

# The Outlook

magazine of Inverleith St Serf's Church

May 2021

*Celebrating 75 years of Christian Aid*



# Inverleith St Serf's Contacts

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Dorothy Millar

## **Hall Letting**

Gordon Hughes

## **'The Outlook' editor**

Lorna Pratt

## **Church Centre**

### **Next Issue**

Copy for the June/Summer issue of *The Outlook* should be with the editor no later than Wednesday, May 19. The distribution date will be Sunday, May 30.

This month's cover photo: 75th celebration montage of Christian Aid

Church website: [www.inverleithsaintserfs.org.uk](http://www.inverleithsaintserfs.org.uk)

Scottish charity No: SC015442

## ***Reflection from the Manse***

The ability to participate in Christian Aid's work is one of the greatest testaments to our faith as Christians.

Many volunteers participated in the UK's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, that demonstrated to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

Prior to the pandemic, it was estimated that 100,000 dedicated volunteers put their faith into action during Christian Aid Week, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Local churches marked this occasion with a joint coffee morning, baking stalls, filling Christian Aid envelopes; and focused worship opportunities that informed individuals about Christian Aid projects around the world.

### **Scandal of poverty**

Christian Aid's work exposes the scandal of poverty and challenges the structures and institutions that allow poverty to flourish. It is a scandal that:

- 1 in 10 people on our planet have no access to safe, clean water
- around 2.6 billion people live on less than £1.20 a day
- half of 2.6 billion live on 60p a day
- 1 in 8 people will go to bed hungry tonight
- almost half of the food produced in the world will never make it on to a plate
- 8 men own the same wealth as the poorest half of humanity combined.

The prevalence of mass poverty on this scale seems to make a mockery of international trade processes and systems: they are

simply not working for the world's poorest people.

Although the issues are complex, Christian Aid's partner organisations in some of the world's poorest countries remind us that current trade policies are making matters worse, not better.

### **All God's tapestry**

Whatever the reason, we are reminded that we are all part of the same colourful texture and hue that God has woven into the fabric of life, and we all share in the shame of this injustice in our world. Janet Morley, theologian and writer, reminds us that we all have a role to play in shaping our world -

***"....in a world where the demands of international debt are more important than the health of children...in a world where unjust laws and practices privilege white people over others, in a world where women are silenced and exploited....let us name what is evil in our world and work together to eradicate it."***

### **The challenge for today**

As a congregation, we have much to be proud of in terms of how we have supported Christian Aid in the past.

The pandemic creates new challenges as well as new opportunities.

I warmly encourage you to learn more about the charity's projects (see pages 6 and 7) and their work with local partner organisations around the world and, if possible, to financially support them at this time.

Shalom,

Rev Joanne

## Worship in May

The Kirk Session hopes to re-open the church for worship in May. No date has been fixed ahead of publication of this issue of *The Outlook*. Please look out for communications to update you. Arrangements for booking etc are expected to be as last Autumn—ie, numbers restricted; phone or email Sandy Pratt by 4pm on the Friday before the service to book; masks to be worn; entry by Clark Road.

Meantime, on Sundays when there is no church service, our Minister arranges for worship to appear on our website and Facebook page.

If you have access to ZOOM, you will be most welcome to join the Sunday coffee chat at 11.15.



The Sunday zoom coffee community on April 11

# Christian Aid Week 2021

## May 10 — 16



The focus of Christian Aid Week this year is WATER, illustrated by the lives of two women in KENYA.

ROSE is a 68 year old grandmother and climate chaos is robbing her of the water she needs to survive, necessitating her to walk miles to collect water, often on an empty stomach. Rose remembers that when she was a child there was plenty of rain, falling at the right times, giving fruit to the baobab trees and allowing nutritious food to be grown. Now the climate crisis has galvanised extreme weather and the community lurches between severe flooding and drought. The situation is made worse by the coronavirus pandemic.



Rose

In contrast, FLORENCE and her community, with the support of Christian Aid, built an earth dam. The reliable source of water means that Florence can grow vegetables and keep bees, providing nutritious food for her family and a source of income.

**£20 could buy 4 taps for a water point at a dam where families can collect water.**

**£60 could buy 10 bags of cement to help a community build an earth dam.**

**£335 could train an earth dam committee to keep the dam in good repair and run it effectively.**



**Florence**

This year Christian Aid celebrates 75 years of helping the world's poorest people. Our Goldenacre Churches have a long history of ecumenical cooperation in fundraising for Christian Aid Week, indeed I have paperwork dating back to 1958 when Dr Alexander (Alison McCallum's father) set up the first committee.

We are sorry that restrictions on us gathering at present mean that we cannot, for a second year, hold our well supported and much enjoyed ecumenical Coffee Morning and Bake Sale. Neither can we distribute and collect Christian Aid envelopes.

However, you can give in these ways:

- ♦ follow the instructions on our Church Facebook page and website to give digitally;
- ♦ write a cheque made out to Christian Aid. Put it in an envelope and send it to me. Remember to include a note with your name and address, if your contribution can be gift aided.

**Many thanks in advance for your support!**

**Fiona Davies**



# Early Birds and Pram Service

## Easter activities

As you know, the Early Birds and Pram Service team has been keeping in touch with the church's young families during the pandemic by delivering or posting activity bags to their homes at regular intervals.

In April the theme was Easter, and all the activities were linked to the renewal of life that is central to our faith. In their bags the children received an Easter prayer, a series of craft activities including Easter crowns and eggs.



**Hollie and Flora give us  
Easter joy**





**Angus and Finlay with  
their Easter crowns**



**Sophie dancing with  
her Easter crown**



**Callum demonstrates success on the outdoor challenge**

The outdoor family challenge involved listening for birdsong, finding a feather and perhaps seeing (but not touching) a nest.

Photographs, taken from the family group Facebook page and reproduced here with permission, show some of the Easter indoor and outdoor projects. The Early Birds and Pram Service team has marvelled at the focus and creativity displayed in all the photographs that we have seen.

As lockdown restrictions ease, we will be starting, as encouraged presently by the Church of Scotland, to “re-imagine” our work with young families post COVID 19.

# New webmaster

Eion Johnson is stepping down as our 'webmaster' – not a Harry Potter appointment – he has, in fact been looking after our Church website for many years.

Eion writes:

'I have been administering the Church website for eleven years, carrying out two redesigns over the years. At present it is designed as a 'brochure' to introduce people to the church and list our activities and facilities. More dynamically changing information is, especially nowadays, better served by posts on Facebook, something that is delivered to members of the Church group, rather than being chanced upon on the website. The website still plays an important part in our outreach however, as it is found very quickly by anyone searching for the Church. Another aspect is that information can be held on the website and easily recalled. Not so easy to do this with social media. Examples are the articles on the history of the Church.'

Eion, our retiring webmaster



We are all very grateful to Eion for his ground-breaking work on our behalf and for giving us a presence on the world wide web.

## **New webmaster—Gordon Hughes**

Gordon Hughes has agreed to take over the role. Gordon already puts in a huge amount of work for the congregation – in property, on the sound

board on a Sunday, managing bookings (when we are not locked down). So there is great delight that he is willing to take this new role.

Gordon writes:

‘The first internet website was produced at CERN in 1990. By the mid-1990s many of the larger companies had a website, particularly education and research establishments. In the 1990s I was the Computer Aided Design Manager, responsible for the data processing area of the manufacturing company, Compugraphics International Ltd, based in Glenrothes, which made specialist products for the semiconductor industry, providing a worldwide service. Following the trends in IT, it was becoming obvious that the company should be looking at both an Internet website to give customers information about the company and also an Intranet website which uses the same technology to share proprietary information within the company.

Gordon, our new webmaster



### **Summer job – major change**

We received a letter from a student looking for some IT work during the 1996 summer holidays, and his IT skills included the fact that he had produced his own website. We decided that he would be an ideal candidate to work on producing an Intranet to allow the information necessary for our computing work (then kept in separate ring binders, which needed to be moved to your desk as required) to be displayed on the computer screen so that it could be immediately accessed while doing the work.

I admit, I thought of the summer job as a “learning exercise” which would help to identify what sort of system we required, but by the end of the summer, the system was good enough to be used in anger with production jobs. This then started the migration of all our procedures and working practices over to the Intranet, which is still in use today. This did mean that I, and other department staff, needed to learn the tools to prepare the information for the Intranet.

### **From internal site to world-wide web**

Also in 1996, Compugraphics appointed a new Sales Manager and a new marketing assistant fresh out of university. In discussions with me, and in the light of our success with our Intranet project, it was decided that the company should also have an Internet web site.

We were fortunate to find a new start-up company formed by students who had just graduated from St Andrews University, offering a website design service. A multi-departmental team comprising of data processing, sales and marketing staff was formed to work with the website design company to create our first website. This was completed by early 1997, and was very well received by our customers, as the multiple departments involved in creating the content, also meant that the website was found useful to multiple departments within our customers.



### **Award winning website**

At the time, there was a competition to give an award to the best website design in Scotland. The marketing department were very keen to enter, and the others involved were all happy to enter without holding out much

expectation. To everyone's surprise, we were announced as the recipient of the Winners on the Web trophy for 1997. With hindsight the same multi-departmental approach for content production also meant that we had aspects to appeal to the different interest areas of the judging team.

### **Impact of social media**

Early websites were important as these were the only source of information which an organisation could use to publish online information about themselves. More recently social media has taken over as the main source of transient news, with websites now existing as a 'back stop' source of reference for background information.

### **Plans for our website**

So, initially the plan for the church website is just for a spring clean of the contents to ensure that all the information is up to date, with a longer term plan to investigate more advanced content management software. User feedback about the current church website is positive and that it is easy to navigate with clear content - aspects we would want to retain with any future revisions.'

#### **Summary of the church's online presence:**

The church's Internet website: <http://www.inverleithsaintserfs.org.uk/>

The church's public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InverleithStSerfsChurch>

The church's private Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169008193124637>

Facebook page specifically for the Church Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/Inverleith-St-Serfs-Church-Centre-346576939044096>

# The Church Garden

Despite the lockdown our wonderful team of gardeners — Dorothy and Martin Millar, Frances Bicket and Shona and Sandy Smith — have been hard at work putting a splash of colour into the lives of all who pass by. Jean Grey, who has cut back her activities during the pandemic, also assists.

The garden has provided a serene setting for some of the garden communions which our Minister, Joanne, conducted during Holy Week and Easter.

**Daffodils to raise the spirits**





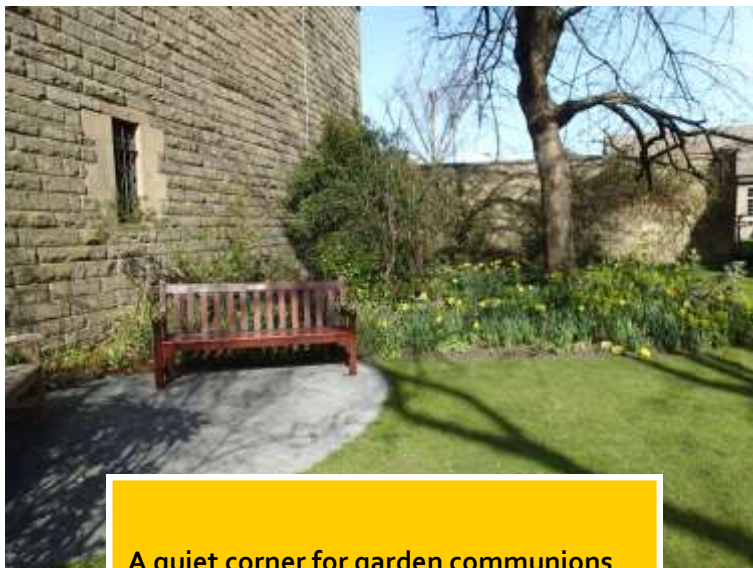


Colourful tubs

As well as gardening the Group are undertaking maintenance of the gates with Sandy prepping and Martin painting.

Eddie Stirling (son of Wendy) is employed to keep the grass to the front and side of the church mown.





A quiet corner for garden communions

*Photos by Martin Millar*

## Church Family

### Death

*'There is nothing in death or life, in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord'*

Mrs Jean Black

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

### New member

We welcome to the congregation Mr Tommy Banks.

# Scottish Elections 2021

As usual the church will be hosting a polling station as part of this year's Scottish elections (May 6).

## **Enter from Ferry Road, vote in Large Hall, leave via Clark Road**

There are however a number of differences which people who are voting should be aware of. There is a strict one-way system in place. Voters will enter through the Ferry Road gates, and make their way to the large hall where the voting will take place. Voters will then exit to Clark Road via the Tennis Club driveway.

## **Socially distanced queues possible**

The number of people in the polling station will be limited, so you may well have to form a socially distanced queue between the Ferry Road gates and access to the large hall through the gardens.

There is no public access to any of the rest of the church site; in particular, no public toilet access and people are recommended not to bring dogs, as they would need to go back to Ferry Road to collect them. Hand gel will be available as you enter the large hall, and masks must be worn (unless exempt).

Election December 2019



*Gordon Hughes*

## ***Let us pray...***

Gracious God,

We approach you with our prayers for your world and all of your people. It is so difficult for us to comprehend the global situation we find ourselves in yet we do know that, if we approach you with our concerns, you listen and, if we wait, you will answer.

Many good people do so much for you by way of assisting charities who work so hard to aid those who need it: Christian Aid, SCIAF, Action Aid, Embrace the Middle East, along with the many local bodies who work to help here in the UK. In this Christian Aid Week may we be aware of and support the valuable aid which charities provide both at home and abroad.

Caring God, we ask that your love be poured out to all who suffer pain: pain of loss due to illness as well as for all who suffer pain daily yet endure in silence, waiting in hope for relief.

Loving God, we thank you:

- for all blessings given freely
- for all talents which are used in your name to help the less fortunate globally.

Especially at this time we pray for Sally Foster-Fulton, Scottish leader of Christian Aid. Be with her as she speaks for us all who support Christian Aid both practically and financially.

All this we ask in your name

Amen





104th Edinburgh North East

**HELP US  
FUND  
OUR  
FUTURE**



The 104<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh Scout Group (formerly 4<sup>th</sup> Leith) writes:

‘Our Scout hall in South Trinity Road was opened in 1957. It has served us well but the facility is now showing its age, and is in need of upgrading to keep it fit for the 21st century.

As a consequence, we have launched a "Buy a Brick" fund raising effort to help raise money for the renovations. The planned works will cost somewhere around £250,000 and the "Buy a Brick" scheme is to raise around £150,000. The names of all “Buy a Brick” donors will be added to a Roll of Donors on display in our improved building and on our website.

To find out more and to donate, please visit:

[virginmoneygiving.com/fund/104theedinburghnebuyabrick](http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/104theedinburghnebuyabrick). ‘

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# Christian Aid

**May 10-16**

**Donation arrangements on  
p7**

