

# PRISM



**News & views from Craigmillar Park Church, Edinburgh**  
*A worshipping and caring community, following Jesus Christ*

[www.craigmillarpark.org](http://www.craigmillarpark.org)

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## Letter From the Session Clerk

Dear friends

As you may have heard, our minister, Rev John Urquhart, was taken ill suddenly and has had a spell in hospital. He is now home and recovering but is likely to be off work for a few weeks. He is, I know, deeply grateful for the cards that have been arriving and is touched by the care and interest shown by so many to him, and to Rebeca and David. Most of all, he is grateful for the prayers that have surrounded him and the family, both from our own membership and from so many in neighbouring congregations and further afield.

I am very grateful too to all those in the Presbytery of Edinburgh who have rallied round to help the congregation. As the Presbytery Clerk said when he led worship on 26 April, it is at times like this that one fully realises the benefits of belonging to a caring and sharing denomination. I'd particularly like to thank Rev Brian Embleton, Reid

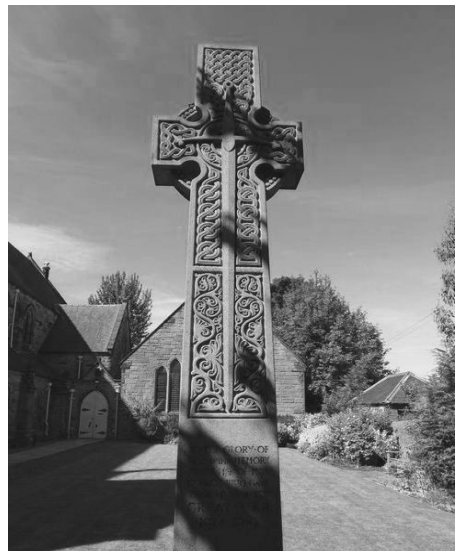


Photo: Mark Gwynn

Memorial, who is providing pastoral cover for the moment, and also to the other local ministers, Scott McKenna, Jared Hay and Karen Campbell, who have been quick to offer practical help. A number of other ministers and deacons are also offering to cover worship for us and

it is likely that Presbytery will appoint an Interim Moderator to provide oversight and direction while John is off. So, while we will miss our own minister, Sunday worship and the life of the congregation will continue as smoothly as we can manage.

Contact details for Brian Embleton are given below. If you need a minister and can't get hold of Brian, or if you have news of one of our members or an event in the parish that we should know about, then do get in touch with me.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will take place from May 16 to 22 in the General Assembly Hall on The Mound. This year's Lord High Commissioner will be Lord Hope of Craighead KT PC, a distinguished retired Scottish judge. Lord Hope will take part in a ceremonial procession on the morning of the first day but his main duty is to observe the Assembly as The Queen's representative, reporting back to Her Majesty what has been debated and decided. He will also attend this year's Heart and Soul festival on 17 May in Princes Street Gardens where the Church of Scotland is celebrating what it means to be living stones of faith in our communities and in the wider world. There is no better place to find out what other congregations are up to and to celebrate our place in a lively and missional church. If you have not attended before, why not make your way down to the gardens and soak up some of the atmosphere? You may meet some of our overseas and ecumenical

delegates, you can take part in activities organised by Councils and Committees of the Church, you can stop for coffee, you can listen to talks and discussions and you can take part in inspirational worship



alongside thousands of other Church folks. Whatever age you are, I guarantee that you will find something at Heart and Soul to engage and excite you about our shared faith.

I pray for John, that he finds the time to rest and fully recover his health. I pray for the congregation, that they will support John during this time and support each other too. I pray for those in the wider Church who so willingly offer their time to help Craigmillar Park and I pray for the Church of Scotland itself – smaller than it used to be but still sustaining a presence in every part of the country, offering practical support to those in need and the hope of a new life in the Holy Spirit to those in despair and confusion.

With every blessing

Pauline Weibye, Session Clerk

*For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev Brian Embleton, 0131 667 3981*

# A Prayer for Heart and Soul

*"Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head... and he dreamed..." (Genesis 28: 11-12)*

Eternal God, Rock of Ages,  
We come to You seeking comfort from Your strength.  
We come to You seeking a place upon which to build our lives.  
We come to You because You are the foundation of our faith.

We bless You for the way-stones that mark the route of our faith over the years.  
We bless You for the stepping-stones that have helped us cross over  
The waters of worry and fear and isolation so that we may stand with You.

Forgive us, then, when we use stones to deny access,  
To shut out, or to enclose selfishly.  
Forgive us when what should be the living stones of our faith  
Have become the tombstones of our doubt and denial of Your grace.

Clear away the rubble of our lives;  
Demolish the barriers of fear and prejudice.  
On the reclaimed ground of our lives build with living stones  
Places of welcome and warmth,  
Safety and inclusion,  
Light and joy,  
Where our faith may draw in rather than drive out  
The children of God who seek a sign of Your love,  
And may gather within the shelter of hope we seek to build with You  
From the quarry of life.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

## **CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCH**

**SUNDAY 10 MAY**

*Soup lunch after the service for Christian Aid*



# The National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland

You may know that every spring there is a National Prayer Breakfast held in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, but did you know that there is a National Prayer Breakfast here in Scotland, in June? It involves political, business and church leaders as well as ordinary folk like you and me. Last year it was held in Glasgow City Chambers, with the theme 'More than Gold' to tie in with the Commonwealth Games.

The breakfast starts at 7am (to allow people to get to work afterwards) and is followed by a short service involving church leaders and a main speaker. The event, which finishes at 9am, is followed by a seminar for those able to stay.

This year the speaker is David Strang, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in Scotland and previously Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police. The subject is '**Justice or Mercy: do we have to choose?**'

Our Criminal Justice System is based on principles of justice and fairness. What does this mean in practice? David will share reflections from his own experience of policing in London and Scotland and from his work in prisons and his personal perspective on leadership as a Christian in senior public roles.

The 2015 Breakfast will be on **Tuesday 16 June** at the Macdonald Hotel at Inchyra Grange, Grange Road, Polmont, Falkirk FK2 0YB. Breakfast will be served at **7am** with the programme commencing at **7.45am**, finishing promptly at **9am**. There seminar runs from 9.30 till 11am.

Tables can be booked so you can sit with friends. Details of how you can book can be found on the National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland website [www.npbs.info](http://www.npbs.info). If you wish to use a booking form I have one and am happy to give you further information.

Jean Walker

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## Church Family News

David Topping had a photograph published in The Scotsman recently. It was of a waterfall in the Botanical Gardens. Well done David!



# In Praise of Democracy

"Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others." Not my words but Winston Churchill's. As a historian, he knew that Britain had tried most of the others...tribal rule, the divine right of kings, aristocracy, republican dictatorship, constitutional monarchy, limited franchise parliaments and finally universal suffrage. And so, by this hard and at times bloody route, we have come to this month's general election.

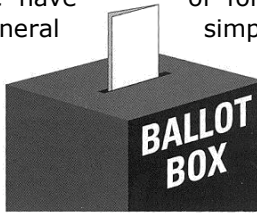
It's not a perfect process - as is pretty obvious - but it's the best we've got. And of course voting is the least of it.

Democracy is about much more. It's about the rule of law, free speech, religious tolerance and the rights of the individual. Christianity has played a leading role in developing this democratic way of life, with its emphasis on peace, charity, goodwill and the importance of each soul to God and to the rest of mankind.

The 16th century Reformation in particular gave us the exciting idea of the free and educated individual, capable of interpreting the Bible for himself or herself and forming their own personal relationship with God and with the rest of society. It's worth noting that this only works when we are tolerant of each other's faith and that our actions don't impinge on someone else's freedom.

So in this happy spirit we are trooping into the polling stations to cast our individual votes. And this is

where it gets messy. We each have our views on how the economy should be run, what our public services should look like, how much tax we should pay, how much the welfare budget should be, what we should do about immigration or nuclear weapons or energy supplies or climate change. And we each have our own view about which party will best represent our views or form a government. Here we simply have to count up the votes and accept the results.



My own view, for what it's worth, is that the largest party should form the government immediately after the election. And it should bring forward each measure, one at a time, for the whole parliament to decide. Most of the media pundits seem to believe that coalition governments are the way forward. I disagree. I think it's crazy to have politicians sneaking into the back rooms of Whitehall fixing quick deals in the frenetic days after an election. Important issues should not be traded against one another in secret sessions like this. They should be debated openly and in detail on the floor of parliament and decided by a majority of the MPs we have elected.

But whatever happens after 7th May, let's be grateful we live in a reasonably civilised democracy and everyone makes the best they can of the result.

John Knox

# Christian Aid Week

## Sunday 10-Saturday 16 May

Our parish door to door collection will take place between 10 and 16 May 2015. Last year we collected £2,906 for Christian Aid. We are grateful to our team of volunteers who collect around our parish each year.

We will also be holding a soup lunch after the service on Sunday 10 May with donations going to Christian Aid.

For further information, please speak to Elizabeth McLeod, 667 1475.



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## Lunch Club

The Lunch Club continues to thrive with new members coming which is really good. We welcome Hilary McGuire and Ann Thanisch who have joined the cooking team. A very big thank you must go to Molly for the many years she has helped with the cooking. We hope she enjoys her retirement!

Flora Paton

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## The Guild

### Daffodil Tea

A big thank you to everyone who came to our daffodil tea and to all the Guild ladies for providing a wonderful spread. We raised £239.80 for Marie Curie. This is a great result so thank you all for your generosity.

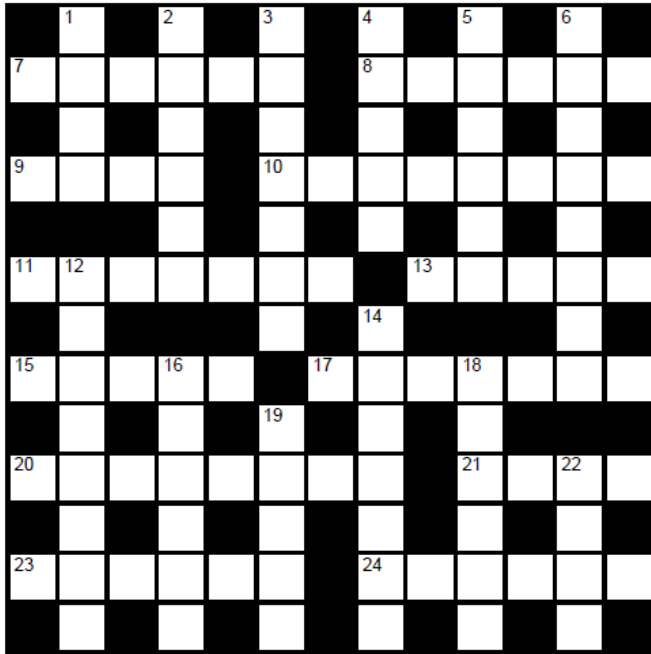
The Guild meetings have finished until the autumn. We have our outing on 11 June. There will be some changes next session; we will be starting a new theme and moving to a new day and time.

### Extraordinary Meeting

There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Guild on Tuesday 26 May at 2.15pm to discuss these changes to the Guild next session. Please come along to the meeting and find out about the changes and have a chance to have your say.



Julia Yarker



**Crossword**  
**with a**  
**theme of islands**  
**by Roger Paton**



Answers on page 12

**Across**

- 7 Estuaries like the Forth (6)
- 8 Stays around, in north, for Sutherland loch (6)
- 9 Suit you to visit this island ? (4)
- 10 Lady ne'er came to this island (8)
- 11 "Spice Island", one of the Windward Islands (7)
- 13 Different, say an African lake (5)
- 15 There are Black and White Waters and a snake! (5)
- 17 Nor Skye, another group of islands (7)
- 20 Burns ! (8)
- 21 Coral is a type of this (4)
- 23 Kenneth's name includes English river (6)
- 24 As zero group of islands (6)

**Down**

- 1 If I jig on a S. Sea island (4)
- 2 State N.Y. island ! (6)
- 3 The theme of this puzzle (7)
- 4 Search in Kirkcaldy for island near Tenby (5)
- 5 This bird can be found at Loch of the Lowes (6)
- 6 Yes, angel found on this island (8)
- 12 Cowboy song set in this valley (3,5)
- 14 Politician sank here full of whisky! (7)
- 16 Not of islands but of horses (6)
- 18 Not wide, part of a river (6)
- 19 Greek letter at mouth of river (5)
- 22 English river, paradise! (4)

# Holy Corner Book Sale

Please join us for the Holy Corner book sale this May.

Even in these days of Kindles there is still no greater pleasure than a real book; something you can take anywhere, won't run out of battery and lodges itself in your memory in a way that words on a screen can never do.

The Holy Corner Christian Aid Book Sale is a treasure trove of books for everyone: children; romantics; academics; aspiring detectives - we've something for everyone!

This year we are delighted to be able to offer signed copies of Alexander McCall Smith books. So donate your McCall Smith books now and he can get signing!

The Holy Corner Sale is the perfect space to browse around - not too daunting but large enough to offer a choice of titles, organised under such headings as general literature, children's and teens, history,



Scottish, biography, cookery and many others. And if all the books aren't enough for you there are stamps, CDs, music scores and old maps to browse through too.

The Holy Corner Christian Aid Book Sale, Morningside United Church, runs from Saturday 9 to 16 May (excluding Sunday). If you come on either Saturday there's also a café with home baking. Donations are also welcome from now until the sale - so have that good clear out you've been promising yourself and then come and buy some fresh titles at the sale!

All money raised goes to support Christian Aid.

Opening hours, 9-16 May:

Saturdays - 10am to 5pm

Monday to Friday - 11am to 6pm



[www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com](http://www.holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com)



# The Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group

The Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group is campaigning for the purchase of sex to be criminalised. Having sent a letter to the FM Nicola Sturgeon, signed by many of the church leaders of Scotland, we encourage individuals and local church groups to write to their MSPs about this issue.

We are pleased that the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill has now been introduced to the Scottish Parliament. It will introduce measures that should increase the likelihood of successful prosecutions in relation to human trafficking and also ensure better support for survivors of trafficking.

The majority of people who are trafficked are women and children, many of whom are forced into commercial sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking does not just exist because its victims are vulnerable - it exists because there is a demand for commercial sex that traffickers exploit for profit. Forced prostitution is a major driver of modern slavery and trafficking, so ending the demand for paid-for sexual services

would make a real difference. Legislation to criminalise the person who purchases sex, rather than the prostitute, (the so-called 'Sex Buyer Law or Nordic Model) was introduced in Sweden in 1999 where it has had a positive impact in terms of reducing levels of human trafficking and the exploitation involved in prostitution.

Such legislation has been adopted by Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Canada, and very recently Northern Ireland. However, such

provision is not currently included in the proposed Bill for Scotland. Scottish Churches, through the ACTS Anti-Human Trafficking Group have supported efforts in the past to criminalise the purchase of sex. The Group believes that it is crucial that this omission is addressed. We therefore urge all church members to consider writing to their MSPs asking them to call for the Bill as it currently stands to be amended such that it includes the provisions of a Sex Buyer Law.

Please consider adding your support to this campaign to end, or at least reduce, this heinous crime.



# Dates For Your Diary

## May

**Sun 3 at 10.30am – Morning Worship** with Holy Communion afterwards

**Wed 6 at 5pm – Cameron Toll Chaplaincy Prayer** outside Costa

**Wed 6 at 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together** City of Edinburgh Methodists

**Thu 7 from 7am to 10pm – General Election**

**Sat 9-Fri 15 – Christian Aid Book Sale** St Andrew's and St George's West Church

**Sat 9-Sat 16 – Holy Corner Book Sale for Christian Aid**

**Sun 10-Sat 16 – Christian Aid Week**

**Sun 10 at 10.30am – Morning Worship** with Kirk Session meeting afterwards

**Sun10 after the service – Christian Aid soup lunch**

**Thu 14 at 3.15pm - Christian Worship (Ascension Day)** at St Margaret's Care Home

**Sat 16-Fri 22 – The General Assembly meets**

**Sun 17 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Sun 17 1-6pm – Heart and Soul** Princess Street Gardens

**Sun 24 at 10.30am – Morning Worship (Day of Pentecost)**

**Tue 26 at 2.15pm – Guild Extraordinary Meeting**

**Sun 31 at 10.30am – Morning Worship (Trinity Sunday)**

## June

**Wed 3 at 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together** City of Edinburgh Methodists

**Sun 7 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Sun 7 at 3.15pm – Holy Communion** at St Margaret's Care Home

**Wed 10 at 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting**

**Sun 14 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Tue 16 at 7am – National Prayer Breakfast** Macdonald Hotel, Inchyra Grange, Polmont

**Sun 21 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**

**Thu 25 at 3.15pm – Christian Worship** at St Margaret's Care Home

**Sun 28 at 10.30am – Morning Worship**

# Duties

## 3rd May – Convener: Isobel Smith

Julia Yarker, Colin Aitken, Ian Breadon, Renate Butler, David Cargill, Kathleen Cockerell

## 10th & 17th May – Convener: Sheena Stenhouse (667 4520)

John Kelly, Betty Laing, Harry Laing, Sandra Lamb, Julie Read, Katy Ruggeri

## 24th & 31st May – Convener: Gordon Braidwood (667 1773)

Ann Thanisch, Peter Thanisch, Christine Thomson, Miriam Weibye, Norman Weibye, Pauline Weibye

## 7th June is Communion

## 14th & 21st June – Convener: Christopher McLeod (667 1475)

Seonaid Wilson, Julia Yarker, Colin Aitken, Ian Breadon, Renate Butler, David Cargill

	Reader	Sound	Church Officer
<b>May 2015</b>			
<b>3rd</b>	Roger Paton	Norman Weibye	Ian Breadon
<b>10th</b>	Colin Aitken	Christopher McLeod	Norman Weibye
<b>17th</b>	Ruth Longmuir	John Kelly	Julia Yarker
<b>24th</b>	Julie Read	David Topping	Roger Paton
<b>31st</b>	John Humphrey	Danny McQueen	Norman Weibye
<b>Jun 2015</b>			
<b>7th</b>	David Cargill	Norman Weibye	Julia Yarker
<b>14th</b>	Christopher McLeod	Christopher McLeod	Roger Paton

# Congregational Register

Death: Mr Angus Sutherland died, April 2015.

By public Profession of Faith, we welcomed Mrs Susan Wong, who was confirmed on Sunday 12 April 2015.

The deadline for items for the next edition of *Prism* is  
**Sunday 24 May**. 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

Minister	Rev John Urquhart	14 Hallhead Road, 0131 667 1623 minister@craigmillarpark.org
Session Clerk	Pauline Weibye	0131 668 3545 session@craigmillarpark.org
Treasurer & Depute Session Clerk	Christopher McLeod	0131 667 1475 treasurer@craigmillarpark.org
Roll Keeper	Roger Paton	0131 664 2877 rollkeeper@craigmillarpark.org
Chairman Congregational Board	John Kelly	0131 663 2428 board@craigmillarpark.org
Caring Service	Christine Thomson	0131 667 5145
Organist	Edward Cuthbert	organist@craigmillarpark.org
Prism Editor	Ruth Longmuir	07754 952 297 prism@craigmillarpark.org
Hall Letting	Norman Weibye	0131 668 3545 lettings@craigmillarpark.org
Church Website	www.craigmillarpark.org	webmaster@craigmillarpark.org

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**Clues Across:** (7) Firths, (8) Assynt, (9) Uist, (10) Alderney,  
 (11) Grenada, (13) Nyasa, (15) Adder, (17) Orkneys, (20) Rivulets,  
 (21) Reef, (23) Kennet, (24) Azores

**Clues Down:** (1) Fiji, (2) Staten, (3) Islands, (4) Caldy, (5) Osprey,  
 (6) Angelsey, (12) Red River, (14) Eriskay, (16) Equine, (18) Narrow,  
 (19) Delta, (22) Eden