



St Martin of Tours
Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

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



October November 2023
St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion
www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk

Who are we?

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Message from John

Remembering Sandhurst.

Almost twenty years ago to the day, I left the security of parish ministry to begin my military training as an Army Chaplain. The first part was fairly gentle, staying in a beautiful chaplaincy centre deep in the Hampshire countryside where I and the five other new chaplains learnt how to wear our uniform, how to polish boots, lessons on military history and culture and some fairly gentle daily exercise, all underpinned with prayer and fellowship.

Nothing however prepared me for the second phase of my training which was the Professionally Qualified Officers' Course at Sandhurst, where chaplains (mostly in our 40s) trained alongside very young doctors, vets and lawyers. Long days which began with a 0530 parade and didn't finish until very late into the evening, three- and four-day exercises with little sleep, being shouted at, messed around to see how we would cope under pressure and lots of marching up and down the parade square.

What filled me with dread every time was the assault course, designed to test your fears and stamina in equal measure – crawling through tunnels of mud and water, jumping from high frames onto cargo nets, and having to scramble over a six-foot wall (which to someone of my height was a real challenge). I remember as a corporal was shouting at me to get a move on, calling to mind the words of Isaiah, 'Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the lord will find new strength; they will soar high on wings like eagles. How I prayed for those wings, but the only soaring I did was when a young member of my platoon sat on the top of the wall grabbed me and pulled me over.

It did have its good moments; I was the fittest (and thinnest) I had ever been and discovered new things about myself I never thought possible, but I was pleased when I eventually marched off the parade square at the end of the course!

That was all 20 years ago and the stress of Sandhurst long gone, but the following 18 years was a time of immense privilege and the lessons learnt on the assault course equipped me at least in part, to dealing with the many obstacles and challenges that life brings.

We all face hurdles – challenges that feel like unscalable walls, finding ourselves in situations where we have to overcome our fears and moments when we might feel that we just don't have the reserves or the inner strength to negotiate successfully what lies in front of us. Such walls might take the form of sickness, betrayal, fear or disappointment. But one of the valuable lessons which every soldier learns on the assault course is to work as a team, playing to strengths, and offering support to other team members in their struggles – no one is ever abandoned.

God has the resources and riches we need to see us through those difficult times; we are never on our own, he is on our team, encouraging us to press on, negotiating the obstacles we face with perseverance and endurance. As St Paul says to the struggling Christians in Ephesus, 'I pray that out of his glorious riches, he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being'. (Eph 3:6). May St Paul's prayer be our prayer as we journey on;

may we learn to both offer and accept the support of others who journey with us, and may God give us the confidence to face the future with renewed hope, that we may soar high on wings like eagles.

John

THE COAT OF HOPES

This beautiful coat fabricated of many small squares sewn together and attached to a wool yoke, was worn by walkers walking from the SW of England to the COP26 Conference on the Environment in Glasgow. During the conference, people were invited to wear the coat and to stand with the climate campaigners in the area around the conference hall, as a witness to our concern about global heating. This was accompanied by music.

This summer the Coat was worn by walkers on another long walk, from Glasgow to Edinburgh, to be displayed in St Mary's Cathedral as part of the Art and Ecology Exhibition for the Festival. It is a beautifully crafted, lovingly stitched and colourful demonstration of many individuals' prayers and thoughts about creating a better and safer environment. I spent some time looking at it and marvelling at the variety of

contributions. Sometimes it's good to have some visual images rather than lots of words.

It is worth looking at the Coat of Hopes website which gives the backstory and includes a short video showing the coat being worn, with accompanying music. <https://www.coatofhopes.uk>



Morningside Justice and Peace, Edinburgh, is moving to a new venue.

Morningside Justice and Peace has been running since the 1980s offering weekly talks on issues of social justice every Wednesday morning from October - March.

Everyone is welcome. Many of us are seniors wanting to keep abreast of modern thought, especially on social justice. We often say the meetings equip us to join with family and friends to discuss issues of current concern.

We meet in the Eltham Suite at the Eric Liddell Community, 15 Morningside Road. This is at Holy Corner, EH10 4DP. Our meeting runs from 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. There are usually about 25 present whilst others join by Zoom.

We try to have topics local, national and international in equal measure. The talk lasts for 30 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes Q&A. There are usually about 20 people present and perhaps six on Zoom. Some people stay on for coffee. We have had talks on a huge range of topics including energy and climate change, homelessness in Edinburgh, also USA and China.

Our new session begins on October 11. We have a simple website: www.morningsidejandp.org Our past programmes are there. The new programme is almost complete.

We invite everyone to put us in their diary for October 11 - Dec 13. Some people come every week. Others choose by topic. Some people pay £30 for the session. Others pay £3 when they attend. We would be delighted to put you on our mailing list.

Barbara Darcy

22 August 2023

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association 1875-2023

Dear SECMA Friend,

On behalf of the SECMA Trustees I would like to invite you to attend
the

Service of Thanksgiving

for the charity's 148 years of making a positive difference to the lives of
thousands across the world.

The service will be held

On Saturday 4th November 2023 at 11.30am

In St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AW

As well as joyfully giving thanks to God, the Most Rev Dr Mark Strange
will be preaching,

a Ugandan choir will be singing and we will hear about SECMA's far-
reaching impact past, present and future.

A light lunch will follow giving the opportunity to enjoy further
fellowship and learn more about SECMA's achievements.

**Please pass on this information to your church congregation(s)
and anyone you know who has had an interest in SECMA and its
work.**

Everyone is welcome.

For catering purposes it will be good to have an idea of numbers
attending so

please respond to Hilary Blyth, our previous secretary, who is very
kindly co-ordinating this.

herb.27@btinternet.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

Gill Campbell - Convener.

St Martin's Church Annual Art Show 2023

The Art Show was a great success.

ART SHOW REPORT 2023

Our new reduced hours, (12 noon till 4.00pm), proved to be successful and much easier to manage. We had a record number of visitors, and the café was a huge success. Our good friends from St Michaels gave us great support as always.

Fewer paintings than usual were sold but this may be because people just have less disposable income. The exhibits certainly covered a wide price range to offer something for everyone.

Thanks to the café, home-baking sales, and sales of other crafts we still raised a record figure for St Martin's.

Some Figures from the Show:

Visitors:- 315

Café:- £766.64 (inc. Coffee Morning £233.05)

Home-Baking:- £133.00 on Saturday + £55.00 on Sunday

Donations:- £91.18 (inc. £33.50 donations for wine/juice)

Craft Club Sales:- 28 items, £101.00

Paintings:- 20 sold

Jewellery:- 8 pieces

Glass:- 50 pieces

Sculpture:- 1 piece

Other crafts:- 28 pieces

Cards & Calendars:- 121

Surplus to St Martin's: - £1157.88 after payments to exhibitors, deduction of costs and commission retained.

Commission is 20% but a number of exhibitors choose to gift their sales to St Martin's.

I should like to offer again my huge thanks to St Martin's team of volunteers who helped in so many ways. Hopefully you agree that this was a successful year and are happy to go through it all again next year.

Love & thanks,

Lynn

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the flower fund over the summer. Your donations are very much appreciated.

With the cooler weather I should be able to stretch the life of the flowers and greenery to an extra week.

If you are able to support this fund, please pop your donation in an envelope marked "flowers" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or hand it to me in church and tell me it's for flowers.

Thank you,

Lynn Dailly

Strollers

I have included walks already taken as they were very successful and enjoyed by all.

St Martin's Strollers Walks for 2023

August 19th Queensferry/Forth Road Bridge

In August the walking group took a bus to Ferrytoll Park & Ride and after a comfort break we headed back over the Forth Road Bridge. There was a strong wind blowing, unfortunately in our faces, but it was quite warm and pleasant. We were joined by the parents-in-law of Jade, who helps

out with the Toy Library. Jade was unable to join us because of a very bad cold but her in-laws really enjoyed the walk and the company. We had lunch on the south side of the bridge and were pleased to come across the café there where we were able to buy teas and coffees.

Diana

September 16th Musselburgh Lagoons (See George)

The picture on the front of the Newsletter shows the walkers.

George led us on a walk beside the River Esk and then along the coast to the lagoons where birds gather to feed when the tide is in; when the tide is low they feed on the Esk estuary, and on the exposed rocks beneath the sea wall. We sat in the hides and watched and saw a curlew, lapwing. Then visited the spanking new hides on the new upper lagoons.

October 7th Jim's caravan in Fife (See Jim Armstrong)

November 4th Flotterstone (See Kate & Stuart)

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

Eco Group

Peace Pole.

Started with the cardboard roll donated to us by City Carpets. A group of 8 to 12 people helped to develop the pole and produce decorations for the finished item. We used hypertufa (a cement and coir mix) and wire mesh to coat the roll and make it a pole. Starting from the bottom the decoration represents Isaiah 2.4 "He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks" - Hence the tank, the spear and photo of Hiroshima at the bottom with a ploughshare and pruning hook above. The brightly coloured crochet ladder represents human DNA, the sunflowers are flora and the insects together represent our world. The sea shells are an icon for pilgrimage, and near the top is the word Peace in 13 different languages. A dove carrying an olive branch

represents surviving the flood, which by fighting climate change we hope to do.



HOPES AND PRAYERS FOR PEACE

During September and early October we celebrate Creation Time, the season when the church focuses especially on Care for God's Creation, including our human relationships, our life-giving connections with the natural world, and our respect for the plants, insects and creatures which populate the Earth and its Oceans.

To show our care for Creation, we gathered Hopes and Prayers for Peace and added them to our Tree of Life, on the red notice board. The invitation was available during the Art Show and some visitors contributed, adults and young people. Some thoughtful and moving hopes created a tree full of prayer 'leaves', expressing desires for peace on our planet, peace between people and peace in our hearts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to creating the Tree.

The Eco Group



Celebration: A song for Creationtide

St Martin's Dalry

The St Martin's Eco Group wrote this to celebrate the season of Creationtide. It was sung as gradual hymn all through Creationtide. The last verse was sung after the offertory.

The Melody was composed by Liz Moir and the lyrics written by members of the congregation, based on Ecclesiastes 3. The melody adapted for this short musical landscape, written by John Vincent, with images from paintings exhibited at St Martin's Art Show.

Here is the link to the video on YouTube. Please share.



Celebration: A song for Creationtide
youtube.com

The words of the song

A time for love and a time for romance
A time to sing and a time to dance
A time to laugh and a time to play
A time for rest at the end of day

A time to plant and a time to sow
A time to weed and a time to hoe
A time for harvest joy and woe
A time to cook and eat and glow

A time to work and a time to sleep
A time to grow and a time to reap
A time to hope and pray and seek

Time to give thanks for all God's deeds

A time to gaze, and a time to dwell
A time to keep, and a time to tell
A time to climb, and a time to soar
A time to stroll along the shore

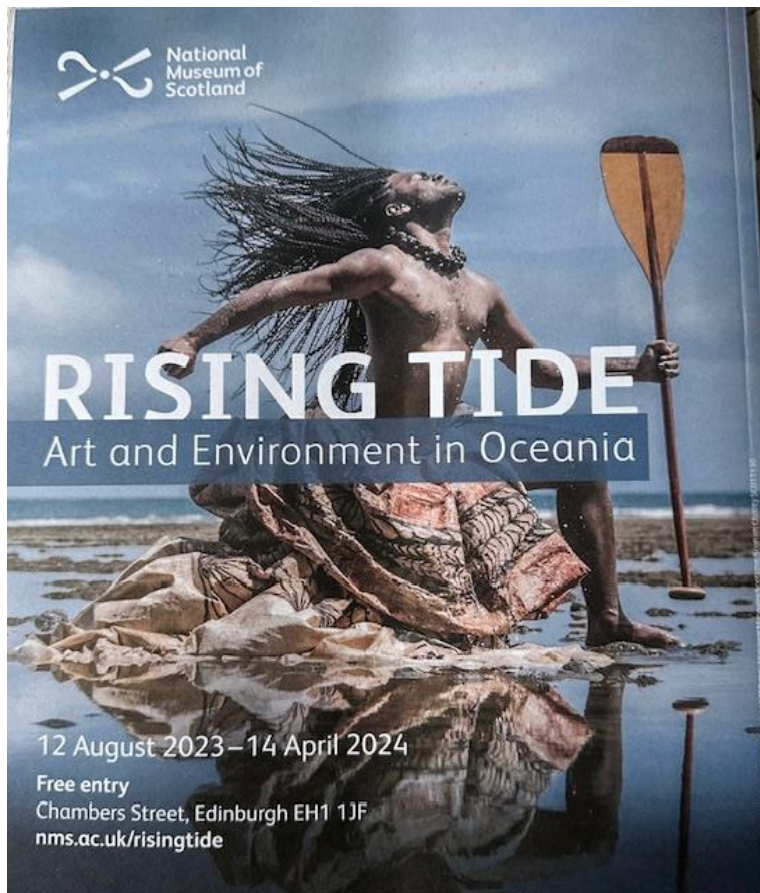
A time to care and a time to tend
A time to greet and a time to befriend
A time to listen a time to pray
A time for quiet in good company

A time for flowers and bees and trees
A time for oceans and rivers and seas
A time for deserts, mountains and plains
A time for all things God's earth sustains

A time to share and a time to dine,
Wheat from the fields and grapes from the vine,
Sent out afresh with love as a sign,
Broken and Blessed in Bread and Wine

Information from Martha at Springwell Golden Voices about milk bottle tops that we save.

Milk tops, Just to let you know there has been no addition to the £4,500, as the current total of donations to Marie Curie, Macmillan Nurses or the Lavender Trust, since January. We have to raise a skipful of tops to receive the money for palliative care. This will now take longer as the new tops are one gram less in weight and it will require more than 9.5 million as it did in the past. The plastic goes to make fibre optic cable covers, piping and bricks amongst other things. Please keep on saving only plastic milk bottle tops.



There is a new exhibition at the National Museum, *Rising Tide: Art and Environment in Oceania*. It's an exhibition of contemporary indigenous art created in response to the climate crisis, and is free.

Searching for Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

St. Mary's Cathedral Picardy Place is hosting a unique Scripture Event 23rd-27th October.

At this event, Prof. Edwards, a leading Scriptural Scholar from America, will help us to understand the Gospels (and particularly the Gospel of Mark) more deeply.

The event runs from 7pm-9pm every evening Monday to Friday - but each evening will be self-contained and so you can book for individual evenings.

Tickets are available from Eventbrite. All you need to do is google "Searching for Jesus Eventbrite".

If you would like to know more about the event there is also a good video which you might find interesting: <https://youtu.be/zNALK8pPxqs>

Craft Club

The craft club continues to meet in Monika and Sonya's lounge, with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Quiet Space recommenced on Saturday 9th September at 10am.

Calendar: October November 2023

October 2023

Sun 1 10.30am **Celebrating Communion –Creation 5**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 8 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Trinity 18**
Preacher: Stuart Robertson

Sun 15 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Trinity 19 and
AGM**
Preacher: Sarah Kilbey

Sun 22 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Trinity 20**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 29 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Trinity 21**
Preacher: John Vincent

November 2023

Sun 5 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Trinity 22**
Church Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 12 10.30am **Celebrating Communion Remembrance
Sunday**

Preacher: Sarah Kilbey

Sun 19 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Trinity 24**

Church

Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 26 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Trinity 24**

Preacher:



Seen in Musselburgh after the lagoons walk.
Remembrance.