

PRISM



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

www.craigmillarpark.org

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Did you know that ***Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ***, the novel by Lew Wallace, has been filmed four times? (That's not counting one animated retelling and at least one television version.) The first two were silent pictures: the 1925 version had Ramon Novarro in the title role and was directed by Fred Niblo. It was the most expensive film of the silent age, expending some 3.9 million dollars. The most famous version was undoubtedly released in 1959, starring Charlton Heston and directed by William Wyler. It won a record-breaking eleven Oscars, including Best Actor for Heston.

A new version of the story opens in the UK on 7 September: *Ben-Hur* (12A), directed by Timur Bekmambetov. A previous film was *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*, so he wasn't perhaps the obvious choice for a biblical epic, though that film has symbolic resonances of its



Picture from www.commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16211699

own. But that's another story.

Bekmambetov wanted to highlight the themes of forgiveness and radical compassion. Such themes are prominent in the original novel of 1880, whereas the motif of revenge dominated in the 1959 film.

Ben-Hur's pursuit of revenge is halted in the 2016 film by a dramatic encounter with Jesus. The 2016 picture still has two very familiar sequences from earlier versions: the sea battle and the chariot race. Both are exciting and well realised.

In 2016, Jesus has a speaking role, which he did not have in the earlier versions, not least because of the silent action of the 1925 version, but also because in 1959 it was considered a step too far. Wallace too was careful not to offend the sensibilities of his nineteenth-century Christian readership. He wrote in his memoirs:

The Christian world would not tolerate a novel with Jesus Christ its hero, and I knew it ... He should not be present as an actor in any scene of my creation. The giving a cup of water to Ben-Hur at the well near Nazareth is the only violation of this rule ... I would be religiously careful that every word He uttered should be a literal quotation from one of His sainted biographers. *An Autobiography (1906)*

More than a century later, the sensitivities of the Christians in the audience have largely changed and allow Jesus some interaction with the main characters. It remains a question, despite Rodrigo Santoro's powerful screen presence as Jesus, whether this entirely works. Jesus is reduced to giving little soundbites of his teaching in a slightly stilted way. However, the powerful symbolism of

some of the actions still speaks: a cup of water given and received, a hand grasping a stone being grasped and restrained by another hand.

The script presents 'several ways of understanding the world' that are in conflict with each other. There is Rome's way, thriving on pride of conquest; there is Ben-Hur's aristocratic Jewish family, seeking a middle way of cautious collaboration, yet slightly standing off from involvement or endorsement; and there is the way of the zealots, encouraging and fomenting violent revolt. In the words of one reviewer:

Christ [drives] straight through the middle of it as the great disruptor, a challenge to every human way of understanding the world. Christians often talk about the way of Christ as the way of the upside-down kingdom, because Jesus was a master of contradictory statements about the true state of things: the first shall be last, the great shall be made low. Blessed are the meek and the merciful, the poor in heart and the persecuted. Want to be great? Get down on your knees and wash the feet of your friends *and* your betrayers.¹

I do encourage you to see the film, preferably with friends, believing or non-believing, with whom it presents an opportunity for discussion of the Christian themes in the film. It may not win eleven Oscars, but I think it is still worth seeing.

John

¹ Alissa Wilkinson. 'Ben-Hur: a new twist on the tale of the Christ.' August 17, 2016. www.christianitytoday.com

Prayers for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

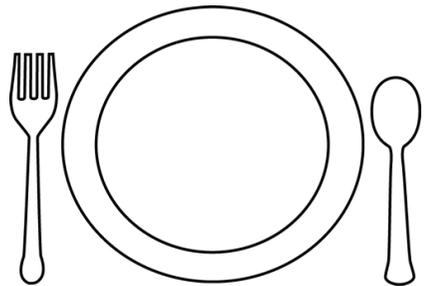
Christian Aid, along with the Church of Scotland, the Episcopal Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church, invite you to a service to highlight the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. It is on Saturday 24 September, from 10.30am to 12.30pm at St Michael's Church, Slateford.



Lunch Club

The Lunch Club has continued over the summer months with our members enjoying the lunches and the chat. We are happy to have Jenny and Dorothy who have joined the catering team. New members would be made most welcome.

Flora Paton



The Guild

The Guild starts again on Tuesday 4 October at 2.15pm in the Church Hall.

Our title this year is *Go in Joy*. We will have a varied group of speakers over the session, the first of whom is Ian Whyte, Guild General Secretary. He is going to speak on



the theme at our opening meeting.

We look forward to welcoming existing members back and new faces as well. Everyone is made welcome at any of our meetings so do come along and join us.

Julia Yarker

Opera Camerata: Dido & Aeneas and Gianni Schicchi

Opera Camerata are putting on two operas this year in the Church Hill Theatre; Dido and Aeneas, and Gianni Schicchi. The performances are at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 October, and at 2.30pm on Saturday 15 October. Tickets (£15) are available at church from Julie Read or from the Usher Hall box office.



Caring For Creation Climate Change Conference, Saturday 1 October

On 1 October the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid invite you to Bridge of Allan Church to explore how climate change changes lives.

Speakers from around the world will include:

- Cecilia Cordova from Bolivia
- Charles Agboklu from Ghana
- Jacqueline Spence from Jamaica
- Mohamed Adow, Climate advisor to Christian Aid



Speakers will be sharing the impact of climate change on the lives of communities across the continents and all participants will join workshops to explore how we can respond in Scotland.

The conference will run from 10am-4pm. To register email:
NSKINNER@churchofscotland.org.uk

Usefulness...and How to Achieve it

I spent much of the summer at Scout camps, which are always a reminder of how to be useful. The first was a two-week long international jamboree in the grounds of Blair Atholl Castle. There were 500 Scouts from all over Scotland, 400 Scouts from 18 other countries, and 400 staff. We were all under canvas, in 728 tents.

It was scouting on an industrial scale. There were 42 "activities" from which the Scouts could choose, including backwoods-cooking, mountain-biking, climbing, hill-walking, canoeing, field sports, drama, arts and crafts. But there was also a lot of less exciting work, like pot-washing, wood-chopping, setting up camp and taking it all down again. But whenever volunteers were called for, there were always more than the leaders needed. And the older the Scouts or staff members were, the more they sought ways in which to make themselves useful.

My own Troop camp in Glen Lyon was on a much smaller scale (nine boys, six tents) but there too I noticed that the older the boys were, the more they had learned to be useful. It must be said, however, that they had not altogether mastered the art! It's not that they were lazy, it just didn't occur to them that they could be pro-active, to look around for things to do that would contribute to the project in hand.

One American Scout leader – a wiry old guy from Connecticut – brought me up short when he said: "You Europeans tend to wait for someone else to do something but we



Americans know we have to do it for ourselves." He wasn't boasting, he was just remarking on the New World tradition of democracy, republicanism and self-help, in contrast to the Old World tradition of hierarchy, of leaving things to the King or the Laird or the boss or the government. In short, we Europeans need to grow up.

I think there's an uncomfortable element of truth in what he said. In a religious sense we often leave things to God or fate when really we ought to be working on the problem ourselves. We should not expect miracles to happen or some supernatural or outside force to intervene on our behalf to save the world or cure our ills. The people I most admire are those who are not daunted by the scale of a task but who look for ways in which they can be useful, like those volunteer pot-washers at Scout camp.

John Knox

101st City of Edinburgh Brownies



We meet weekly during term time and currently have 27 girls in our busy pack! We are about to embark on an exciting Brownie Holiday & Camp in West Lothian with a Disney theme (as chosen by the girls). We are hoping to try our hand at crate climbing/trikes/labyrinth, spend an evening on a bat detection walk, hunt for a geocache, do some cooking, play games and make crafts!

Before the summer we held a NSPCC Big Board Games evening where several of the girls worked for their Hostess badge. They invited parents and friends to come along and play board games for a small fee to raise funds for the NSPCC. The Brownies were delighted to raise £200 for this good cause. We also took part in the Girlguiding Scotland's project *Step in my Shoes* where each Brownie donated a used (but wearable) pair of shoes and socks suitable for a refugee. We managed to collect 30 pairs from our unit which was a drop in the ocean. You can read more about the Scotland

wide project here:

www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/members-collect-5000-pairs-shoes-refugees-time-refugee-week/

We also had 8 Brownies and a leader (with help from some parents) who took part in the Ridings Parade on 2 July in the official opening of the Scottish Parliament - each of the Brownies carried the flag during the route and were a great representative of themselves, the Pack and their parents!



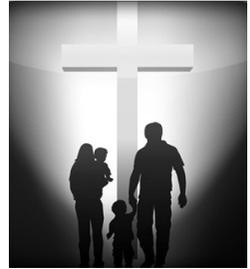
There is a waiting list for Brownies to join - and we recommend that interested parties get their names registered promptly at the following link:

www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/register_your_interest.aspx

Anyone who would like to have an informal chat about Brownies is very welcome to do so by calling me - June Savage, Brown Owl - on 0131 664 4017.

Church Family News

Congratulations to Cathy Read who graduated with a BA in musical theatre from ArtsEd musical theatre college in London in July and has her West End debut at the Adelphi Theatre, London, in a charity performance of a new musical "Bumblescratch" on 4 September.



Meet Your MSP Project

We would like to introduce you to 'Meet Your MSP' - an exciting new project from the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (SCPO) aiming to build links between congregations and their members of the Scottish Parliament. We want church communities to be at the heart of the decisions that affect our everyday lives - and what better way to get involved than for your church or community group to meet local MSPs early in their term of office.

The project started this summer as MSPs were on recess from the Scottish Parliament. We can provide ideas and information that will help you to organise meetings that will be interesting for everyone involved. It could be a public meeting, an invitation to a project or church event that you are already organising, or it could be a walk in your local area to highlight issues that you would like addressed. The possibilities are endless - but making contact early is crucial.

SCPO has contacted all 129 MSPs regarding the project and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive - they want to meet you! You are represented by one constituency and various regional MSPs - to find out who your MSPs are, go to www.parliament.scot/ and use the Find Your MSP feature. This will also give you contact details and a bit of information about your MSPs. We want as many churches as possible to set up meetings and to let us know the details - with a celebration of church engagement at a Scottish Parliament event in February 2017. Supporting information is available on the SCPO website - including topic ideas from Eco Congregations, Scottish Churches Housing Action, Priority Areas, and Faith in Communities Scotland, as well as template letters. The project is also supported by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS).

Miriam Weibye
Programme Officer, ACTS

Winter Clothes Appeal for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

For each of the past three winters, EDA has shipped containers of supplies to 75,000 Syrian refugees in Aarsal, a town in Lebanon over 5000' above sea level that has bitterly cold winters. Funds for container transport and distribution have been a limitation; but this year, supported by Qatar's Red Crescent organisation, we will be able to send many more to high altitude locations in the Northern Bekaa as well as to Aarsal.

So between now and Christmas we need as much as we can (in good condition) of the following:

**WINTER COATS – PADDED JACKETS – WATERPROOFS – FLEECES –
WOOLLIES -THERMALS – MOUNTAIN BOOTS – WELLY BOOTS –
PADDED BOOTS - GOOD SHOES – SOCKS – GLOVES – WOOLLY HATS (FOR
YOUNG AND OLD, BOYS AND GIRLS, MEN AND WOMEN, BABIES TOO, BUT
ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS)**

**ALSO: NEW UNDERWEAR - TOILETRIES (SOAP, SHAMPOO, TOOTHPASTE,
SANITARY TOWELS, RAZORS) – SIMPLE FIRST AID ITEMS (PAIN KILLERS,
PLASTERS, ANTISEPTICS)**

**AND FOR OUR SELF-HELP WORKSHOPS AND SCHOOLS: STATIONERY,
KNITTING MATERIALS, FABRIC, HABERDASHERY, SEWING MACHINES,
HAND-TOOLS, CASH**

Please bring donations to:

EDA Warehouse, 16a West Harbour Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1PN
Opening times (for now – may be increased later) are Wednesdays,
Saturdays, Sundays 11:00-3:00

Craigmillar Park Church – there is a collecting box at the back of the
church beside the Basics Bank food box

Or if you need items to be collected, call Ann on 07814 949 468

And if you would like to volunteer to pack or sort at the warehouse, do just
turn up in opening hours.

For more details, see the website www.edinburghdirectaid.org, call 0131 552
1545, or check the Edinburgh Direct Aid Facebook or Twitter pages.

THANK YOU!

And thank you for all the very generous donations already made this year.

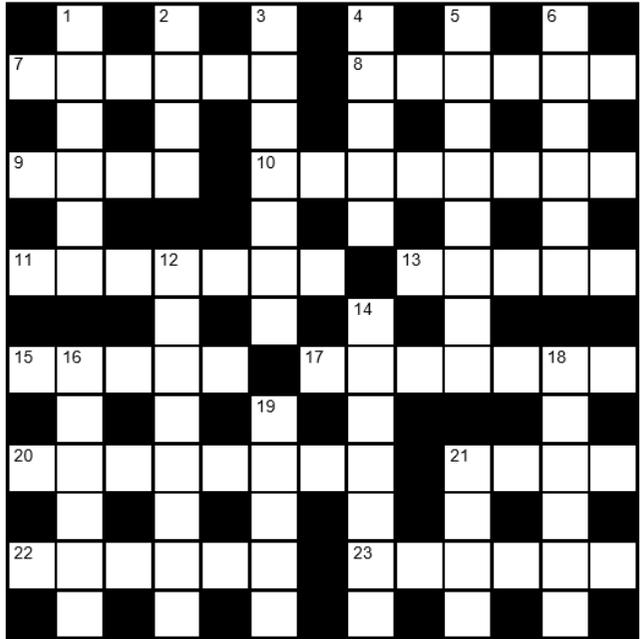
Crossword

with a
geography theme

by Roger Paton



Answers on page 12



Across

- 7 City famous for its tea-party (6)
- 8 Ali and Bob went to this Basque city (6)
- 9 The Hawkeye State (4)
- 10 Are we pining to visit a Canadian city? (8)
- 11 No radar needed to find State in Pyrenees (7)
- 13 Is it ok you visit here? (5)
- 15 **2 Down** can be found on island off here (5)
- 17 " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , we have a problem," message from space! (7)
- 20 Dirt hums in this West Sussex town (8)
- 21 Wrap a robe round a South African (4)
- 22 Can yam be found in this W.I. island? (6)
- 23 Did the admiral come from this Lancashire town? (6)

Down

- 1 Brand of music from Detroit, Michigan (6)
- 2 Neat volcano? (4)
- 3 Want rep to go here in Belgium (7)
- 4 Boney type of wood? (5)
- 5 The Prairie State (8)
- 6 Ben saw Cromwell battle (6)
- 12 The "Sooner State" (8)
- 14 Tom and Anna in U.S. state (7)
- 16 I want a trip to island off E. coast of China (6)
- 18 Ore gone but found in U.S. state (6)
- 19 Edit out tinderbox for Big Apple district (5)
- 21 Bail out of Indonesian island (4)

Dates For Your Diary

September

Sun 4 Sep, 10.30am – Holy Communion

Wed 7 Sep, 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together Reid Memorial Church

Thu 8 Sep, 3.15pm – Holy Communion at St Margaret’s Care Home

Thu 8 Sep, 7.30pm – Board Meeting

Sat 10 Sep – The Big Idea Messy in the Park Bristo Craigmillar Parish

Sun 11 Sep, 10.30am – Morning Worship

Tue 13 Sep, 6.45pm – Edinburgh Presbytery meets

Sun 18 Sep, 10.30am – Morning Worship

Wed 21 Sep, 7.30pm – Newington Churches Together Committee Meeting

Sat 24 Sep, 10.30am-12.30pm - Prayers for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories St Michael’s Church, Slateford

Sun 25 Sep, 10.30am – Morning Worship

Wed 28 Sep, 9.30am – The Big Idea Committee Meeting

Wed 28 Sep, 7.30pm – Kirk Session

October

Sat 1 Oct, 10am-4pm – Caring for Creation, Climate Change Conference
Bridge of Allan Church

Sun 2 Oct, 10.30am – Morning Worship with Holy Communion after

Tue 4 Oct, 2.15pm – The Guild resumes (Theme: Go in Joy)

Tue 4 Oct, 6.45pm – Edinburgh Presbytery meets

Wed 5 Oct, 7.30pm – NCT Praying Together Reid Memorial Church

Thu 6 Oct, 3.15pm – Christian Worship at St Margaret’s Care Home

Sun 9 Oct, 10.30am – Morning Worship

Wed 12-Fri 14 Oct, 7.30pm, Sat 15 Oct, 2.30pm - Opera Camerata perform Dido & Aeneas and Gianni Schicchi at the Church Hill Theatre

FRESHSTART

We will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 29 October
in the Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon

Make a note in your diary!

Congregational Register

Deaths

Mrs Jean Hume died on 18 July 2016

Mr Ian Hutchison died on 3 August 2016

Mrs Winnie Kellerd died on 13 August 2016

Change of Address

Ms Roseann Adams has moved to Chamberlain Nursing Home, Chamberlain Road, Edinburgh EH10 5QJ

Duties

4 Sep is Communion

11 Sep – Convener: Gordon Braidwood (667 1773)

Katy Ruggeri, Ann Thanisch, Peter Thanisch, Christine Thomson, Miriam Weibye, Norman Weibye

18 & 25 Sep – Convener: Christopher McLeod (667 1475)

Pauline Weibye, Seonaid Wilson, Julia Yarker Colin Aitken, Ian Breadon, Renate Breadon

2 & 9 Oct – Convener: Jim McNab (667 3408)

David Cargill, Kathleen Cockerell, John Kelly John Knox, Betty Laing, Harry Laing

	Reader	Sound	Church Officer
Sep 2016			
4th	Pauline Weibye	Norman Weibye	Ian Breadon
11th	Astrid Gracie	Christopher McLeod	Norman Weibye
18th	Sandra Lamb	John Kelly	Julia Yarker
25th	Norman Weibye	David Topping	Roger Paton
Oct 2016			
2nd	Roger Paton	Peter Thanisch	Norman Weibye
9th	Christopher McLeod	Norman Weibye	Julia Yarker

Crossword Answers

Clues Across: [7] Boston, [8] Bilbao, [9] Iowa, [10] Winnipeg, [11] Andorra, [13] Tokyo, [15] Italy, [17] Houston, [20] Midhurst, [21] Boer, [22] Cayman, [23] Nelson

Clues Down: [1] Motown, [2] Etna, [3] Antwerp, [4] Ebony, [5] Illinois, [6] Naseby, [12] Oklahoma, [14] Montana, [16] Taiwan, [18] Oregon, [19] Bronx, [21] Bali

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
Organist	John Cranston	0131 664 7114 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

The deadline for items for the next edition of Prism is Sunday 18 September. Please send items to Ruth by email—prism@craigmillarpark.org or speak to her on 07754 952 297