

**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE
CHURCH
KIRK NEWS**

March 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, 19 May 2024.



Oh to be a crocus!

I must confess I struggled to come up with an Easter message that felt right to me. On the one hand I drifted to the wonderfully good news of Easter, of death defeated and life everlasting made known in the resurrection of Jesus and felt led to illustrate that from a clip we used at EDATH our Preparation For Dying Course. The episode is from Anne with an 'E' Season 3:3 where Mary's life comes to an end. Preparing well, she slips away in the bright awareness of Easter Day, buoyed with Easter

singing and her favourite prayer of St Francis. It was an idyllic scenario infused with hope and beauty. But then, on reflection, I felt the producers had masked over the pain of death that we find in the Good Friday experience. Although nowadays dying can be eased with palliative care it is never free of pain. But what is so good about Good Friday is the presence of God amidst the pain. One of my most valued nuggets of scripture is Exodus 20:21 where Moses, on Mt Horeb, 'approached the deep darkness where God was'. Centuries later, on another mountain, deep darkness fell upon the region. It accompanied the death of Jesus but it was a darkness in which a deeply loving God was present and at work for our good. The lesson is that whether it's the darkness of Good Friday or the

glorious brightness of Easter Day, God is present and working for good.



So why the crocus? Well, while mulling it over, I looked out my window to assess the weather. The sky was grey, the forecast was bleak, the car was frozen over and the windscreen needed a scrape. The cold air bit my bald head as I progressed out the door. I felt my whole body shiver as I moved to the car thinking that I'm getting fed up with these cold mornings. But then I saw a crocus defying the conditions and maintaining its upright stance amidst the cold. My first thought was, 'You're taking a big risk coming out in weather like this!' followed by 'so naively hopeful, aren't you?' followed by 'you don't care what it's like, do you, you're coming out anyway!' Apart from being a grown man talking to crocus, this was a moment in which the echo of Jesus pointing to 'the flowers of the field' jumped into my mind. These determined, resilient, faithful,

enduring specimens of God's creation can teach us something especially around resilience.

As someone who gets to supervise students in training for ministry, I was asked in a survey what I thought students needed to have added to their training. I thought for a moment and answered, resilience! For whilst we are Easter people, there will be dark and difficult days. And whilst we are aware of Good Friday we live believing that Easter is the other side of that experience. Whether it's dark or bright, God is good all the time! And I hear you say "all the time God is good!"

Jesus promised that He would build His church and the gates of hades would not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 It would be a resilient church able to weather the storms. He followed up that promise with the message of Good Friday/Easter Sunday in Matthew 16:21. Here we find the source of our resilience our ability to stand strong in the throes of winter!

C'mon you crocuses!

Happy Easter

Samuel AR Torrens

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 24 March 10.30am

Guild Holy Week Service

26 March 7.30pm

Easter Sunday Service

31st March 10.30am

(there is an open invitation to our friends from St Nicholas Church, Sighthill, to join us for any of these with space for them to invite us to any Holy Week Services they are planning.)

Obituaries

Alistair Grant 4 January 2024

Helen Clayton 6 January 2024

Catherine

MacDiarmid 3rd Feb 2024



Please pray for the families.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you once again to all who pay by standing order and to those who have increased their offerings, like everything else all our bills have increased, especially the electric bill, and the gas will also increase this year.

Our 'Giving to Grow' contribution has increased by £3,492 for this year so every penny counts.

By the time you are reading this we will have had the first of our fundraising coffee mornings, another will be planned later.

The draft copy of our 2023 accounts, are at present with the examiner, they should be finalised this month, and once approved by the trustees will be presented to the congregation.

Church Bank Account details -

Bank of Scotland

Slateford Longstone Parish Church

Sort code 80-02-27

Account no. 00127604

Liz Chalmers

Treasurer



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

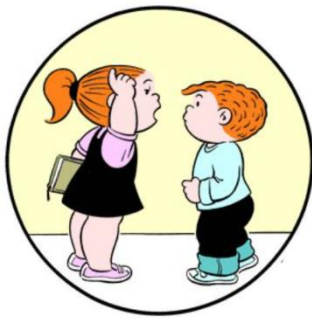
Messy Church has had two sessions this year learning about the Bible stories of Moses and the Burning Bush, and Samson.

We had a successful Nativity Play in December and we're grateful for the support of the congregation who came to watch us.

We received a generous donation from a member of the congregation, so used it to buy an Usborne Children's Bible for each family.

We look forward to sharing the Easter story with the families, who turn up faithfully each session.

Sheila Ward (07802 761525)



God knows all our sins 'cause they are stored in His cloud

This year we plan to have two Shoe Box coffee mornings. They will be on:

Saturday 23 March
Saturday 7 September

The coffee mornings are a great way to raise postage money and to catch up with friends over a cup of tea and a bacon roll. They are always well attended. We appreciate all your support.

We will also be holding four Shoe Box wrapping nights;

Thursday 14 March
Thursday 18 April
Thursday 16 May
Thursday 13 June

All 6.30-8.30pm in the activities hall

And we will be supporting Blythswood again with Shoe Box drop-off and checking days on:-

Thursday 31 October 6.30 - 8.00pm
Saturday 2 November 10am - 4pm

We will start our shoe box filling evenings on Thursday 8 August in the office from 6.30 until 8.30pm

All are welcome to come along to help fill boxes, wrap boxes or sort knitted items. Even a short amount of time makes a difference
Thank you for your continued support

Carol, Jane, Jean, Lin, Marion and Sarah



KNIT 'N' NATTER

After a short break over the festive season, the group re-started on 5th January. We are busy knitting items for this year's Shoebox Appeal, particularly hats, scarves, gloves, pencil cases and hand puppets, and at the same time enjoying a catch up and a cuppa.

Although Knit 'n' Natter is primarily a knitting group, if you prefer to do a different craft, such as crochet, then you would be most welcome to join us.

If you would like more information about the group, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Carol Murray
(tel: 07812 786389;
email carolizzie@btinternet.com)

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN



Saturday 16th March
10am till noon

Please just turn up on the day, bring your own cleaning materials. Refreshments will be served.

All help greatly appreciated

Many thanks

Property Team



As Pastoral Assistant for Slateford Longstone Church, I have been accepted as a Referral Agent for Foodbanks. If you know of anyone who needs a referral for a Foodbank, please pass their details to me. I will visit and arrange a voucher for them. The

nearest Trussell Trust Foodbank is at the Salvation Army premises on Georgie Road.

Sheila Ward (07802 761525)

17th BROWNIE PACK



Sarah Johnston

CHURCH BOXES



On November 27th the Brownies celebrated 70 years!

We asked Mary Hynd one of the past Brown owls to come and cut the cake with the sixers.

We played various games from the past - in and out the dusty blue bells and pin the tail on the donkey. The night ended with cake and a sing song.

We are now getting organised to take the girls to PGL camp in May.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who donated to Church Boxes last year the amazing total of £656.00 was raised for Church Funds!!!

Thank you also to all the Collectors who faithfully collect the boxes. Without you this would not be possible.

If you would like a Church Box please speak to either Jean or Frank.

Jean and Frank
07752314497



GIFT DAY



The next Tap into IT Getting Connected group starts on Tuesday 20th February and runs for ten weeks. Four people with four volunteers will connect in their own homes to the Tap into IT trainer by Zoom, who will discuss with the group what they would like to learn, and what might interest them. The volunteers go over what is discussed and learned in the session, and encourage the Tappers to try out what they have learned.

There will be another new group starting in June with one lady already signed up. Please be in touch if you would like to be involved, or would like to know more about it.

Sheila Ward (07802 761525)

We are planning to hold a Gift Day on Sunday 31 March to raise some extra funds to cover our ongoing expenses. We had to change our Energy supplier last year and like everyone else our tariff has gone up quite a bit. We have also been carrying out some much needed maintenance on both the Church and the Manse. We are very fortunate to have some members who are willing to help out with some of the general fabric work about the buildings and this helps to keep our costs down. If you are able to make any contribution it would be really appreciated but we also realise costs are high for everyone at the moment so we don't want to put pressure on anyone to give. There will be envelopes available in the Church over the next few weeks that you can use to put your Gift in and then place it in the Offering Plate at the back of the Church. If electronic bank transfer is your preference then you can do it that way too. The bank details can be found under the Treasurer's report earlier in this magazine.

If you are registered for Gift Aid please put a note in the envelope with your donation or let Denise Brown know.

Suzanne Riddoch

THE GUILD



By the time you receive your Kirk News, we will only have 4 more meetings left, then we finish our Session with an Afternoon Tea. If you wish to put money aside for this event, Mary will be delighted to keep it safe for you.

5 March Jewellery:

An Illustrated Talk – Speaker: Hugh McCreadie

19 March

Pauline Halliday, our Lunch Club lady, giving an account of her career as an OT

26 March Easter Service

16 April AGM

24 April Afternoon Tea at the Kingsknowe Golf Club

I am delighted to announce that a candidate has come forward from our Membership and offered her services for the ongoing

Convenorship of The Guild. This will be taken to our AGM in April.

When our meetings end, it will be the start of the summer season. I hope you all have a lovely time and that the weather will be kind to everyone. Whatever you do, or wherever you go – enjoy yourself.

Marion Marshall, Convenor

CHURCH MAGAZINE BLOOPERS

Today the pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy"

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on the water". The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

The Preacher for next Sunday will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch



**THANK
YOU!**

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received from Carol. I was very pleased to get them and they lasted a long time. Very much appreciated.

Karen Robertson.

Thank you for the lovely flowers we received in December. They were very much appreciated and lasted well into January.

Thanks also to Sarah and the Brownies for thinking of us at this time of the year.

Jean and Frank Gordon

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and most unexpected visit I received just before Christmas. They were both very much appreciated.

Ishbel Massie



Thank you for the church flowers Jean Gordon gave me on the 21st January. They were lovely.

Maureen Nicol

On behalf of Ian and myself I would like to thank the Church for the beautiful flowers which were delivered to us on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They are still flowering after receiving them more than a week ago and the colours are vibrant. We are both very grateful. Thank you.

Ann Watt

Many thanks for the lovely flowers received recently from both the congregation and Guild for our Diamond Wedding.

Thanks also for the cards, presents and good wishes which we both very much appreciated

Alison and Jim Fairley

Answers to Places quiz that appeared in the December magazine.

- 1 Loo
- 2 Scone
- 3 Street
- 4 Wick
- 5 Egypt
- 6 Pennsylvania
- 7 Rhum
- 8 Cheshire
- 9 Dundee
- 10 Paddington
- 11 Moulde
- 12 Derby
- 13 March
- 14 Harrow
- 15 Battle
- 16 Poole
- 17 Reading
- 18 Barking
- 19 Deal
- 20 Camberley
- 21 Ware
- 22 Barrow
- 23 Eye
- 24 Eccles
- 25 Docking



The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

*Happy
Easter*

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: April - June 2024

Date	Door Duty	Flowers			
7 April	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	M Robertson
14 April	E Chalmers	H Chambers			
21 April	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	D Brown
28 April	L Baillie	M Ritchie			
5 May	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	A Fairley
12 May	E Chalmers	H Chambers			
19 May	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	N McCartney
26 May	L Baillie	M Ritchie			
2 June	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	S Johnston
9 June	E Chalmers	H Chambers			
16 June	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	D McDonald
23 June	L Baillie	M Ritchie			
30 June	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	J Wright

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: April - June 2024

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
10.00am prep	Joanne Ormiston	Joanne Ormiston	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
PROPERTY CONVENOR	Ken Chalmers ken@kenandliz.org.uk	443 6026
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

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Slateford Longstone Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, 52 Kingsknowe Road North, EH14 2DF
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