

PRISM

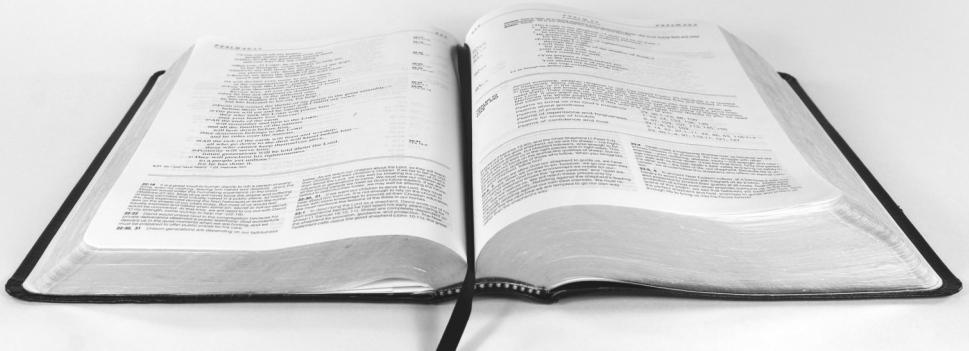


News & views from Craigmillar Park Church, Edinburgh

A worshipping and caring community, following Jesus Christ

www.craigmillarpark.org

Minister's Letter



Dear friends

Lent is approaching: the traditional season, beginning this year on Wednesday 18 March, when many Christians take on extra voluntary disciplines: fasting, praying, reading, reflecting, giving, or involvement in a project to deepen their faith or to help others. I don't see it as a fixed duty, rather as an opportunity to focus on God and God's concerns, through reassessing our priorities and taking time to devote to

something meaningful.

Take time to read. Some people find a Lent book stimulating. You could try one of Tom Wright's *Lent for Everyone* books, which enable you to read through a series of readings in Mark, Matthew or Luke together with comments and questions by Tom Wright. Mark is the suggested gospel for this year. Also, each year the Archbishop of Canterbury promotes a Lent book. This year's book is Archbishop Desmond Tutu's *In God's Hands*.

Take time to join a Lent Group.

Newington Churches Together will be offering a series of Lent Studies entitled, *Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East*. So many Christians (and many others) are suffering deeply at this time in that part of the world, so it is a timely opportunity for people to hear their voice and pray with them. (The material also reads very well.) There is information about how to sign up in this issue of *Prism* (page 3) and at www.ctbi.org.uk/688 there are online versions of the material.

Priestfield Parish Church are, over the course of Lent, engaging in an exercise from *Biblica* (a Bible Society) to read the whole of the New Testament. It's called the *Community Bible Experience* and uses an edition of the NIV (2011) which is not in canonical order and has no chapter or verse divisions. The idea is to try to read the New Testament as closely as possible to the way its first readers encountered it. 'Book club' discussion groups will reflect on people's experiences of reading in this way. Alongside that, Jared is running six 'Forum' meetings to help people get a fuller picture of how the New Testament fits together. If you would like to join in with one of the Priestfield groups, please contact the Rev Dr Jared Hay: 0131 468 1254 or jared.hay@blueyonder.co.uk.

Take up a project. The development charity **Christian Aid** is again producing a *Count your Blessings app* for smartphones or a paper guide. **Stewardship** is again encouraging people via www.40acts.org.uk to 'do Lent

generously'. You can read at www.emms.org/lent how **EMMS** is asking people to raise funds and pray for a baby unit in one of India's poorest states. There are many other organisations also producing materials.

Take time to pray for the church and the world.

I plan to provide opportunities for people to gather together for prayer. Please see the notice sheets for the times. I will try and spread them at different times of the day and on different days.

Here are two things to pray about which affect our church.

In the first quarter of this year, a *Local Church Review team* from Edinburgh Presbytery will be overseeing the regular review process that all parish churches take part in periodically, going over our descriptions of recent activities and helping us to set appropriate goals for the future. The kirk session is to meet with them first on 26 February and again on 31 March. Meanwhile a group of ten elders (three each from three local churches Priestfield, Reid Memorial and Craigmillar Park and an experienced presbytery elder from elsewhere) will be meeting periodically to discuss the future shape and mission of the church in this area. This is in anticipation of Presbytery reviewing the Presbytery Plan for Newington and Blackford in the second quarter of this year. Please pray for those taking part in these processes and for wise decisions for the continuing mission of God through Christ's church across the local area.

John

Congregational Register

Deaths

Mrs Morag Sharp, on Sunday 28 December 2014

Miss Margaret Flockhart MBE, suddenly at home, on Monday 19 January 2015

Change of Address

Mrs Moyra Sim, now at 2 Lennox Street, Edinburgh EH4 1QA

Church Family News

Thanks

Mrs Ray McKenzie would like to thank the congregation for flowers and kind words following the death of her sister, Morag Sharp.

Death

On 20 December 2014 John Ferguson, formerly of Esslemont Road, husband of Jean, father of Kenneth, Colin and Morna, elder in Craigmillar Park and chairperson of the vacancy committee in 1983.



NCT Lent Groups

These groups will be meeting during the six weeks of Lent commencing Sunday 22 February.

CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) have produced this year's material entitled *Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East*. Never before have our Middle Eastern brothers and sisters found themselves in so much distress. In

order to pray for them, we need to understand them and their plight better.

More information will become available shortly but, if interested to attend one of the groups, please do speak to me.

David Cargill
667 5686

Sponsored Dry January

Mum and I knit for the Pebbles Project, based near Stellenbosch, in South Africa. Pebbles provides after school clubs, nurseries, health care and adult education for vineyard workers and their families. The vineyard workers were historically low paid, and partly paid in alcohol. This has led to lots of problems. The last year saw the Pebbles office move from a rented room in Somerset West to a specially converted suite of offices donated by Villiera Wines on their vineyard. Villiera is one of the major sponsors of Pebbles.



Pebbles was founded ten years ago by an English special needs teacher, Sophia Warner, with the help of her sister Lucy, who was already working in the wine industry in South Africa. Pebbles continues to grow, gradually increasing its activities at more vineyards. One

scheme they run is school packs for children of all ages who would otherwise find attending school hard due to the cost of uniforms and other materials. These are handed out every January and cost £20 each.

I am doing a sponsored Dry (no alcohol) January in aid of Pebbles, running until Saturday 7 February. During my visit to South Africa in the autumn I will see, first hand, the work that this sponsorship money will contribute to. You can donate at www.justgiving.com/Alison-Leslie4, or by handing donations to me.

Thank you very much for any donations. More information on the Pebbles Project can be found on their website:

www.pebblesproject.co.za

Alison Leslie

Christmas Babies

I suppose it was seeing an episode of *Call the Midwife* over Christmas which reminded me of a very busy Christmas when I was a District Midwife in Salisbury. It was 1962 and I was on call with three pupil midwives. The students were trained nurses just completing midwifery

training. Because I was on call, my parents and brother were coming to spend Christmas with me in my little, rented flat. My brother supplied the turkey and I was going to do the cooking, but it didn't quite work out like that because I was called out. My poor Mum found

herself cooking on a grotty, old gas stove for all of us, including the students I brought in for sustenance during Christmas Day!

Our first call came on the morning of Christmas Eve and the baby arrived at lunchtime. The dad had busied himself with cooking their Christmas meal while we were waiting and so we were offered a little bit of Christmas before

we left the house! Baby number two arrived later that day. By the time we had clean delivery bags ready again for the next call, it was very late

and my brother had prepared the turkey for cooking the next morning.

I went to bed at midnight and was called at 5am, this time to a mum having her first baby - likely to be an all-day affair. Student number 3 was duly left with her patient who was progressing well. I got the other two students out to visit the new mums while I went home to instruct my mum on managing my old gas stove. I was able to bring one student home for a meal while I took the other out to our fourth call. The next call came soon after and was also straightforward. Somehow by the evening I had checked our new mums, seen our three new babies and left student number 3 enjoying helping her new mother with her first baby.

So by 8pm on Christmas Day I had

seen three babies safely delivered and all was quiet. After a quick trip to the hospital, I went to collect the last student. When we arrived at the base we were met by the news that we had another call!

My colleague was due back on call at 10pm so I asked my mother to tell her that I was out, so that she would relieve me. My mother



misunderstood (no wonder after the day she had had) and Audrey never got the message. Around 2am a big bouncing baby boy arrived and all well. It was about 4am

before I got home to find parents asleep in chairs and brother on the floor!!

Looking back, I am amazed when I remember those days. We did not have phones of course; indeed few households had their own phone and called in from a kiosk. Many women chose to have their baby at home and were indeed more relaxed and had a shorter labour. They were offered gas for the delivery but many did not need or use it.

That Christmas was amazing. I whizzed around in my hospital car and everything went like clockwork. Not only did we deliver more babies than we usually did in a week, but we had more than the maternity unit itself over Christmas! A Christmas to remember indeed.

Jean Walker

What are we to Make of Islam?

A Personal View

We are seeing the ugly side of Islam at the moment, just as we saw the ugly side of Christianity in recent years in Northern Ireland... indeed we still have the problem of sectarianism in Scotland today. The shootings in France in January, the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby in London in 2013 and the Glasgow airport bombing in 2007 brought home to us the horror of the killing fields of the Middle East and Africa. And, of course, Britain is part of the Western alliance currently fighting the army of the so-called Islamic State in Northern Iraq.

As always, religion is used as the cover for other discontents - east v west, poor v rich, dictatorship v democracy, tribe v tribe. But every religion needs to ask itself why it can be used in this way. My own view is that religions fail to guard themselves against fundamentalism; the strict reading of scriptures written centuries ago or the obedience to charismatic leaders with mad ideas. The Christian Reformation tried to put an end to this and usher in a new age of reason and individual interpretation of the gospel, but there has been much backsliding since. I think it's now Islam's turn to try a Reformation.

A German friend of mine recently told me that the Imams need to re-write the sentence in the Koran which urges the faithful to wage jihad against all non-believers. He

was obviously suffering from the paranoia sweeping Germany over Islamisation. I can understand his fear. We see it in parts of Britain, mixed up with the issue of immigration.

I must admit I am disturbed by the wearing of the veil and the subjugation of women among Muslims. Then I remember that when I was a boy, women were expected to wear hats in church and were certainly not allowed to be ministers in the Church of Scotland!

Of course, values and religions are important, they are part of our spiritual life, but we need to stay calm about them. There is too much paranoia about. Religious leaders need to speak out against extremists on their own sides, whether they are in Afghanistan or Antrim, Iran or Idaho.

Muslims need to accept a little laughter at cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. Jews should not see a Nazi under every stone. Christians should understand that secularism and the new atheists are not out to "get" them. Instead we should all accept our cultural differences (provided they don't infringe human rights), even enjoy them, and learn to work together on social and humanitarian issues. Otherwise, and I fear this is the case, we are heading for another world war - this time using Islam and Christianity as covers for political domination.

John Knox



Concert for Captured Hearts: Stop Human Trafficking in Scotland

On Sunday 15 February at 8pm at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, the Orchestra of the Canongait is putting on a concert featuring Dvorak's New World Symphony and Strauss' Don Quixote. Tickets on the door are £10 (£8 concessions) with all proceeds to Amnesty International, to support their work fighting human trafficking.

Influenced by Beethoven and Schubert, African-American

spirituals, and native American music, Dvorak's New World Symphony (often known as the 'Hovis advert') has been a universal favourite in many countries since it was first performed in the 1890s.

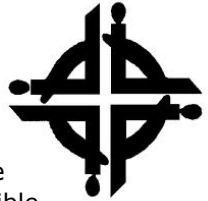
Don Quixote is a 45-minute tone poem written by Richard Strauss in the same period. It is based on the Cervantes novel, with solo cello representing Don Quixote, and viola, tuba and clarinet depicting the comic Sancho Panza.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Human trafficking involves the exploitation of vulnerable victims, arising from demand for cheap labour, and profit-driven organised crime. It is currently estimated to be the second fastest growing international crime, behind the illegal drugs trade, stimulated by global political and economic uncertainties. Even in Scotland, victims have been found in the sex industry, hotels, restaurants, farms and domestic homes. Many organisations, including Amnesty International and the Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking group, facilitated by Action of Churches Together in Scotland, have been agitating for action against this evil in the past few years, with the result that the Scottish Parliament has now pledged that by the end of this session it will pass legislation which, according to the Justice Secretary, will "give our police, prosecutors and other agencies the powers to make Scotland a hostile environment for human traffickers, and also help to identify and support the needs of victims." There is also draft legislation in progress in the UK Parliament, and a Europe-wide initiative, finally recognising the breadth and scale of the problem, and the inadequacies of current criminal legislation to deal with it.

World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer this year will be on 6 March at 2.30pm in the Canongate Kirk. The theme this year is *Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"* (John 13: 1-17) and the service was written by the Christian women of the Bahamas. There will also be two Bible studies held at the Church Offices, 121 George Street, at 10.30am on Fridays 13 and 27 February.

Isobel Smith

Lunch Club

The Guild and the Lunch Club had a most enjoyable Christmas lunch. Our thanks must go to all those who helped to prepare and serve the meal. The Lunch Club meets every Tuesday in the Church Hall and we welcome new members. A happy New Year to all.

Flora Paton

Church and Society Council News

Climate Change

The Scottish Government and churches were represented at the UN Climate Conference in December in Lima, Peru. The Church of Scotland is a member of the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition along with 60 other organisations in Scotland. Questions have been raised by churches in developing countries about the human implications of climate change.

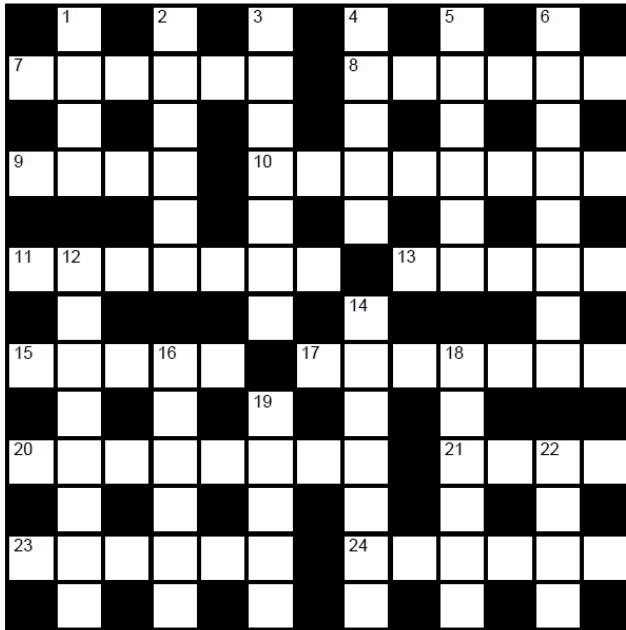
Credit Unions

Penicuik Churches Working Together have started a satellite office for Capital Credit Union and this has been praised in the Scottish Parliament (S4M-11049). Based at Penicuik North Kirk, it provides people with information on saving and borrowing with the not-for-profit Capital Credit Union.

Food Banks

The number of food banks in Scotland has increased dramatically in the last few years. The Church of Scotland is organising a conference called *Beyond Foodbanks* on 28 February at the Pearce Institute in Glasgow.

More information about these, and other, topics is available on the Church and Society website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/speak_out



Crossword

with a
Games/Sports
Theme

by Roger Paton

Answers on page 12

Across

- 7** Arguing while out on a river? (6)
- 8** Sent in to play this game (6)
- 9** Don't be misled, it contains a toboggan (4)
- 10** Cora less likely to play this game (8)
- 11** You, or a horse might win one (7)
- 13** Sweeper on the rink (5)
- 15** Essential gear for a sportsperson (5)
- 17** Laura Trott is an Olympic one (7)
- 20** Where the referee is told to go! (8)
- 21** Stunners on the tennis court? (4)
- 23** Cow ran over top award (1,5)
- 24** Orange or lemon juice may be found on this court (6)

Down

- 1** Play with this or maybe win it (4)
- 2** Play below par to get this! (6)
- 3** G.I. in Italy shows fitness (7)
- 4** Use this to play **10 Across** (5)
- 5** **19 Down** may go thus (2,4)
- 6** The only exciting parts of motor-racing! (3-5)
- 12** Ultimate sports events (8)
- 14** Competitor in **12 Down** (7)
- 16** Wild animals found playing in Leeds! (6)
- 18** **16 Down** is in a Rugby one (6)
- 19** Ultimate Rugby Union touring team (5)
- 22** Bridge position (4)

Dates For Your Diary

February

Sun 1 at 10.30am – Morning Worship with Holy Communion afterwards

Sun 1 at 7pm – Evening Worship: Evensong and Compline Mayfield
Salisbury Festival of Sacred Music

Wed 4 at 7pm – Alpha in the Session Room

Wed 4 at 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together City of Edinburgh Methodists

Thu 5 at 3.15pm – Christian Worship at St Margaret's Care Home

Thu 6 at 10am – Older People's Outreach Planning Team meets in the
Session Rm

Sun 8 at 10.30am – Morning Worship

Tue 10 at 7 for 7.30pm – NCT Committee meets at Priestfield Church

Wed 11 at 7pm – Alpha in the Session Room

Fri 13 at 10.30am – World Day of Prayer Bible study 121 George Street

Sun 15 at 10.30am – Morning Worship

**Sun 15 at 8pm – Concert for Captured Hearts: Stop Human Trafficking
in Scotland** in aid of Amnesty International, St Mary's Episcopal
Cathedral, Palmerston Place

Tue 17 at 7pm – Trustees' meeting followed by Congregational Board

Wed 18 Feb – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

Thu 19 Feb at 7.45pm – LCR Planning Team meets in the manse

Sun 22 at 10.30am – Morning Worship

Sun 22 at 7pm – Evening Worship: Orthodox Mayfield Salisbury Festival
of Sacred Music

Thu 26 at 7.30pm – The Kirk Session meets with the LCR team 1

Fri 27 at 10.30am – World Day of Prayer Bible study 121 George Street

March

Sun 1 at 10.30am – Holy Communion

Sun 1 at 3.15pm – Holy Communion at St Margaret's Care Home

Wed 4 at 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together City of Edinburgh Methodists

Fri 6 at 2.30pm – World Day of Prayer service Canongate Kirk

**Sat 7 at 7pm – Lecture: *Scottish Church Music up to the Reformation*
by Dr Jamie Reid-Baxter** Mayfield Salisbury Festival of Sacred Music

Sun 8 at 10.30am – Morning Worship

Tue 10 at 2.30pm – Choral Afternoon Service Mayfield Salisbury Festival
of Sacred Music

Wed 11 – NB No Kirk Session this evening

Sun 15 at 10.30am – Morning Worship with Stated Annual Meeting after

Sun 22 at 10.30am – Morning Worship

Sun 29 at 10.30am – Morning Worship for Palm Sunday (Clocks change)

Sun 29 at 7pm – Big Idea Service for Palm Sunday FM Auditorium
Mon 30 at 7.45pm – NCT Holy Week Meditations at CPC (followed by breakfast)
Tue 31 at 7.30pm – The Kirk Session meets with the LCR team 2

Coming up at Stewart House Men’s Club...

February

6th—*Vietnam; Travel Memories*, John Graham

13th—*Derek Cameron’s Dominion*, Ian Rintoul

20th—*Back Again; An Audio Visual Morning*, Mike Clark

27th—*W C Fields; Bottle-Hitting Comedian*, Peter Kendrick

Fridays at 10.15am in the Church Hall. Coffee £1.50. Visitors welcome.

Duties

1st & 8th February – Convener: Sheena Stenhouse (667 4520)

Betty Laing, Harry Laing, Sandra Lamb, Julie Read, Katy Ruggeri, Christine Thomson

15th & 22nd February – Convener: Gordon Braidwood (667 1773)

Miriam Weibye, Norman Weibye, Pauline Weibye, Seonaid Wilson, Julia Yarker, Colin Aitken

1st March is Communion

8th & 15th March – Convener: Christopher McLeod (667 1475)

Ian Breadon, Renate Butler, David Cargill, Kathleen Cockerell, John Kelly, Sandra Lamb

	Reader	Sound	Church Officer
Feb 2015			
1st	Roger Paton	John Kelly	Norman Weibye
8th	Julie Read	David Topping	Roger Paton
15th	David Cargill	Danny McQueen	Norman Weibye
22nd	John Humphrey	Norman Weibye	Julia Yarker
Mar 2015			
1st	Christopher McLeod	Christopher McLeod	Norman Weibye
8th	Miriam Weibye	John Kelly	Ian Breadon

The deadline for items for the next edition of *Prism* is
Sunday 15 February. Please send items to Ruth by email—
 prism@craigmillarpark.org or speak to her on 07754 952 297

Who's Who at Craigmillar Park Church

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Clues Across: (7) Rowing, (8) Tennis, (9) Sled, (10) Lacrosse,
 (11) Rosette, (13) Broom, (15) Lycra, (17) Cyclist, (20) Optician,
 (21) Aces, (23) A crown, (24) Squash

Clues Down: (1) Bowl, (2) Bogie, (3) Agility, (4) Stick, 5) On tour,
 (6) Pit-stops, (12) Olympics, (14) Gymnast, (16) Rhinos, (18) League,
 (19) Lions, (22) East