



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

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



April May 2024

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

Who are we?

Priest in Charge	John Vincent johnvincent@stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk mobile 07914 762868	374 6365
Organist	Chris Johnson chrisj@epcc.ed.ac.uk	620 2603
Rector's Church Warden	Liz Moir (Miss)	
People's Church Warden	Roderick MacKenzie roderick@blueyonder.co.uk	
Vestry Secretary	Felicity Murdanaigum felicitymurdanaigum@hotmail.co.uk	07867278928
Treasurer	Lynn Dailly lynndailly@btinternet.com	444 2233
Gift Secretary	Stuart Campbell Campbellzn@hotmail.com	466 8184
Lay Representative	Liz Moir (Miss)	
Alternative Lay Representative	Diana Gilligan	

John's letter.

In Praise of Dogs.

My Facebook memories this week reminded me that it was seven years ago when our 13 year old Lurcher Roly died. He was a rescue dog who had endured a tough life in his early years before being taken in by a charity – after a few years with them, we took him on.

Despite the initial teething problems with him having to learn how to play with other dogs and live in a house, he soon became very much a part of our family whose life, like most lurcher greyhounds, was 5 percent exercise, 5 percent food and 90% sleeping on whatever sofa he could get away with; True to most sight hounds, he was a 90 mile an hour couch potato. We still miss him and his quirky ways and as soon as our slightly chaotic lifestyle changes, we will be getting another dog.

Dogs don't always get a good press in The Bible: – they were at best working animals used to guard places and at worst were seen as the lowest of all wild animals and yet **dogs** along with horses, have always been humanity's first companion, created according to Genesis, before woman, and it is dogs of all the animal world that most embody virtue.

The Dickin medal, which is the Victoria Cross equivalent for animals, has been won 34 times by dogs, more than any other animal. The rest have mainly gone to pigeons with a few for horses. Only one for a cat, and he was in the Navy. Dogs have always played an important role in The Armed Forces: I was lucky enough in one of my roles to look after the Defence Animal Training Regiment where they trained dogs to be mascots and sniffer dogs and then, at the end of their working career retrained them for adoption into family homes. Other dogs are adopted by soldiers on Operations – I particularly remember a stray dog called Barma, named after the equipment used for detecting IEDs, who was adopted by our Gurkha Company in Afghanistan and went out on Patrols and after an illustrious tour was brought back to the UK.

Dogs can never replace the depth of human relationships – but they can teach us a thing or two about loyalty, unconditional love and a wholesome attitude to life which can put our own tensions and anxieties into some kind of perspective.

Dogs also bring out the best in us. They give us time out doors, time to think; to wonder and wander out under the skies. And dogs show us how to enjoy life. W.H. Auden wrote: In times of joy, all of us wished we possessed a tail we could wag. But a dog will also believe in you like no one else. Once a dog has chosen you he or she

will never look back and unless you're a monster you'll never lose that trust that actually you are the best person in the world.

So for this newsletter, and in memory of Roly, I'll finish with a quote not from Bible, but an instruction that has almost as much depth:

'Be the person your dog thinks you are.'

John

We are looking for volunteers to go on the church rota for "LOOP"

What does this involve? It is looking after the sound system for the Sunday morning service. There are instructions provided, but they are rather lengthy, and it is easier to show you what to do. You turn on the amplifiers, replace the battery in the throat microphone for the clergy and put out the hand microphone for the person doing prayers, plug in the lectern microphone and test the whole system well before the service.

Stuart Campbell

Sir James MacMillan talk: "Chant, the music of Faith, and its influence on the history of music", Tuesday 23 April, 7:30pm, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Broughton Street, Edinburgh

Sir James MacMillan's concert music is broadcast and performed throughout the world and he travels the globe working with some of classical music's top ensembles as a conductor. Join music lovers across the city for a rare opportunity to hear insights from one of the world's most acclaimed classical music composers. All are welcome, you can book free tickets here: <https://bit.ly/StMarysM>

This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is in aid of the Jerusalem Princes Basma Centre, located under the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The centre provides rehabilitative services to children with disabilities from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. It serves as a place of hope, healing and inclusivity for all. Our Dean, the Very Revd Frances Burberry, has visited the centre. Dean Frances writes, It was February last year when I visited the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre

(JPBC) which is located on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives and operates under the umbrella of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East – under the supervision of the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Bishop Hosam Naoum – in the fields of health, disability and inclusive education. The JPBC is also a part of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network and like its near neighbour the Augusta Victoria Hospital, it plays a vital role in the Palestinian Healthcare system. First established in 1961, when there was a need for physiotherapy services for children with disabilities as a result of polio becoming widespread amongst the Palestinian population, the Centre took its name from Princess Basma of Jordan (sister of King Hussein of Jordan) who inaugurated the building during her visit there in 1966. The JPBC is an inclusive school, and is also a child rehabilitation centre for disabled children and their families from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. The school has children from ages 5 to 18, one third of whom are disabled. The rehabilitation centre provides inpatient and outpatient support for children (from birth to age 15) with a range of congenital and neuromuscular conditions including such as autism and cerebral palsy. P.6 Lent Appeal Net Zero Action Plan Children receive individualized rehabilitation programmes and their parents and/ or grandparents are trained as 'shadow therapists' to continue the programmes at home, supported by follow-up appointments as needed and/ or telephone consultations with staff at the JPBC. The JPBC was scheduled to open a new centre inside the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza in November 2023. At the war's conclusion, that new centre's services will be more necessary than ever. For not only will thousands of newly maimed children need physical therapy, nearly all of Gaza's children will also be suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and in need of psychological counselling. On my visit in February 2023, I saw a place which grows hope by offering a lifeline of support, education and rehabilitation; transforming the lives of children with disabilities and empowering their families to care for them. The JPBC receives financial support for the care of children with disabilities. It is also dependent upon international fundraising to sustain the Centre's vital and inspiring programmes.

Dean Frances

Money donations

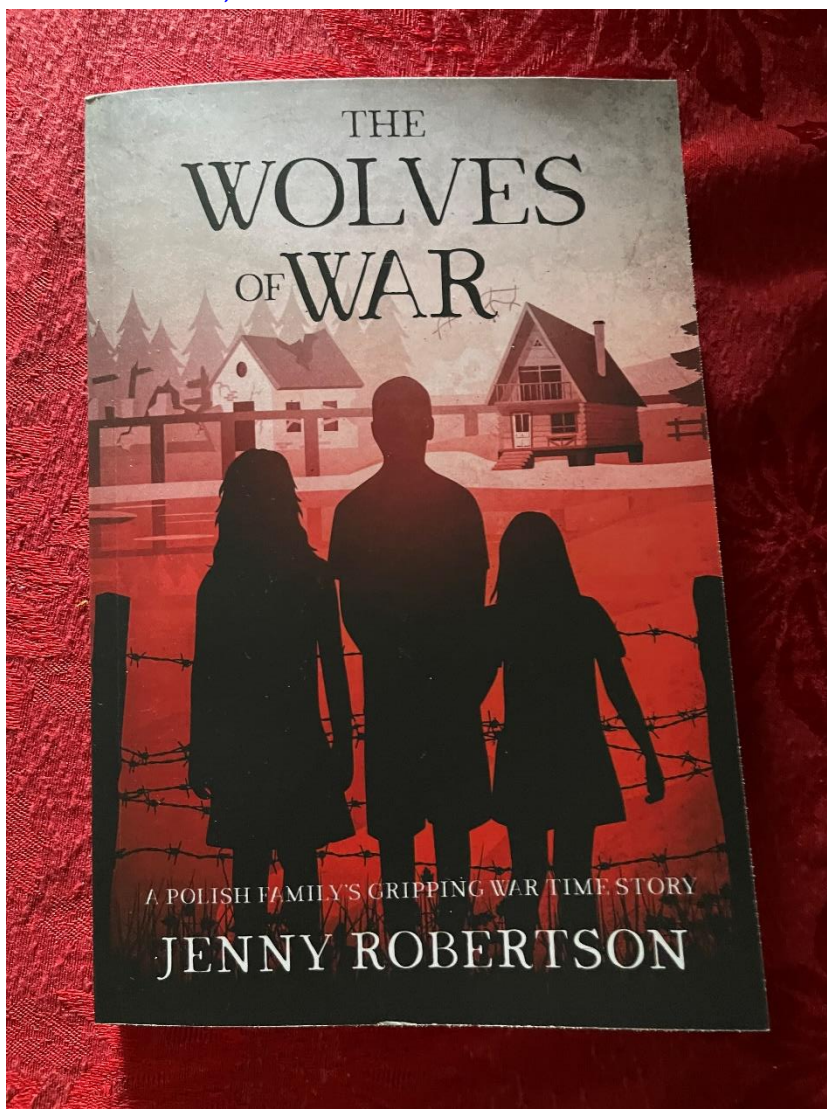
The money made from the sale of Black Buns, Burns lunch and the Quiz Night was made up to £700, £350 of it will be sent to the Bishop's Lent Appeal and £350 to a local charity to be decided by the Eco- Group.

Jenny's new book

Yes, the book on Ukraine was going to be the last book – and a big thank you to St Martin's for your kind support. But you can't stop a writer from writing and so now here is another book, *The Wolves of War*. This family adventure story offers a nail biting panorama of dramatic events in Eastern Poland between 1939 – 1944. It's written for young people, as so many of the best books are, and one huge difference between this book and all my others is that I have published it on Amazon. A deadline concentrates the mind wonderfully. I've been living with the deadline of bone marrow cancer since 2019 so I chose this way of instant publication. Please buy this book either as a "proper" book at £7.03 or as an e-book to download on to Kindle at £2. And, dear friends, when you've read it, please leave a few wee stars in the review section at the end to help this book stand out among the many titles on Amazon.

[Jenny Robertson](#)

[0131 453 4755](tel:01314534755); [07504623232](tel:07504623232)



Tony Fairlie-Clark

I am pleased to advise that both St. Martin's vestry and the Board of the SMCRC unanimously agreed that the kitchen in the lower ground hall be named "Tony's Kitchen" in memory of Tony and in appreciation of his time as Fabric Convenor from 2010 till 2017. Tony built the kitchen himself starting with four walls, a water supply pipe and an electricity cable.

Roderick

Lent walks along Fife Pilgrim Way

Duncan Weaver led six walks along the Fife Pilgrim during Lent. I went on three of the walks and found them helpful. A pray to start, time to talk to fellow Pilgrims, time to walk in silence, to observe our surroundings. A pause for a rest and a shared lunch together finally a short time in Church to sing a hymn unaccompanied. Pilgrims came from Fife, Perth, and the Borders. The walks I went on were blessed with good weather. The path from Markinch was marked by wild snowdrops, as good as a festival of snowdrops all along an open burn.

Felicity



The work in progress to repair the spire and roof.

The Quiz Night was a great success enjoyed by all and raised £450.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF ELEANOR'S ORPHANAGE raised £700, thank you to everyone.



Image by Alexander Grey, Unsplash

RECYCLING CANDLE WAX

The Eco Group is now able to recycle your used candle wax and spent tea lights. There is a drop off point at New Hopetoun Gardens, from which a company called The Recycled Candle Company collects. (<https://therecycledcandlecompany.co.uk>)

Last year when we were clearing out the gallery space upstairs in St Martins, we came across a large quantity of spent tea lights, used advent candles and old half burned Easter Candles. It seemed a pity just to dump it all in landfill.

We tried to find an organisation who could reuse the wax, without much success until we came across The Recycled Candle Company, based in Exeter. They were very keen to help us, and offered to collect if we would box up the used candles and let them know the size of package so that they could arrange a courier. However that meant someone being on hand at St Martins for their collection which could not be exactly specified.

In our email conversation, Richard, who established the company, mentioned that they had a drop off point at New Hopetoun Gardens. This seemed ideal but since we had a considerable amount of wax, I wondered whether their drop off point could cope with it. I emailed the staff at New Hopetoun Gardens who thanked us for getting in touch rather than just dumping it for them to deal with. They could cope with our load, so one Saturday last summer, Liz drove us out there with the candles. The staff at the garden centre were similarly helpful and we were able to leave the whole bundle.

We are continuing to collect used candles and tea lights, including the ones we use in church. There is a labelled box upstairs where you can leave it (at the west end of the gallery opposite the entry door) or just give it to Elizabeth or George. If your candle is in a glass container that cannot be recycled, so please don't give us those, but used tea lights still in the metal container are fine.

Elizabeth on behalf of the Eco Group

This is the link to an Open Letter to the First Minister, from over sixty charitable entities in Scotland, regarding the recent Climate Change Committee's report which said that Scotland's climate targets are "no longer credible".

OPEN LETTER TO THE FIRST MINISTER

Dear First Minister As a diverse group of organisations who together represent over one million people in Scotland and communities across the world, we wish to express our deep concern about the recent Climate Change Committee (CCC) report which said Scotland's climate targets are "no longer credible". We call on you to make an emergency statement to the Scottish Parliament to set out your response. Our concerns about Scotland's climate commitments have been building for a number of years, following policy delays, missed targets and insufficient efforts to deliver action. Alongside this, our dependency on oil and gas has led to spiralling household bills and climate induced extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and deadly, both at home and across the world. People in Scotland are greatly concerned about the climate crisis, and want action to secure decent green jobs, warmer homes, cleaner air and to restore nature. By accelerating policies in development, committing to bold new actions, and fairly transitioning away from polluting activities, we will see benefits for families,

communities and workers across Scotland – and it is urgent change in this decade that really counts. We need all governments to fairly raise the funds needed to invest in faster climate action while redirecting the huge amount of public spending that is still going into climate-damaging investments. We urge you not to further delay meaningful action, or weaken ambition to reduce emissions, in the face of the greatest threat facing us. To do so would fail current and future generations, both here in Scotland and around the world, and mean we miss out on the huge benefits of a transition to a zero carbon, fairer Scotland. Delivering on our climate ambitions also means we stand up for communities around the world, who are suffering the devastating impacts now, of a crisis they did not cause. Every missed target and delay means more losses and damages. The Scottish Government has positioned itself as a climate leader: now is a real test of how deep that commitment truly goes. The CCC’s report must be a wake-up call. Every part of the government must shift onto emergency footing, redouble efforts to fairly reduce emissions and show that you are serious about tackling this crisis. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

George South sent this information.

Dalry - Living Well Locally

Closes 26 Jun 2024

Opened 4 Apr 2024

[Contact](#)

dalrytowncentre@edinburgh.gov.uk

[Overview](#)

The 'Dalry - Living Well Locally' project aims to improve Dalry and its town centre to make it greener, healthier and more thriving.

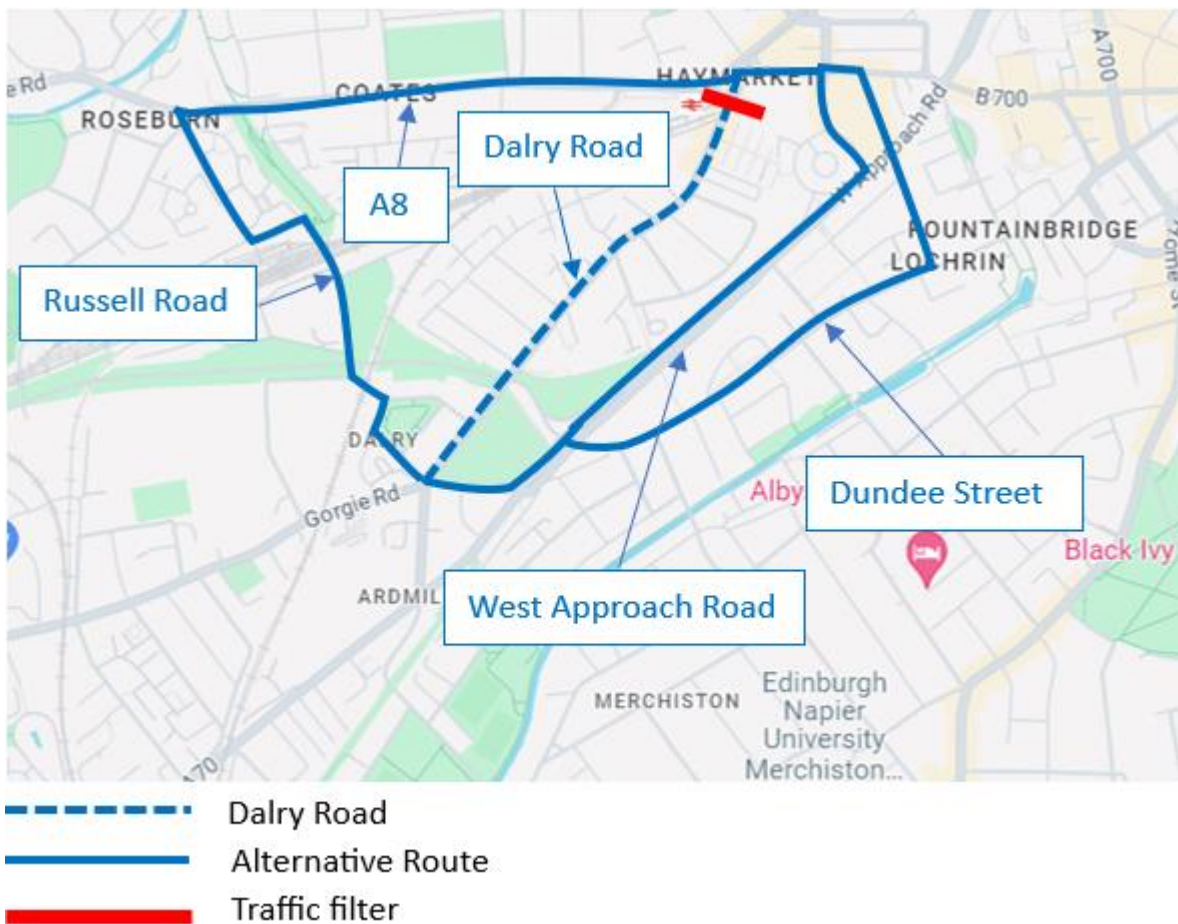
Fig.1 Map of the project area



Our ideas have been designed to make it easier to access local shops, schools, services and public transport, with wider pavements and better cycling provision. We also want to create a more attractive place to spend time, with trees, planting, public art and opportunities to rest.

To facilitate the changes it is proposed to implement a traffic filter at Haymarket to reduce through-traffic. Buses, taxis, emergency services and bicycles would be allowed through at all times, but access for general traffic would be restricted. All homes and businesses would still be accessible by car, while through-traffic to and from the city centre would use other routes such as the West Approach Road.

Fig.2 Alternative options for through-traffic



To minimise disruption to all users, planned resurfacing works to the main road will be scheduled to take place at the same time as we deliver this project.

This is one of the first projects that implements the recently announced ‘Our Future Streets’ approach to provide a more connected, welcoming environment for everyone in Edinburgh’s neighbourhoods and key travel corridors. This identifies Dalry Road as part of the primary cycle and public transport network.

The project also aligns with the Council's 20-minute Neighbourhood Strategy.

About this questionnaire

The proposals are still being developed but build on initial feedback we received in early 2023.

[**Previous engagement feedback \(click here to expand\)**](#)

We now want to hear from you again so that you can help shape the plans.

For the questionnaire, we have split the project area into 4 sections:

1. Dalry Town centre - Haymarket to West End Place
2. Dalry Town centre - Side Streets
3. Dalry Swim Centre
4. West End Place to Tynecastle High School

For each area we provide a description of the proposed design and you can download a detailed drawing. This is followed by questions about each area.

If you want to see the drawings of the whole project at once, please click the following link: [Download the project's full Drawing Pack](#)

The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete in full.

Walking group

This is the plan of walks for 2024.

St Martin's Strollers Walks for 2024 March 16th Sth Clerk St to Church (Walter's Walk)

April 20th (Saturday) Linlithgow

May 9th (Thursday) Church to Saughton Park

June 1st (Saturday) Pilgrimage Walk (Fife - Culross to Dunfermline)

June 29th (Saturday) Jim's Caravan in Fife

August 15th (Thursday) Cramond to Newhaven

September 19th (Thursday) West End to Botanics

October 12th (Saturday) Gullane Beach

November 7th (Thursday) Glasgow

More details of each walk will be given nearer the time

Craft club

The craft group continues to meet in Monika & Sonia's lounge on Saturday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00. We stop for tea, coffee and biscuits at 3.00 pm, and of course, we have a good natter too.

Diana



View of Markinch Church
On the Fife Pilgrim Way