

# Gapp Inter-Connections

Welcome to Inter Connections March 2024

# Hope 2024

## Easter Week (March 24-31)

**Sun** 11am Palm Sunday Gorgie  
7pm Taize Saltyard

**Mon** 1:30pm Fellowship Service Gorgie

**Wed** 10am Toddler Group Gorgie

**Thur** 7pm Tenebrae (darkness) Palmerston

**Fri** 7pm "Sayings from the Cross"  
Murrayfield

**Sun** 10:30am Easter Service Palmerston  
11am Easter Service Gorgie



190 - 192  
Gorgie Rd



10 Palmerston  
Place



Murrayfield  
Ormidale Terr  
EH12 6EQ



Saltyard cafe  
158 Dalry Rd

[www.gdschurch.org.uk](http://www.gdschurch.org.uk)

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# Message from Dean

Rev. Dean L. Batchelor

Dear Friends,

## FOCUS # The Main Thing

I am sure you have heard the statement "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing". It sounds silly right, but far too often our goals, purpose and peace are torpedoed not necessarily by outside circumstance or challenges but simply by our own propensity, corporately or individually, to get side-tracked or become slightly skewed in our focus. If we are truly honest, I am sure we would admit we have experienced this in our own lives and seen it in the lives of others. Organisations, marriages, careers, NGOs, sports clubs and huge corporations fail simply because the focus got lost; the main thing became secondary. Secondary things took priority, finance and time. This does not happen at the beginning of a marriage or an organisation's life-cycle but often when it becomes easy or there have been a few success stories. It was Stephen Covey who made the above saying famous in his book "The seven habits of highly effective people". He must have been on to something because that book sold over 25 million copies. To remember the implementation, I prefer the child's version:

1. Be Pro-active
2. Begin with the end in mind
3. Put first things first (Keep the main thing the main thing)
4. Think win-win
5. Seek first to understand
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the saw

Over the past few weeks, the reflections on a Sunday have been focussed on unpacking what is, for the Church, the main thing. This is the five marks of mission. (Confession: some of these thoughts are from the sermon for the 17th March - 10:30am at PPC). It must continually be stressed and emphasized that all five marks hang together. They are interrelated and they are all vital. Can you remember them? Let me remind you: TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM, TREASURE or the order in which they have been covered on Sundays.

### FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

Mark 5 (TREASURE) - To strive to safeguard the

integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Mark 4 (TRANSFORM) - To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

Mark 3 (TEND) - To respond to human need by loving service

Mark 2 (TEACH) - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

Mark 1 (TELL) - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Many churches in the Christian faith have mission and vision statements that are based primarily on the words of: the Greatest Commands and the Great Commission. These words the gospel writers attribute to Jesus in his final hours with his disciples, either before or after the cross. These words are repeated in different ways throughout all of the gospels - Jesus in a sense wanted them to "keep the main thing the main thing". The five Marks of mission have been taken from these instructions. I am sure if you have been around church for any length of time you have not only heard them but also heard them being preached several times.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.[b] There is no commandment greater than these.'" (Mark 12:30-31)

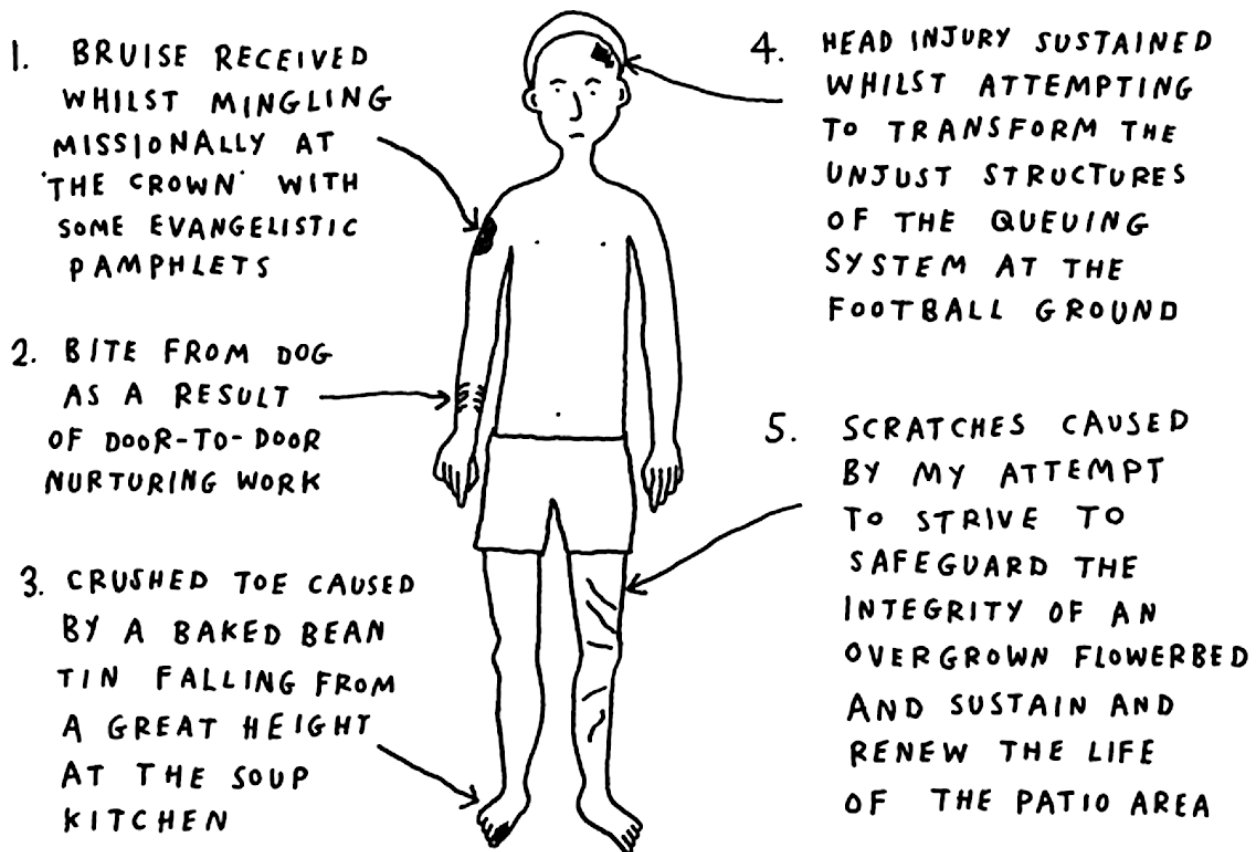
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Breaking them down into the five Marks of mission gives us a tangible list to work on. As Lisa shared on 18 February she does not like lists/simplified structure (and I am sure there are many that feel the same). It seems too simplistic (and it is), but perhaps that is the point because it gets us moving from theory to praxis. A clear and simple mission/vision allows us to focus our energy and efforts in order to achieve our goal. There are always many good things that we could be spending our time, energy and resources on and having a clear vision gives us the clarity to say no to certain things. Having a clear vision and mission also keeps us motivated and determined when obstacles come our way. I love the above picture because while it is silly in a lot of ways it is also challenging.

The challenge is if someone is looking at our lives will they know what our main thing is? Are we involved in some way with all of these Marks of Mission to the extent that others can see that we are different.

The Current sermon series on the Five-Marks of mission were intended to remind us and keep us moving forward with purpose during these times of change. It is intended to unify us and focus our energy on what is truly vital and important. The Ministerial Team, emphasised repeatedly that they are integrated and interdependent. The challenge to each individual is to consider how you are or how you can become involved in each one of them. In this way you will be partnering with God and your faith will be stretched and grown in a holistic way.

# THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION



I pray these "MARKS" will help us to fix our eyes on God in this season of New Beginnings.

God has placed the Church in the world to be his hands and feet, to bring hope and to share love. May we all keep our eyes fixed on God and remind ourselves daily of the mission God has entrusted to us as the Church.

"22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." (Ephesians 1:22-23, NIV)

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)

Bible Quotation taken from: New International Version Bible: right © 1973, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



# Easter Pick up your cross

Rev. Dean L. Batchelor

EASTER # Pick up your cross



In the next few weeks all around the world in different countries and cultures, people will be celebrating in different ways - the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. In some cultures, denominations and traditions the emphasis will be around Thursday and Friday with vigils and services commemorating the greatest sacrifice of all. In other cultures, denominations and traditions the focus will mostly be kept to an Easter Sunday celebration- resurrection, victory and New Life. Personally, I have found the services and traditions of Thursday and Friday more meaningful and find it hard to fathom how anyone can truly celebrate or experience New Life without walking through Thursday and Friday.

It was inevitable that Jesus would end up on a cross because the path he chose was one that challenged and exposed the ways of those who held the power. When Jesus chose humbly to enter Jerusalem on a donkey all knew it was a challenge to those in authority - Jesus was taking a stand. It was in a real sense a crossroads in His life. When we choose to follow Jesus which is ultimately what it means to be a Christian, we too will come to moments when we have a choice to make: To take a stand, to forgive, to love our enemy, to give and not count the cost, to lay down our lives for a friend, spouse and child. As I mentioned in the sermon on the 10th March the word "follow" comes up 148 times in the New Testament. When Jesus first calls his disciples (apprentices/ learners) he calls them to follow and in Luke 5 it mentions that they left their boats and followed (Luke 5:11). Later, Jesus expounds on what it means to follow. "Then he

called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' Mark 8:34. Jesus uses this phrase "take up your cross and follow Me" as a powerful metaphor for discipleship and commitment. Jesus uses it in the context of Peter objecting to the idea that Jesus would suffer and die. Jesus rebuked Peter and then explained what it truly means to follow Him.

In Jesus' time, everyone understood the meaning of the word "cross." Today every second celebrity or rock star is either wearing a piece of jewellery or tattoo in the shape of a cross. That was not the case in Jesus' day because many had seen, heard and even smelled what that meant - it was horrific and to be avoided at all costs. Roman soldiers literally crucified people on crosses, and carrying one's cross meant dragging it (or at least the cross beam) along to the place of execution. Taking up one's cross symbolizes being willing to endure suffering, ridicule, and even death for the sake of following Jesus. Following Jesus means more than mere association; it involves a radical commitment to His teachings and way of life and this will inevitably lead to crossroads. It is about being a disciple, an apprentice of Jesus, wanting to be with him, wanting to be like him, literally doing the things he did. This will inevitably require a surrender of self, a surrender of one's will to that of Jesus. Moments in everyday life when we have a choice to make. It should bring to mind Jesus crying out to the Father in the garden for another way and yet surrendering to the will, the way of the Father. It is fitting therefore that Jesus starts by saying, "Let him deny himself." Our personal agendas and desires need to be surrendered to the will of the Father. Our following Jesus is a wholehearted pursuit of Christ, prioritising Him over self-interest.

I want to encourage you this Easter not to skip Thursday and Friday but to join us in those services as we are challenged afresh to sacrifice all of ourselves and to prioritise God above all else. It is in those moments of our everyday lives when we choose His way of Grace, mercy, forgiveness, generosity, selflessness, kindness, meekness and patience that we experience the New Life of His kingdom come in us and through us. That choice will however inevitably mean a death - a sacrifice, a surrender. This Easter may be the moment for you to pick up your cross in the enduring knowledge of the resurrection, the promise of New Life.

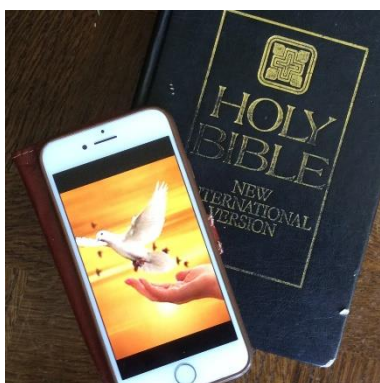
## Telephone Ministry

David Brown

For a long time now many members of Gorgie have maintained contact through visits or telephone calls to those who are unable to attend Church Services and meetings for various reasons. This is a ministry of Christian love and concern which is very much appreciated. Visiting is not always possible and that is where the telephone becomes a wonderful way of keeping in touch.

Recently it was agreed that this is such an important and welcomed act of service, it is vital that no-one who would welcome being included, should be missed out.

This would allow them to be kept informed on church news and many enjoy a bit of a "blether" especially if they stay on their own or are in care.



If you are aware of anyone who finds themselves unable to come to church and who would welcome an occasional telephone call please let me know.

It may be that person already has someone who keeps in touch but better we know than they miss out which would be sad.

This ministry is of course in addition to the Visitation carried out by our Pastor, Elders and indeed by other members of the church.

I have deliberately not mentioned names of those already involved in making or receiving calls because of Data Protection Laws but all involved are special and we thank them for their commitment in carrying out this service which is so valuable.

I would appreciate hearing if a situation arises where further help is needed or a specific item of prayer requested. If this occurred I would try to assist and/or pass it on to those able to help.

## Prayer Time

Sandra Blyth

When: Tuesdays 12.00-1.00 and Sunday 10.40-11.00

Where: The Count Room GDS Church

Who: All welcome

Philippians 4 v 6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

You are warmly invited to either or both of the above events. Please come and pray for our Church, our Community, our Families and friends for God's will to be done in our World.

When did you last pray? Yesterday, last week or last month? All of us at times struggle to know how and what to pray for. Sometimes it helps to share with others and learn from each other.

So do feel free to join us on a Tuesday and find out for yourself. We normally start with a Bible reading, praising God by singing a few hymns, giving thanks and sharing with each other what God has put on our hearts. Most importantly we still ourselves and listen for God's small persistent voice leading and guiding us.

Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with our Heavenly Father and although we can pray anytime and anywhere, it is important to gather together with our brothers and sisters and unite in prayer together for the future of our Church and to enrich our relationship with God and each other.

There is so much going on in our changing World and it's reassuring to know that ultimately God is in control and His timing is perfect. We must trust and obey and be led by the spirit to do His will. We have a God we can rely on always, who is faithful, loyal and true who loves us unconditionally and always will. So let us humble ourselves and come before Him with prayer, praise and thankfulness.

It has been encouraging to see more people join us on a Tuesday and we have even had to bring in more chairs to accommodate everyone, so do come and join us and find out for yourselves. You would be made very welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.  
Yours in Christ.

# United we Stand

John Duncan

As you all know, the two congregations of Palmerston Place and Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse united on 31st December last to form the new congregation of Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church (GaPP). We thought it would be helpful briefly to review our progress since then, as well as looking at what the future may hold under God's Providence.

## Joint Worship

It has been delightful to see how well our two church families have come together in the joint worship services we have been running since last autumn. People are mixing readily and making new friends, and there has been a real feeling of joyful Christian fellowship on each occasion. This was particularly noticeable when we celebrated our first Communion as a united congregation at Gorgie Church on 18th February.

We will continue holding joint worship on the third Sunday of every month, with the venue alternating between Gorgie and PP. This will include sharing Communion on dates to be confirmed.

All the time we are strengthening the bonds of friendship that have already developed, and we pray that, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our union will only grow deeper in the coming months. This is important, because we have challenges ahead as we work out how best to serve the communities that God has entrusted to our charge.

## Future Vision

The 20:30 Vision Day on 3rd February was fruitful indeed, and many excellent suggestions emerged about how to grow the Kingdom of God in our part of Edinburgh. Work is already underway on distilling these ideas down and identifying priority areas for mission, discipleship, and service. We are anxious that the congregation as a whole continue to be engaged in planning and delivering this, and we hope to be able to report further progress in the near future.

Whether we usually worship at Gorgie or Palmerston Place, it is essential that we work together as one united family of the people of God.

## Kirk Session

The united Kirk Session has met twice since the turn of the year, and is working together very well, though much work remains to be done, and many practical challenges have to be addressed. However, there is goodwill all round and a determination to make GaPP a shining light to our very extensive new parish, serving the community and bringing fresh souls to a saving faith in Christ.

The Kirk Session has almost equal numbers from each of the predecessor congregations, and all office-bearers are joint appointments, ensuring that our future plans will not be dominated by one or the other. We are currently working out the future structure of Kirk Session teams and working groups, and are anxious that non-elders also serve on these. Watch this space!

The names of the current members of Session are set out below.

Anne Amos, Pam Ashing, Sandra Blyth, Heather Carmichael, Linda Cunningham, John Duncan, Ian Garden, Sandy Gemmill, Tim Glasby, Ian Graham, Mairi Graham, Sharon Hannah, Gregor Innes, George Kay, Susan Kay, Tricia Kingston, David MacLennan, Ann McNee, Peter McNee, Margaret Menzies, Rev Douglas Reid, Norma Rolls, Roy Smart, Norma Steedman, Ron Steel, Edie Temple.

## Office Bearers

As mentioned above, all office bearers are joint appointments, with representation from the two previous congregations:

Joint Session Clerks: Tricia Kingston and John Duncan

Joint Treasurers: Suzanne Graham and Sandy Gemmill  
Assistant Treasurers: David Taylor, Susan Kay and Ian Garden

Susan Kay is Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and an Assistant Co-ordinator will be appointed from PP.

## Ministerial Team

Rev Douglas Reid and Rev Dean Batchelor continue to lead our worship as Associate Ministers until such time as we are able to call a permanent Minister to the vacant charge. In addition, we enjoy the services of

Lisa Clark and Jessica Linde as Ministerial Assistants, and Rev Reuben Addis as our Ordained Local Minister.

Our Interim Moderator, Rev Sam Torrens, is a source of wise counsel and strong leadership during this time of transition.

### Concluding Remarks

We hope this brief report will reassure the congregation that our union is progressing well and that, with God's help, the future looks bright – though much work remains to be done!

## **A guide to prayer**

**Polly Fleck**

When asked what we do when we pray, NT Wright, former Professor of theology at St Andrew's University states: "You are claiming every time you pray to stand at the intersection of Heaven and Earth, which is a dangerous and exhilarating but worrying place to stand".

Let us take time as a church to pray with expectation and faith that God through his spirit is going to move.

- Thank God for his grace and the position you occupy in his heart.
- Give thanks for all that God has done in the past, to this point in our separate churches.
- Acknowledge before God that the process of Union has been difficult and bruising for some but give thanks that God will do a new work bringing our churches together.
- Give thanks for the many gifts he has given to resource us in order to serve him in this community.
- Pray for our leaders, Dean, Douglas, Jessica, Lisa and Reuben. Pray for their protection and direction, and that they will hear God's voice clearly.

- Pray for Tricia, John and the elders under the moderation of Sam Torrens as they feel their way forward and begin to pursue God's vision together.
- Pray for the areas of outreach that we are currently involved with. Toddler groups, Fellowship groups, and children's and youth work, at both churches. Pray especially for Reuben and Jessica as they pioneer new work with the parents of children who need extra support.
- Pray specifically for health and energy for Norda, Alec and the volunteers at Saltyard and give thanks for the warmth of community that is felt by customers in the café. There is a new post for a kitchen assistant at Saltyard. Pray that the right person will be found.



As we move forward as a church into a new season of fellowship and mission, pray that the Spirit will move in us, to help us to be gracious, loving and understanding of one another. Pray that God will kindle a flame of courage and excitement to allow us all to embrace the vision He has for His church.



# Thank You

Tricia Kingston, Joint Session Clerk

Sometimes this phrase trips lightly from our lips without us even thinking about why we are saying, "thank you". On this occasion, the thanks are due to two deserving people who have served faithfully for a total of 104 years – yes two people, 104 years!

Our fellow member and cleaning lady, Meta Wiseman, has put away her dusters and is retiring after 40 years of mopping, Hoovering, dusting and tidying the church and halls of Gorgie.

Meta has been much more than a cleaner, helping to set up halls, answering the phone, taking in parcels, making sure tradesmen get the work done, and providing tea or coffee and a listening ear or helping hand, to those who drop by.

Nothing is too much trouble, and a quick phone call to Meta has often saved the day if something has been forgotten or overlooked.

Our longest-serving Elder retired from active duties in December last year. Having been Ordained in 1959, Jimmy Blackwood has served our congregation for 64 years. He must run on those batteries which last longer than any others!

Initially ordained into the congregation of Tynecastle Church, which through Union with Cairns Memorial became Gorgie Church, which became Gorgie Dalry, which became Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse, before arriving where we are now at Gorgie and Palmerston Place – quite a journey and a few stories to tell.

Jimmy has been an exemplary District Elder, visiting regularly, delivering the church magazine, keeping us informed of any pastoral issues, and now welcoming everyone attending Sunday by Sunday. In addition to all this, he faithfully attended Kirk Session meetings, including one memorable occasion during the pandemic via Zoom, when he looked every inch the professional and online meetings were an every day occurrence for him.

Two people who are wonderful examples of "faithful servants"(Matt.25:21) who have gone beyond what was asked of them, and whose service is not only to the church family but to the Lord Himself, we are fortunate to know them.

Meta and Jimmy, please know that this "Thank You", is genuine and heartfelt.

# Saltyard Services

Reuben Addis, OLM

"Most of us know Saltyard for it's hearty soup and amazing baking. But the vision was always for it to be more than a cafe. At it's core we are trying to build community, so that it becomes a space that regular visitors, and volunteers, increasingly feel is theirs. This is working really well. But where do we go from here? What is the next step?

One possible answer is Cafe Church. And over the last year we have been opening the Saltyard doors at 7pm on a Sunday night. Initially we watched "The Chosen" together, prayed and discussed what we saw. More recently we have been reading the Bible together (working through Ephesians, and now looking at the Lord's prayer). We've experimented with creative ways to pray and to worship. Our hope is that this will feel different from Sunday worship – a space you can bring that friend who might prefer a more informal and interactive style of worship. This might include teens and younger adults, those with disabilities, and anyone who enjoys space to think and be creative. Come along and give it a try.



Part of the cafe church experiment has been to offer a regular Taize service. Usually this is the last Cafe church of the month – but we have moved March back to the 24th (Palm Sunday). Taize is based around simple meditative songs (usually based on a verse of scripture), Bible readings, Prayer, and silence. It is run ecumenically and deliberately provides a contrasting way of worship. If you have never been then I'd encourage you to give it a try.

Contact me if you have any questions.

[reuben.addis@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:reuben.addis@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Mob 0786 791 5022



## Vision 2030 Day

Douglas Reid. Associate Minister

We had a great day at the start of February where the new united congregations met together to discuss why we are a church, what we have done, and what we might do in the future. We identified key locations in the new parish, things that we can do to support our existing people, and how we might be able to journey with God in creating aspects of the Kingdom of God more clearly in our large and diverse Parish. We were ably helped in our discussions by Rev Liam Fraser who brought us insight and passion to help our discussions.



A model of Reid Memorial Church

At the end of the day I took away lots of sheaves of paper with many ideas, requests and prayerful thoughts written down. These have now been gathered together and the ministry team and Session Clerks will shortly discuss our resources and capabilities to see how we might be able to move forward with these ideas. The matter will also be discussed by the Kirk Session and hopefully we will then have another opportunity to gather as a congregation collectively to decide on and commit to our 2030 Vision. Thank you to all who have taken part so far and keep an eye out for more information on all this which we will share with everyone as soon as possible. In the meantime please keep praying that God's will is followed and God's work is done in our parish.

**Some photos of the event are on pages 18 & 19**

## Hello from Lisa

Lisa Clark. Ministerial Assistant

I'm a Ministerial Assistant for the united congregation. I have worked for the Church of Scotland in various capacities over a number of years, at both national and local level. I have also worked extensively in the third sector and in politics. I am a Leith born and bred but I enjoy my daily trip across our beautiful city to come westwards!

My role here is varied - I am a great believer in team ministry and enjoy working closely with Douglas, Dean, Reuben and Jessica. I am very excited at the possibilities for outreach opened up by the new parish and feel there are many needs in this parish which we can look to support. It's very important to me that our new united congregation grows even closer - to each other and to God. To do that, I see as a core part of my role to make sure we don't neglect the nurturing of our congregation and give us all every opportunity to develop our faith.

Some of the ideas which came up at the Vision Day - a hot chocolate café for the students passing on their way to High School, bereavement support, community meals, money advice support and outreach to football fans to name but a few - I would like to work with and see what we can do with them. I have been in this post since December 2022 but in lots of ways feel like I'm just beginning. I look forward to working with you all to make our vision a reality!



# Taizé

Song, prayer  
& contemplation

Saltyard Cafe  
158 Dalry Road EH11 2HB

For more information:  
Reuben.addie@churchofscotland.org.uk  
Mob 07867515022

Palm Sunday (24 March)  
7-8pm Saltyard Cafe





A string of colorful Easter eggs and small flowers hangs across the top of the page. The eggs are decorated with various patterns like polka dots, stripes, and zig-zags. The flowers are in shades of green, blue, purple, and orange.


# Easter

# Messy Church

at Gorgie Church Next to Hearts stadium

Join us On **Easter Sunday** at 3pm for  
Easter crafts and games,  
help us to hunt for the **Easter Bible** story  
and then share a simple meal.

**Free. All ages Welcome**

A row of colorful Easter eggs with various patterns (polka dots, stripes, zig-zags) is shown at the bottom. Some eggs are partially obscured by others. Small flowers in shades of blue, purple, orange, and yellow are scattered around the eggs.

Messy Church is at 3pm  
on the last Sunday  
of **every** month

To find out more phone:  
Reuben: 0786 791 5022  
Jessica: 07591 206901

## Diadem

**Tricia Kingston, Joint Session Clerk**

As you will remember, under the terms of the Presbytery Mission Plan, we are obliged to dispose of the suite of buildings known as Diadem by 31st December 2023.

Having shown we were engaged in efforts to sell the premises, an extension to the date was given.

With the help and guidance of the Church of Scotland Law Department and General Trustees, we are now nearing completion of the sale of Diadem to a group who have had use of the building, through letting space there, over a fairly lengthy period. City on a Hill is an independent Christian church worshipping regularly in Diadem and now in a position to offer to purchase it; conversations are currently taking place with the Law Department.

Although disappointed that we will no longer have a presence at the Stenhouse end of our parish, our Kirk Session is pleased that Diadem will remain in the hands of a Christian church. City on a Hill have been gracious in agreeing to discuss the possibility of Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church (GaPP) using space in Diadem in the future.

Although nothing is yet finalised, the sale is likely to be completed soon. Please remember the situation in your prayers.

## Vacancy Update

**Tricia Kingston, Joint Session Clerk**

While we are very fortunate to enjoy the preaching and pastoral care of Rev Dean Batchelor, the question frequently being asked just now is, "When are we going to get a new minister?"

We overcame the first hurdle when GDS and PPC became the united congregation of Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church (GaPP) on 31st December 2023.

Presbytery has now appointed a Vacancy Advisory Committee of three people, who will meet with the Kirk Session to guide and support us throughout our period of vacancy. At the moment we are fixing a date for our first meeting with the committee, Rev David Clarkson, Mrs Jean Aldred and Dr John Sharp.

We are in the process of preparing a Parish Profile, which will include input from our 20:30 Vision Day as that information becomes available. (Thanks are due to Rev Douglas Reid for taking on the task of collating all the details shared during that inspiring time together.)

Discussions to determine what we are looking for in our minister, preparing an advertisement, and selecting a Nominating Committee which is representative of our congregation, will be among the next tasks to be undertaken.

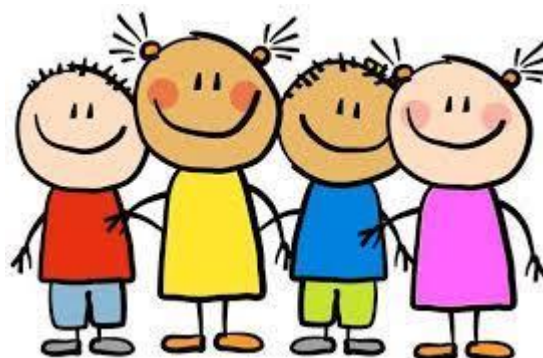
Many people are doing all they can to keep the process moving forward and we will keep you up to date as we progress.

In the meantime, please remember your prayers are invaluable to ensuring we locate the person God is preparing for GaPP.

## Toddler Group

**Barbara Roberts**

Most Wednesday mornings we have around 12 children brought along by mums, child minders nannies or grandparents. It's a joy to watch the children play with the amazing variety of toys we have gathered over the years. The highlight of the morning is when they gather together round the table for snack time, and mums enjoy a cuppa.



The morning comes to a close by singing songs which is always fun as some (mainly the team) get the actions or the words wrong.

We are looking forward to having an egg hunt in the church before the Easter break.....look out for any we miss.



## Meet the GaPP Staff Team

**Norma Rolls, HR Team Leader**

Currently we are all being looked after by Rev Sam Torrens who is our Interim Moderator. He “chairs” our Kirk Session meetings. Dean and Douglas and Reuben all respond to him. We are indebted to Sam for the interest he shows and the time he gives to GaPP while being Minister of Slateford Longstone Church. Dean Batchelor has been the Assistant Minister at Gorgie since January 2023, having come to Edinburgh in December 2021 from South Africa where he was an established minister having been ordained in June 2004.

Douglas Reid was ordained at Palmerston Place in October 2022, having completed his probation with the Church of Scotland. He is an elder at PPC and gave up his career as a lawyer to go into the ministry. It is quite scary to think that in just a few months’ time, our new Minister will be replacing Sam and Dean and Douglas!



Sam Torrens



Dean Batchelor



Douglas Reid

However, we do have the rest of our Ministry Team in place ready to provide support.

Reuben Addis is our OLM (Ordained Local Minister). He can officiate at baptisms and weddings as well as funerals, preside at Communion and act as Moderator of the Kirk Session. He voluntary gives up to 10 hours each week plus Sundays for GaPP. He has a special interest in younger folks and enjoys using Saltyard as a base for worship and outreach activities.

Lisa Clark has been our Ministerial Assistant since 2022. At present she has a wide ranging remit which will be refined as a result of our Vision Day. Meanwhile she has been researching the needs in the Stenhouse

area. She is able to provide bereavement support and can conduct funerals.

Jessica Linde is our Children and Families Ministerial Assistant. Although, only appointed in the autumn, she is already well known to our own wee ones and has established Book Lambs at Saltyard every Thursday. One of her targets is to make contact with all the schools in our parish and she, too, looks forward to developing new initiatives as a result of our Vision Day.

Simon Hall has been our organist since the summer of 2022. He also plays guitar and accordion and has a lovely singing voice. He supports our weekly worship services and was instrumental in introducing the Taizé style reflections. He is keen to have our music reflect the seasons of the church year. Together with our choir, he has encouraged and organised outreach within the city.



Reuben Addis



Lisa Clark



Jessica Linde





Simon Hall

Saltyard Staff:

Alex MacLean and Norda Barber are our Saltyard stalwarts, keeping Saltyard going while we try to find a replacement for George who has given so much to creating a first-class facility for supporting and serving the local community. Alex has been with us since 2015 and Norda since 2018. They are to be found in the kitchen and at the counter in Saltyard every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am till 4pm. Their homemade soups and freshly baked scones are delicious. If you have never been to Saltyard for a coffee or lunch, they would be delighted to welcome you. Elsewhere in the magazine you should find an advert for another member of staff to join them. Please share this with anyone you know who might be interested. We really do need another pair of hands around the kitchen.

Palmerston Place Staff:

Piotr Pankowski, Lauren Smith and Rory Ross make up the Caretaking team for Annan House and our Palmerston Place Church building. Piotr has been with us since 2014 and Lauren and Rory joined us in 2022. In Annan House we have 6 offices rented out and in use every weekday and AA and OM Music Sanctuary meet in the church building every day other than Sunday so our

Caretakers work evening and weekend shifts and are kept busy keeping the premises clean and tidy for these groups as well as our own church activities and services. Lauren and Rory will be known to some of you as they are on duty for our Sunday worship.

Vacancies:

We are without our cleaner for our Gorgie building. (the Saltyard contract cleaner is covering at present) We have not had an administrator at Gorgie since the autumn of 2022. (volunteers are filling some of the gaps but others remain)

We have been without our Saltyard Manager since the end of January. (We will be advertising for a temporary Café Assistant from the beginning of March)

We are losing our Church Facilitator from the Palmerston Place office at the end of April.

Once our Mission Plan is agreed following on from our Vision Day, the Kirk Session will decide how we best replace (or not) these positions.

Financial Note:

Every one of our staff team members is paid a stipend/salary (with the exception of our OLM) Our new minister will be paid from Central Church of Scotland funds.

Under the Presbytery Plan we were allocated 0.5 of an MDS post which is our Children and Families Ministerial Assistant role. This is also paid for from Church of Scotland funds. Our Kirk Session agreed that we would fund the other half from our congregational income.

All of the other members of staff listed above and any new appointments also need to be paid for from our congregational income which is mainly our weekly offerings and premises letting.

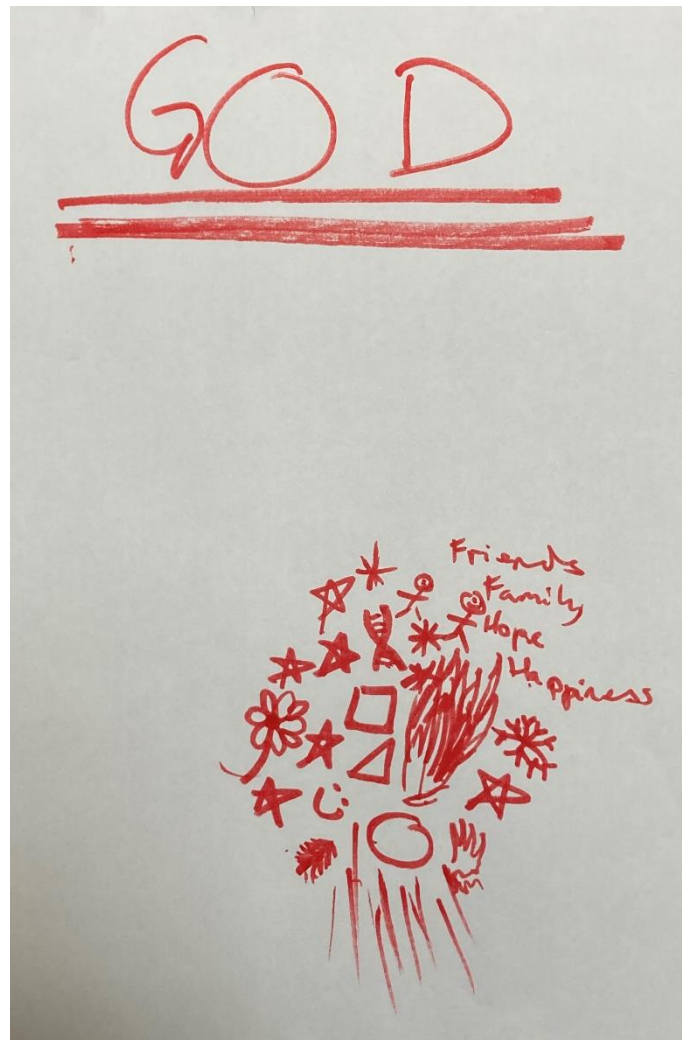
## Youth Update

Jessica Linde, Children & Families Ministerial Assistant

Since I started in my role as Children and Families Ministerial Assistant at the beginning of October 2023, I have had the privilege getting involved in many aspects of church life! On a Sunday morning, you'll often see me up at the front delivering the all-age talk as well as taking our under-18s out for more age-appropriate bible-based discussion and activities. It has been a delight to get to know our youth over the past 5 months and see how creative and imaginative they can be, from drawing what they think God looks like to illustrating the meaning of a particular beatitude!

Additionally, I've had the privilege to work with and learn from Reuben and our core team of kids/youth volunteers on Messy Church, which we've been running on the last Sunday of every month in Gorgie. The last 5 that I've been a part of have been so fun and have highlighted the variety of ways children best engage with bible stories, whether that's running their hands through sand to understand that Abraham and Sarah journeyed through the desert or decorating sheep cupcakes to grasp that Jesus came into the world in a stable with farm animals.

Moreover, starting in November, I began going along to Saltyard on Thursday mornings (10:30am) for Book Lambs, where I read books and sing songs with pre-school aged children. Over the course of the past 4 months, it's been wonderful to get to know the families that have consistently started coming along as well as slowly introduce reading books that have gentle religious themes or depict bible stories. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated books specifically to be read at Book Lambs!





## Monday Fellowship at Gorgie

**Norma Steedman**

The Fellowship at Gorgie continues each Monday at 1.30 pm. We have such lovely, happy times together. Our Christmas party was a great success with a lovely meal cooked and served by our friends at Saltyard. After our meal we enjoyed fun and hilarity with kazoos and games and a visit from Santa with gifts. Dean thought our Hokey Cokey antics were amazing and was impressed by our dance moves! Thank you to all at Saltyard.

This year we have been privileged to be entertained by many talented singers and musicians and have had interesting talks from the Edinburgh City Mission to hear about their many projects to serve the homeless and less fortunate in our city and to learn about the fascinating history in the Grassmarket from George Laing, a historian.

We are looking forward to Holy Week when Dean, our Minister will lead us in worship in our church on Monday 25th March. All are welcome to join us then and on any other Monday.

The date for our Spring outing will be announced soon. We hope to go to Dunbar and to North Berwick and are looking forward to a happy day out together.

Many thanks go to all who help make our meetings so rewarding.

## End of Year Newsletter

**Kathryn Burns**

Historically during the winter months, a small team of volunteers from GDS would prepare and cook a two course meal and serve some of Edinburgh's homeless at The Hub in Haymarket. Due to resourcing needs, we have been asked by Bethany Christian Trust and Edinburgh City Mission to continue with The Care Van service until the end of this year.

The Care Van is an important source of care and support for people who are homeless and vulnerable in Edinburgh. This service operates 364 days a year, has 45 church teams involved in some capacity, with around 300 volunteers serving on the evening Care Van alone. On average 50-60 people use this service every night during the summer months and around 40 people per night, across the rest of the year, benefit

from the Care Van.

Each night the volunteers load up The Van with delicious homemade soup, tea, coffee and buttered rolls. We have now added biscuits, fresh fruit and crisps at the request of the service users. It is always very busy at Waverley, our first stop, and can be hectic making sure everyone is given a hot drink and snack quickly. Often there are requests for clothes, socks, blankets, coats anything to keep out the cold. We always distribute any donated clothing but sadly many leave empty handed.



We have found that most guests really appreciate chatting to volunteers. Often volunteers can sign post additional support and sometimes this can be the first step for the service users being able to get back on their feet. We are aware of a gentleman who wanted to become an artist and had been attending the Care Van for months - he has recently enrolled in an art college programme!

If you would like to help there are many ways including; donate clothing, make soup, serve on or drive the Care Van. Please speak to Sandra Blyth or Kathryn Burns

## Easter Play 2024

**Tricia Kingston, Joint Session Clerk**

This year's play is a new script telling the traditional story as it focuses on the women who were part of Jesus' life.

It begins at 2pm on Saturday 30th March in Princes Street Gardens.

Please come along to be part of this witness in the heart of our city.











# Saltyard Café

part of Gorgie and  
Palmerston Place Church

## Vacancy

### - Café Assistant

(part-time/temporary initially)

We currently have an exciting opportunity for the right person or people to join our team as a café assistant – job share possible.



**Saltyard, on Dalry Road, is an established church café run by an enthusiastic team of volunteers and paid staff.**

**Our aim is to be more than a café with a welcoming atmosphere. As a Church we want to establish a strong sense of belonging within the local community in order to share the love and hope found in Jesus Christ.**

### ***Café Assistant***

***Working 3 days a week, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – 27 hours.***

Duties to include: make soups, bake scones, prepare light snacks and a daily special, keep kitchen and surfaces clean and tidy; serve at counter. We are looking for someone who has good Customer Service Skills, the ability to work under pressure and able to work in a team. They must have a food and hygiene certificate (or be trained and gain this qualification), preferably, cash handling experience and knowledge and awareness of good food standards.

**Further information and Application Form available:**

on [www.gdschurch.org.uk](http://www.gdschurch.org.uk) or [www.palmerstonplacechurch.com](http://www.palmerstonplacechurch.com)

or in person at Saltyard Café, 158 Dalry Road.

**Closing date: 12 noon on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity Number SC004291*