



# St Martin of Tours

Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

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

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**August September 2021**

Climate Change

# St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church

is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion

[www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk)

## Who are we?

Priest in Charge

Organist

Chris Johnson                      620 2603  
[chrisj@epcc.ed.ac.uk](mailto:chrisj@epcc.ed.ac.uk)

Rector's Church Warden

Tom Jamieson                      07712 470 895  
[tommyjamieson53@gmail.com](mailto:tommyjamieson53@gmail.com)

People's Church Warden

Please contact vestry member.

Vestry Secretary

Roderick MacKenzie              449 5465  
[roderick@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:roderick@blueyonder.co.uk)

Treasurer

Lynn Dailly                      444 2233  
[lynndailly@btinternet.com](mailto:lynndailly@btinternet.com)

Gift Secretary

Stuart Campbell                  466 8184  
[Campbellzn@hotmail.com](mailto:Campbellzn@hotmail.com)

Lay Representative

Liz Moir (Miss)

Alternative Lay Representative

Kate Campbell

## **Westness Brooch**

In 1962 at Westness on the Isle of Rousay in Orkney a ploughman uncovered the grave of a Viking woman and found a precious brooch now in the Chambers Street Museum.

Though the dead cannot hear  
They buried her with the sounds of the sea in her ear;  
Dressed her in kirtle and sark with skill and care,  
Fastened brooches she favoured for festive wear.

Silvered gold, slender pin, rich interlace  
Shone beneath her motionless face.

They brought her infant, dead at its birth,  
Shrouded mother and child with boulder and turf.

Centuries unravelled clothing and flesh,  
Unstitched the bairn on the withered breast,  
Until a plough struck against the burial stone  
Uncovered rare gold gleaming on a knotwork of bone.

Her jewellery was taken, classified, assessed,  
Ticketed, displayed behind casing and glass.

Her grave is hidden beneath thistle and grass  
Where the sea's requiem enfolds her and cloud shadows pass.

Jenny Robertson

## **News of our priests at St Martins.**

### **Eileen Thompson**

Warm good wishes as you prepare for the coming of your new priest. I am looking forward to journeying with you over these next three to four months and to getting to know you. My first Sunday with you is 20th June but from now on I am here for you and contactable on 0131 315 4928 or [eileencthompson@gmail.com](mailto:eileencthompson@gmail.com). Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything.

Eileen

## **Prayers are asked for :**

Stuart and Jenny Robertson. Stuart was taken to hospital on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July with a lacunar stroke. He has now been moved to the stroke unit in the Western and is receiving physiotherapy.

Sarah Kilbey who has had a hip operation on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Sarah was back in Church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July presiding for the communion, real commitment.

## **St Martins has appointed The Reverend John Vincent as its new priest in charge.**



We look forward to the Installation of John in St Martins on Thursday 23 September.

## **Art Show Rota 2021**

It's time to sign up to help with the running of our Art Show this year .....Please.

Lookout for the rota after church from the end of July. Check your diaries and the please volunteer in whatever way you are able. This might be to “man” the show by simply walking around helping visitors if required and making sure art & craft work is safe. You can read a book or newspaper or do some knitting or have a coffee with a scone or cake when it's not too busy.

Maybe you would like to help in the café. Selling tea or coffee and home made baking. Washing dishes included.

Occasional help on the sales desk would also be appreciated. It's not a difficult task but can be confusing with some of the craft entries.

Then of course we also need home baking available for sale every day and at the coffee morning on Saturday 4th September. I'm not sure how or even if the latter will really be possible this year but please give it some thought and be prepared.

Anyone not in church on Sundays can email me at [lynndailly@brinternet.com](mailto:lynndailly@brinternet.com) or phone me on 0131 444 2233 to note their availability.

Please don't leave noting your help until the last minute as I will get in a real panic. Without help the show will be cancelled.

Many thanks,

Lynn Dailly

## Eco Group News

### ECO Congregation



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## CLIMATE SUNDAY IN ST MARTINS

On Sunday 6 June, St Martins held a Climate Sunday service as part of a nationwide ecumenical initiative to make a statement about the climate crisis before COP 26 in Glasgow in November. Churches from 26 denominations are linking faith and action to show their concern about increased global warming which, if not halted, will seriously affect the life of future generations – the lives of the children and young people in our families, in our congregation.

We were asked to bring our concerns into worship, to commit to change, and to speak up about the climate crisis.

In terms of worship, the eco-group and others created a liturgy from material prepared by the Climate Sunday organisation, and invited Alastair McIntosh to speak to us in our reflection space.

Alastair is a writer, speaker, broadcaster and activist on environmental issues over many years. He has written a number of books, the latest being “Riders on the Storm – The Climate Crisis and the Survival of Being”. He kindly came in person to talk to us and even more kindly, adapted his address to take account of the young people in the audience.

A brief snapshot of his address: he spoke about the nature of ‘soul’ – the essence of ‘what kind of person am I going to be?’ To lose heart is to lose one’s soul. We need awareness of our soul to engage fully with the challenge we face, and we need not to lose heart when it seems like a huge and overwhelming crisis. He spoke of the soul as ‘a spark of God’, a drop falling deep into a well, or into the ocean. Although we each have a unique soul, we belong together, like the fingers belong to the hand. Something larger, more powerful unites us.

And Alastair gave us much more to think about; read his book!

We also chose special music, wrote and offered prayers; asked the young people to draw and paint their response to the climate crisis. These were amazingly thoughtful, colourful and dramatic pieces of art. They have remained on the altar and walls of the church to help us to remember our commitment after the service; they will be included in the Art Show at the end of August.



As a congregation we committed by signing up to the The Time is Now – a huge petition being prepared for submission to COP 26. It asks our government to:

- Unleash a clean energy revolution that boosts jobs across the UK, making our transport, power and housing fit for the future
- Protect, restore and expand our green and wild spaces; allowing nature to thrive, taking carbon from the air and boosting the nation’s health
- Leave no one behind by increasing support to those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change at home and abroad

Finally, in terms of speaking up, we had a noisy bell-ringing at the end of the service to sound the alarm about the climate crisis, to show our solidarity with other eco-congregations acting for change, and to draw attention to the injustice of the climate crisis already affecting people who are powerless to deal with it.

Our Climate Sunday service involved not just the eco-group but most of the congregation – thank you to everyone who contributed to making it such a memorable and meaningful event.

Elizabeth South on behalf of the eco-group





## **Climate Fringe COP26**

### **Art Exhibition “Our Precious and Precarious World”**

Your work is invited, drawings, paintings, photographs, collage, textiles, fibre arts, recycled material, digital images, sculpture, all are welcome.

**Everyone, experienced or not**, is invited to submit work.

You might think about: *Climate Change Pollution Recycling*

*The beauty and fragility of nature*

The exhibition is organized by the Together Trust Eco Group

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 12-5pm**

**St Cuthbert’s Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2EP**

### Guidelines

Up to 3 works per artist

Unframed work: maximum size A3 (Landscape or Portrait)

Framed work: maximum size 45cm x 35cm (Landscape or Portrait)

Sculpture: maximum size of base 50cm x 50cm (free standing)



All works should be handed into St Cuthbert's Lothian Road, between 14<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 11am to 2pm.

Please plan to collect your work on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 12 noon to 3pm or Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 11am to 2pm.

Please attach the following to identify your work:

Title of work ---- Name of Artist

Medium

A description (max 30 words) that will go on the label.

Please register this information by 1<sup>st</sup> October at [www.togetheredinburgh.org.uk/art](http://www.togetheredinburgh.org.uk/art)

Or contact Martin Pearce, [martin.i.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:martin.i.pearce@blueyonder.co.uk) phone 07913 625 394

No work will be for sale at the exhibition, but artists may include the address of their website or similar on the label if desired.

**We will endeavour to take care of your work, but please be aware that exhibits are loaned at owner's risk and will not be insured.**

The Eco Group of the Together Trust (formally Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together)  
Registered Scottish Charity Number SC040773

## **Holy Land Institute for the Deaf**

News from the Institute Spring letter May 2021

Exerts from the Newsletter follow:

### **The Spring return to school**

On 12<sup>th</sup> February the school reopened after several months of closure due to government restrictions. Many children had found this time very difficult, being away from their friends and other deaf children. The staff took great delight in welcoming them back to their classes and of course the boarding house. During their time at home, and despite their teacher's best endeavours, many of them had struggled with the distance learning tools put in place by the Institute and some needed extra support to bring them back up to their previous levels. The younger students found welcome presents consisting of personalized gifts on their desks when they returned to their classes- an idea that the headmistress Imam Debabneh had to help them acclimatize to the changed regime.

The staff during lockdown

Staff in the workshops had an idea for an absorbing project to make use of some of their spare time and to make something for the children to enjoy when they returned. They decided to make a scale model of the Institute – a remarkable feat.



Former pupils Mahmoud, Salah and Ghaith spent a lot of time helping with the model. It shows what excellent special and design skills they have developed. It turns out that many of the students have aspirations to become architects!

### **Activities in refugee camps.**

At the outreach facility in Azrak refugee camp lessons also started again. This was especially appreciated by the children as life in the camp can become very monotonous, especially with various disabilities. The classes give the children the opportunity to establish a new circle of friends as well as in many cases, their only chance to communicate with other deaf children.

### **Lock-down again!**

Soon after the children came back to the Institute in February there was another lock-down! After a drastic deterioration in the pandemic situation the gates at the Institute had to be closed in order to protect everyone as best as possible. Following regulations, everything was also cleaned extremely thoroughly so that infections could be prevented on the premises. The staff patiently took on sweaty work and so the hygiene standard could be maintained at a high level. However, by the end of March there was a second peak of infections in the country- higher than the November one, so schools, kindergartens were again closed. This was of course on top of the general curfew throughout the country. Although the peak was now passed and it is hopeful that the schools and other institutions may soon open again, at the time of writing (May 2021) the 11pm to 6am curfew remains in place. Friday prayers (resumed during Ramadan) may well be again suspended as are all Sunday church services until further notice. Strict rules remain in force in public buildings eg a 1.5m distance rule and wearing of masks and gloves. The government has just commenced a programme to vaccinate all teachers in Amman; this should be extended to the rest of the country from 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Lockdown progress - a journey with Bach**

Yes, you're right, while Chris has been away having a good holiday, we hope, I have been using the opportunity to play some of the Goldberg Variations before and after the service. When we started on the first lockdown, various suggestions were made by all sorts of people as to how we might avoid boredom and make some positive use of the enforced isolation. I wrote here then that I had decided to set myself the task of seeing how far I could get with learning these variations on a theme by J S Bach. I wanted it to be a "thank you" to Mabel Floyd my music teacher. She will never know how much she taught me - most of which I thought I'd forgotten but, as the weeks have gone by I find I have remembered more than I expected.

Apart from Mabel, my inspiration has been the legendary Canadian pianist Glen Gould. He is no longer with us unfortunately but there are recordings of his idiosyncratic performances together with videos which allow his incredible technique to be studied. Why idiosyncratic? Well, for one thing, however grand the concert, he insisted on playing seated on his own

chair, an ordinary old kitchen chair, rather than the height-adjustable padded items which seem to be part of the equipment for concert pianists. He also hummed along with the music. In fact sometimes he had to repeat a track when recording, because his humming was too intrusive! This may surprise you but actually it is quite hard to stop humming along once you get to know the music and perhaps see a bit more of what Bach was getting at.

And I suppose the other reason I wanted to do this was to immerse myself in the actual music. I think it is only possible, with someone like Bach, to appreciate his thinking if you have to struggle with the fingering and the counterpoint. The nearest thing to doing this other than music is spending afternoons in the galleries and absorbing your favourite artist's work. Like music, art is best appreciated by doing it. Only then can you marvel at the artist's skill in surmounting the hurdles you find impossibly difficult yourself. I am still loving Bach, I'm just not so sure about the neighbours!

I suppose I am well on the way to mastering half of the 30 variations. It's a task I am unlikely to complete by the time my fingers seize up for the last time and I shall never match Glen Gould but it's proving very worth while.

It occurred to me while I was thinking about this that it is a good metaphor for relationships and best of all our relationship with God. A relationship with meaning involves a lifetime of commitment. Difficulties have to be faced and overcome and sometimes this involves a lot of practice. Communication is an essential part of the process, not only the obvious daily exchange of meaningless phrases we often engage in but communication at deeper levels, levels of feeling, unspoken words, looks and so on. I have often said that I love the Nunc dimittis. The old man saying to God "OK I'm ready to go now because you have shown me what you promised to our forefathers. This child is a light - to lighten the Gentiles, yes, but, magnificently more, the glory of your own people, Israel.". That is an example of real communication as much as for what isn't said as for what is.

By the time you read this I shall have been able to go back to the congregational antisocially placed seats with no hymns to struggle with - for now!

Brian Kilbey

## **Quiet Space**

The monthly **Quiet Space Prayer** gathering will be postponed until further notice. In the meantime, do make 'quiet space' for yourselves, when possible.

Elizabeth South has been kindly preparing material for us to have Quiet Space at home to use at a suitable time for yourselves.

Love and prayers, Liz.

**Liz Moir (Ms.)**

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## Craft club

Craft club was temporarily suspended at the start of lockdown and opened again briefly in September in the main Church Hall for a few meetings but sadly had to close again with the new restrictions from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

The craft club continues to meet on Zoom on Saturdays at 2.00pm and 3.00pm for 40 minute slots. If anyone wants to drop in just for a wee chat let me know and I'll email the two links to you. You can drop in anytime and if you feel you're having to wait a few minutes it's probably because I'm looking down counting stitches and I need to see you in the "waiting room" to let you in. **Of course I won't actually "see" you, only a blank screen and, in case you're concerned about being seen on Zoom, you can keep it that way and still join in with the conversation. It's up to you whether you're "seen" or not.** We are looking forward to meeting in Church once more – it's been a long time!

**Diana**

## St Martin's Strollers

### One Stroller's walk

### The Eildon hills and St Cuthbert's Way



I arrived in Melrose on a sunny day and set off on the St Cuthbert's Way going between the first two Eildon hills, went up the second hill for the view and then rejoined the way to walk to the village of Bowden which has an interesting well, then back the same way and I ended up going up the first Eildon hill fine view but very steep going down. The wild flowers were beautiful, with a few butterflies.

Felicity



Great to see a wild orchid in bloom.

### **Zoom and Church Services**

Church services started again from Palm Sunday also available on zoom.

A big thank you to Rosie for hosting the Zoom Service.

## Calendar: August / September

### August 2021

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Sun 1 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 18</b> Preacher: Tim Gorringe
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Sun 8 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 19</b> Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
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Sun 15 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 20</b> Preacher: Elizabeth South
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Sun 22	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 21</b> Preacher: Eileen Thompson
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Sun 29 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 22</b> Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
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### September 2021

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Sun 5 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 23</b> Preacher:
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Sun 12 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion Proper 24</b> Preacher:
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Sun 19 Church	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion Proper 25</b> Preacher:
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Thursday 23		Installation of John Vincent as Priest in Charge
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Sun 26	10.30am	<b>Celebrating Communion – Proper 26</b>
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