due to the function in her thumbs she had 'her grip' and took pleasure in regularly demonstrating this to the family. She was never thought of as having a disability. However, the thing she couldn't do was knit. This was a loss to mum, who was a native Shetlander and knitting had been the warp and weft of her life from a young age.

However, mum was feisty and had a care for people. In her sixties she, along with my dad, set up a 'friendship group' in a local church, seeing a need in their particular community. An offshoot of this group was mum's band of knitters, older ladies who enjoyed knitting at home, mainly beautiful baby clothes and blankets. Mum's house became the collection point and every so often the 'Blythswood van' would arrive to pick up the black bags full of the items and transport them to their depot in Inverness.

So despite everything, mum managed to maintain her link with knitting, enjoyed communicating with the Blythswood folk and 'chatting with her knitters'.

Ruth Alexander

THANK YOU

Thank you to all for the flowers, cards and gifts that George and I received on the occasion of our Diamond Anniversary on 28 March. Quite an achievement as we didn't think George was going to make it. We also received a beautiful blessing in the exchanging of our rings from Sam at the hospital, which meant so much to us.

Thank you to The Guild for the lovely flowers presented to me at our closing Afternoon Tea at the Kingsknowe Golf Club, as I retired from the position as Convenor. Delighted to say that Mary Hynd is now taking over. I wish her all the best.

A third 'thank you' for all the lovely cards, messages, phone calls, emails, visits etc that we received on the passing of my beloved Husband, George on 27 April. We had 64½ years together and now I am left with an empty void in my heart. I will enjoy the memories of our holidays together, our photographs, and now, little videos on my mobile phone.

With the support of all my family and our friends, we will all survive. Thank you again.

Marion, George Jnr, Lisa and family



**THANK
YOU!**

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers I received from Carol when I came home from hospital and also those I received last week when I came back to church. They were all lovely colours to cheer William and myself up, and the living room.

Susan

Many thanks for the lovely Church flowers I received in May from Sheila. They were very much appreciated.

Jean Gordon

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers received from the Church following the death of my mum, who passed away peacefully in Aberdeen aged 86 years. Also, for the cards, flowers and prayers from members of the congregation. All so much appreciated.

Ruth

I would just like to say a big thank you for the beautiful flowers presented to me at Church today. 2024 marks twenty years of being the Halls Let Manager. I am not sure if I will make 50 years like Ken!

Thanks to all who have helped me along the way!

Angela Simpson

With many thanks for the lovely colourful flowers - they are very gratefully received

Jane Wright



I'd like to thank everyone involved in presenting me with a lovely bouquet of flowers recently. It was a very kind thought after my visit to hospital and very well received.

Many thanks again,
John Gilchrist.

My thanks to you all for the very welcome flowers and card delivered by Sheila Ward on Sunday following my recent knee replacement.

Maureen Sweeney

PLEASE JOIN US AT SLATEFORD LONGSTONE CHURCH

It's for all kinds of people! It's for the old and the young, and for family units as well. We welcome children who will be given a talk of their own, while the parents are listening to the Word of God in the Sanctuary.

After the Service, there is an opportunity to meet up with others for some Tea/Coffee in the hall.

We are a community church within the Parish and we send out an invitation to come along and share Sunday mornings with us. That way, you'll be able to find out what other organisations we have using the Church premises. Perhaps there is something JUST FOR YOU!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO CHURCH 'VIRTUALLY' ON SUNDAYS, SAM HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER VIA ZOOM

Our Zoom Services continue on Sunday opening at 10.15am to allow people to Join and say Hi, then we will begin at 10.30am with worship. Looking forward to hosting as many of you as possible on Sunday.

If Joining with Smartphone or computer just click the link below and follow the instructions, or Join using Zoom ID and Password below if needed.

<https://zoom.us/j/5771655415?pwd=MVZCd3JoTWtZa0R2RmFmSFovUEhTZz09>

Meeting ID: 577 165 5415

Password: EDATH (ALL UPPERCASE!!!)

Also, DIAL UP OPTION

If you can't do Zoom you can phone in using the number below.

The dial up number for Edinburgh is **0131 460 1196**. You will be asked to use the phone keys to put in the ID number which is **577 165 5415** followed by the hash # key

then you will be asked for a password which **476443** followed by #

that takes you into the zoom service, but you will only hear and not see!



Web address: <https://www.slatefordlongstone.org.uk>

DUTY ROTAS: July - September 2024

Date	Door Duty				Flowers
7 July	E Chalmers	H Chambers			C Murray
14 July	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	Vacant
21 July	L Baillie	M Ritchie			Vacant
28 July	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	Vacant
4 August	E Chalmers	H Chambers			A Fairley
11 August	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	Vacant
18 August	L Baillie	M Ritchie			E Chalmers
25 August	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	R Alexander
1 Sept	E Chalmers	H Chambers			Vacant
8 Sept	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	J Pollock
15 Sept	L Baillie	M Ritchie			M Marshall
22 Sept	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	Vacant
29 Sept	E Chalmers	H Chambers			M Forrest

To assist with the church flowers, either by placing in Church or helping to deliver them, please contact:

Carol Murray
07812 786389

This Ministry is much appreciated by all who give and receive.

COMMUNION DUTY: July - September 2024

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
10.00am prep	Joanne Ormiston	Sheila Ward	Sheila Ward
10.30am service	Marion Marshall(L) Pauline Halliday Joanne Ormiston Nathan Baillie	Lin Baillie(L) Gordon Clephane Hamish Leal Ian Brown	Sheila Ward(L) Jean Gordon Dennise Brown Donnie Thomson

DIRECTORY

MINISTER	Rev Samuel (Sam) Torrens storrens@churchofscotland.org.uk	07808 664194
SESSION CLERK	Suzanne Riddoch sriddoch@blueyonder.co.uk	07866 012971
PASTORAL CARE ASSISTANT	Sheila Ward sheilamward@hotmail.co.uk	07802 761525
PASTORAL CARE SECRETARY	Lin Baillie Lin.baillie@live.co.uk	538 3123
HALL LETS CONVENOR	Angie Simpson	441 1972
TREASURER	Elizabeth Chalmers liz@kenandliz.org.uk	443 6026
GIFT AID CONVENOR	Dennise Brown	574 6733
MUSIC LEADER	Nicola Macrae nicolamacrae@hotmail.com	346 8939
KIRK NEWS EDITOR	Ishbel Massie balerno@blueyonder.co.uk	449 4693
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER	Mary Hynd	443 5710
ORDER OF SERVICE & NOTICES	Carol Murray carolizzie@btinternet.com	07812 786389

“**KIRK NEWS**” is published quarterly, distributed to each member household in the Congregation and posted to other subscribers. The Distribution Manager also takes orders for “**LIFE AND WORK**”.

Slateford Longstone Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, 52 Kingsknowe Road North, EH14 2DF
Scottish Charity SC 030896