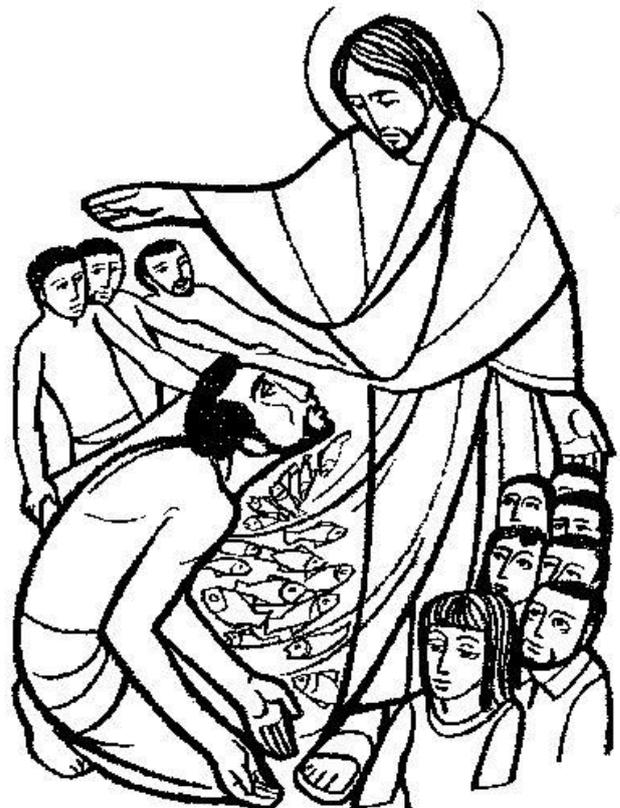




St Martin of Tours

Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

Living our faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action



February 2019

St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church

is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk

Who are we?

Rector	Yousouf Gooljary	337 5471	yousoufgooljary@stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk
Organist	Chris Johnson	620 2603	chrisj@epcc.ed.ac.uk
Rector's Church Warden	Tom Jamieson	07712470895	tommyjamieson53@gmail.com
People's Church Warden	Kate Campbell	466 8184	KateCampbell34@hotmail.com
Vestry Secretary	Roderick MacKenzie	449 5465	roderick@blueyonder.co.uk
Treasurer	Lynn Dailly	444 2233	lynndailly@btinternet.com
Gifts Secretary	Stuart Campbell	466 8184	CampbellZn@Hotmail.com
Fundraiser	Mary Kernohan	662 8471	mary.kernohan@stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk
Lay Representative to Synod	Kate Campbell	466 8184	
Alternate Lay Representative	Liz Moir (Ms)		

Dear Friends



The new year brings with some new opportunities and challenges. We are very sorry to have David Warnes leaving us, I am sure that you will all join with me in thanking him for all done and ministry at Sr Martin's the diocese and the wider church.

David and Susan were first involved as occasional members of the congregation when they were in Edinburgh to visit David's brother in hospital and recall being very grateful for the warm welcome and support they received from St Martin's at a difficult time. When they moved to Edinburgh in 2010, Bishop Brian commissioned David as Non-stipendiary Team Priest at St Martin's.

The Transformation Project was launched soon after that and Susan and he were both involved in the fundraising - Susan as one of the original members of the fundraising group. David helped out with publicity and the displays in church about the various fundraising activities, and they recall happy memories of bag-packing in Sainsburys and the Co-op, selling lottery tickets at Ceilidhs and of the sponsored walk along St Cuthbert's Way that David undertook in 2011.

David has celebrated, preached, convened the Pastoral Companions and edited the Newsletter. When Sophia left to be Rector of Portobello, he took over from her in helping Lynn in various ways with the Art Exhibition, including maintaining the involvement of Dalry School and Tynecastle High School. David is a member of the Diocesan Information and Communications Committee and has been a regular contributor to *The Edge*. He also helped out at St Cuthbert's, Colinton during more than one interregnum. David and Susan will be missed at St Martin's for all that they brought in ministry and fellowship. We wish them well on the next stage of their journey together.

Rather than a blessing for their ending of their time with us, I would rather give them a blessing for their new beginnings, adapted from a poem by John O'Donohue.

In the out of the way places of the heart
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
your new beginnings have been quietly forming
Waiting until ready to emerge.
Though destinations are not yet clear
May you trust the promise of this opening

As you unfurl yourselves into the grace of this beginning.
May God awaken your spirits of adventure,
That you may hold nothing back, as you find new places to rest
May God bless your new journeys in the world that awaits you.

(Benedictus, for a new beginning, John O'Donohue, adapted)

Yousouf

Rector, St Martin of Tours

Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry Meeting is on Monday 18 February at 7.45pm at the Rectory, 15 Ardmillan Terrace.

Family Fun Day

Sunday 3 February 2019: 12.30-2.30pm: Arts and crafts and parachute games in the Church hall.

Eco-Congregation News

The Annual Gathering & AGM

Eco-congregation Scotland is excited to announce that Professor Jim Skea will be coming home to Dundee as keynote speaker at the Annual Gathering. Recently asked by the Scottish Government to chair the Just Transition Commission - advising on a carbon-neutral economy that is fair for all - Professor Skea currently co-chairs Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), covering mitigation of climate change such as reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The Dundee-born Chair in Sustainable Energy at Imperial College, London, is also a founding member of the UK Committee on Climate



Change. He was awarded an OBE for services to sustainable transport, in 2004, and a CBE, in 2013, for services to sustainable energy.

Another keynote speaker will be Neil Kermode, the managing director of the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) responsible for the deployment of pioneering marine technology in Orkney. EMEC is in the forefront of energy projects that produce power from wave and tidal sources.

Some members of the Eco-congregation group at St. Martin's plan to go and hope that you will be free to join us and hear more at the Annual Gathering and AGM on Saturday 30th March in Dundee's Gate Church, 158 Perth Road, Dundee, DD1 4JS.

Transforming Energy, Transforming Lives

is the title of the 2019 Annual Gathering and AGM. We know that we have to radically change our way of life in Scotland. Changing how we use energy means changing both our way of life and our economy; in heating our homes, travel, food and farming. The 2019 annual gathering will explore this transformation with speakers, who are leading the changes, and congregations who are responding to this challenge.

More details regarding the event and how to book up:

www.ecocongregationScotland.org/event/agm2019

George South

**SATURDAY
30 MARCH
10:00
TILL
16:00**

You are invited to the Eco-Congregation
Annual Gathering and AGM 2019

**TRANSFORMING - ENERGY
LIVES**

Join us for a day of
talks and workshops on
transforming energy and transforming lives

**GATE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
158 PERTH ROAD, DUNDEE DD1 4JS**

Keynote Speakers:
- Professor Jim Skea, chair of Scotland's Just Transition Commission
and co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Neil Kermode, head of the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney

More details and RSVP at:
www.ecocongregationScotland.org/event/agm2019

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), Number 1014366

**eco
congregation
Scotland**

Street Theology 9



Language that we might think of as theological language crops up in the strangest of contexts. This poster, displayed on a hoarding in the Dalry Road last autumn is an interesting example of that. *Red Dead Redemption II* is a violent computer game - think *Grand Theft Auto* with horses instead of cars. So is the game's title a hi-jacking of theological language? It would be a very ironic hi-jacking, given that Christians believe that our redemption was secured not by acts of violence but by the loving and forgiving acceptance of the worst that violence can do.

I don't think there is any such thing as theological language. We think and write theologically by borrowing words that already exist, and that thinking and writing involves using the word-pictures we call metaphors. Theology only becomes possible by that process of borrowing and likening and it is to our Jewish forebears in faith that we owe this insight. You find it emerging in the Hebrew Bible, and a good place to look is the book of the prophet *Isaiah*. In chapter 40 verse 18, the prophet poses the question:

“To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with God?”

Isaiah then reminds his readers that their religious culture is unique. They do not make images of God with wood, stone or precious metals. They make images of God with words - and that is what theology literally means - words about God. They see the evidence for God's existence in God's creation and in their own

experience of God's mercy and forgiveness and they put those insights and experiences into words that are meant to be shared.

We can see that process happening in another part of *Isaiah* - Chapter 52, verse 3:

“For thus says the Lord: ‘You were sold for nothing, and you shall be **redeemed** without money.’”

In that phrase “redeemed without money” a word-picture is created.

The English word “Redemption” is a borrowing from the Latin language and literally means “buying back”. The book of *Isaiah* was written in Hebrew, and that meant that the prophet had a choice, for Biblical Hebrew has two words for “redeem” - *pidyon* and *goel*. Both words are used to describe the process of buying a person out of slavery and in English translations of the Hebrew Bible both words are usually translated as “redeem”. So *Isaiah* had a choice of words, and in choosing one of them to describe God's future action - bringing God's chosen people back from their exile in Babylon - he was making a very significant choice and, in choosing, doing theology.

Pidyon, it turns out, is the word you might have expected him to choose, for it means to liberate. He chose *goel* because that is the kind of redeeming that one family member does when buying another family member out of slavery. In choosing that word, the prophet was reminding the Hebrew people that God sees them as family.

The Gospels only record one use of the word “redemption” by Jesus, and you will find it in *Luke* 21:28:

“Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Jesus almost certainly said it either in Aramaic - the everyday language then in use in Palestine - or in Hebrew, so we cannot be certain of the word that he used. The Gospel writer reported his words in Greek, using a word which meant buying someone back from slavery or ransoming a captive. As often happens, something got lost in translation; in this case that sense that God works to free us because God sees us as part of God's family.

I think that St Paul, who wrote in Greek but whose thinking was in so many ways shaped by the Hebrew scriptures, had a sense that the Greek word for redemption wasn't quite up to the job that he wanted it to do, so he coupled it with other words and word-pictures. There's an important passage in *Romans* 8 where I believe that he can be seen doing this.

In verse 21 he writes:

“that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” That couples the idea of redemption as liberation with the idea that God views God’s people as family. A few verses later, we read (verses 22-23):

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now... we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

In bringing together a word picture about *redemption* and a word picture about *adoption* he is placing front and centre another word picture, Isaiah’s metaphor of God’s people as God’s family.

As Paula Gooder has shown in her recent book *Phoebe* (very accessible and well worth reading) it was common in Roman society for slaves who had served well to be liberated, and there were cases when a liberated slave was also adopted into the family of the former owner and became his heir. Paul used the language and the customs of his time to express what it is that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and that a mission challenge for us. What words and actions will best convey the loving work of God to our contemporaries?

Redemption probably isn’t one of them because words change their meaning over time. Most dictionaries acknowledge the Christian use of the word, but suggest other more commonly used definitions, including refraining from evil and improving morally. The designers of *Red Dead Redemption II* seem to have plumped for that understanding of the word. I haven’t played the game - I am far too squeamish to be comfortable with its graphic depictions of violence. I gather from reviews that it is the story of a former outlaw who, as he encounters other people, can earn merit (“honor points”) by good behaviour and lose merit by bad behaviour. If you have a high score for “honor”, things cost less in the shops. On the other hand, you can also benefit by doing bad things, such as shooting people and looting their corpses.

That’s a very long way from the Christian understanding of redemption. Paul understood that redemption isn’t earned by accumulating merit, it’s the free gift of God’s grace. We are not redeemed because we have earned brownie points by good behaviour. He didn’t, of course, use the words “brownie points” but I suspect he would have if he had been writing an Epistle to the Caledonians in the 20th century. An Epistle to the Caledonians in the early 21st century might need to use language and ideas from the computer games that many people play. Our God-talk will only be effective outwith the context of the church if it finds words and word-pictures that are familiar to our contemporaries.

David Warnes

The prayer ring

I wear prayer on my finger.
Natasha made the rope
sitting up all night.
four threads, twelve knots.
Each knot takes seventeen twists,
drawing loops into a cross,
passing one under the next .
The task requires care and skill,
focus: mind and body stilled,
Natasha lives in half a room
with husband, children, nowhere
to rest, no silent space.
I twist her threads,
knit prayer on knots:
an endless circle on a finger ring.

Jenny Robertson

Bake Sale

Another thank you to everyone who baked and bought our Christmas goodies for the annual bake sale for Secma (formally Links) and St Columba's Hospice. We raised £280.

Liz Moir (Mrs)

The 2018 Christmas Party was also a celebration of Margaret Sandridge's 95th Birthday.



News from St Michael's

Joint Evening Services at St Michael's:

Sunday 24th February and Sunday 31 March at 6.30pm. All welcome

Pancakes and Quiz on Shrove Tuesday, 5 March 2019. All welcome.

The Revd Andrea Price

Proposed Ecumenical Lent Evenings

This year five evenings of worship, prayer and reflections are planned in our various neighbouring churches on the theme of “The Way Through Lent – an ecumenical journey together”. It is hoped that we will meet as follows:

1. Week in St Martin's : 'Embracing Comfort'; 12 March at 7.30pm (tbc), practising Lectio Divina
2. Week in Polwarth Church : 'Stepping Out' (date and time tbc) using their labyrinth
3. Week in Gorgie Parish Church: 'Becoming Messengers' 26 March (date and time tbc); using the remembrance crosses
4. Week in St Cuthbert's: 'Encountering God' 3 April (date and time tbc); using the Stations of the Cross
5. Week in St Michael's Church: 'Receiving Fresh Strength', Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm; using our experiences

Please check nearer the time for further details.

Walk of Witness

Please also note in advance the planned Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 19 April 11am – 12noon. Starting at The Saltyard (11am), we will walk to St Martin's, then to St Michael's (11.20am) and on to Polwarth Church (11.40am). A cross will be carried by different people in turn. At each stop we will sing and pray for five minutes.

Knitted angels

We had a lovely Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies before hanging the Advent angels around the local area. We hung 320 angels with a wee tag giving details of our web page. Thank you to everyone who knitted and went out into the cold to hang the angels.

Liz Moir (Mrs)

St Martin's Strollers

Walks for 2019

February 16th

St Martin's to Newhaven

March 23rd

Balerno to Slateford (Water of Leith)

April 27th

Kelpies to Falkirk Wheel

May 25th

Blackness to South Queensferry

June 22nd

Pittenween to Crail

July 13th

Eddlestone

August 17th

Kirknewton

September 14th

East Linton to Hailes Castle

October 5th

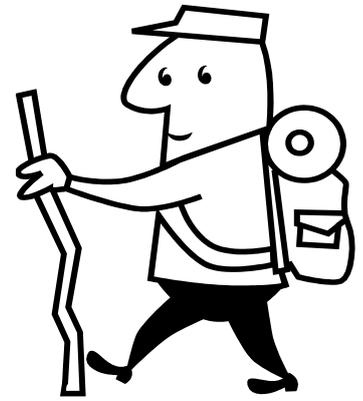
Ratho

November 2nd

Slateford to Leith

(Water of Leith)

More details of each walk will be given nearer the time.



Peter Moir

Calendar - February 2019

Sun 3 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Epiphany 4**

Preacher: Yousouf Gooljary

Sun 10 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Epiphany 5**

Preacher: Sarah Kilbey

Sun 17 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Epiphany 6**

Preacher: Yousouf Gooljary

Mon 18 7.45pm **Vestry Meeting** - at the Rectory, 15 Ardmillan Terrace

Sun 24 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Epiphany 7**

Preacher: Stuart Robertson

6.30pm **Shared Evening Service at St Michael's**

Quiet Space Prayers

The next two meetings for Quiet Space Prayer will be as follows

February 9th 2019. 09:45 – 10:45 St Martin's CRC downstairs - Small meeting room.

March 9th 2019. 09:45 – 10:45 St Martin's CRC downstairs - Small meeting room.

All are welcome on these occasions, which offer an opportunity for silent prayer, followed by refreshments. If you would like to know more, please speak to Liz Moir (Ms.)

Cleaning Rota Church to be cleaned ready for Sunday...

February

Sunday 3 Monika & Sonia

Sunday 10 George & Elizabeth

Sunday 17 Frank

Sunday 24 Monika & Sonia

March

Sunday 3 Roderick

Sunday 10 Stuart & Kate

Sunday 17 Penny & Bob

Sunday 24 Monika & Sonia

Sunday 31 George & Elizabeth

April

Sunday 7 Frank