

March 2023

# The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh  
*Living in the Way of Jesus*



Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Donald Scott



*Dear Friends,*

One of my favourite parts of the Easter story is the beach bar-b-q. You'll find it in John's gospel chapter 21.

The disciples were at a loss to know how to process what was happening. Peter presses the reset button, and says, "Let's get back to the day job...I'm going fishing."

But they fish all night and catch nothing.

They're approaching the shore at dawn. There's a figure tending a fire and the smell of bar-b-q fish and fresh bread is wafting over the water.

He calls out to them, "What have you caught?" They have to admit they've got nothing to offer.

So, he advises a final throw of the nets and they hit the jackpot!

One of the group says, "It's Jesus!" That's enough for Peter. He's out the boat and wading for the shore. This impetuous man who had messed up his relationship with Jesus couldn't wait to greet him.

We'll read more about that in the after bar-b-q chat, but for now, Jesus wanted more fish to cook!

So, Peter gets back in the boat to bring the catch in, and Jesus offers breakfast.

There seems to have been one of these situations where something momentous had happened, but no one wanted to break the mood of the moment.

So, the disciples sat down and ate with their risen Lord.

The world-transforming moments of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday were fresh and new, but here they were - a group of old friends - sitting eating and chatting at dawn on a beach.

There would be time to go out and tell others. There would be monumental moments aplenty ahead. But for that time, and that group, here was a moment of quiet sustaining.

I wonder if you're remembering to do that for you? In the midst of all the change and challenge facing us, are you taking time to sit quietly with Jesus and be nourished and held by his food for us?

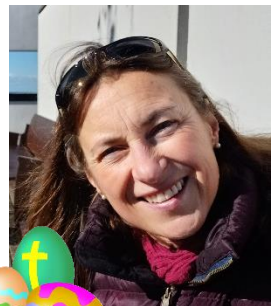
Every blessing,

*Donald*



**Sue MacGregor** has written a short piece to thank everyone for having her on placement at Priestfield...

*We were delighted to welcome Sue into the Priestfield family and community at the start of her placement last year and to have her share so meaningfully in leading our worship. We send our prayers and warmest wishes to Sue as she begins her probation period at Greyfriars Kirk in May. ~ Editor*



During my working life, there have been two distinct and memorable occasions on which I asked myself, 'OK, so if you don't like what you are doing what would you rather do instead?' My response on the

first occasion was a decision to sail round the world. Some 20 years later, on the second occasion, my response was a decision to train for Ministry. My conclusion? God definitely works in mysterious ways! The two things are not dissimilar, for both require giving things up in order to take on the challenge; both involve determination, resilience and teamwork. Both require a degree of discomfort. Both occasions were a chance to answer a call to do something, to be counter-cultural if you like. However, only on the second occasion was I really listening to God's challenge as opposed to setting my own challenge to do something different.

The journey through Ministry Formation with the Church of Scotland is one which, at first, seemed very long. A six-month discernment period followed by a two-stage assessment process; two long autumn placements and a full-time summer placement....and yet, here I am, at the end of all of that and looking forward to starting my final probationary placement at Greyfriars Kirk in May!

In my time as a Ministry Candidate, I have witnessed the huge strength and resilience of people who devote time and energy to their churches. I have often thought fondly of the various congregations I have met on placement and when doing pulpit supply and wished that they could all meet up because they have so much in common. But I do think at Priestfield more than ever I have seen what it means for people to be called - to eldership and pastoral ministries - and I have seen strong teamwork in action. The energy and warmth that I felt when I first came on placement here is something that I will treasure and hope to emulate and encourage in the next stage of training.

It has been a real pleasure to work with you and to pray with you over the last six months. I would like to thank the whole congregation for the many ways in which you have helped me (with or without you knowing it). I am grateful for your feedback, for the tolerance of my efforts at preaching and putting together worship on Sundays and for the welcome and positivity you have shown.

With thanks, best wishes and every blessing.

*Sue*

*Sue MacGregor*





## ~ *Easter Services 2023* ~

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

*Join the crowd at Jesus' entry to Jerusalem*

10.30 am Palm Sunday Family Service at **Priestfield Church**

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

*Fifteen minutes of reflection to start each day. Followed by breakfast*

7.45 am Early morning worship during Holy Week at **Craigmillar Park Church**

*On Good Friday, join with Christians from local churches on a*

9.00 am Walk of Witness. **Leaves from Craigmillar Park Church**

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

*Sharing 'The Last Supper' with Jesus in the gathering darkness*

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion at **Priestfield Church**

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

*A time for quiet reflection on the death of Jesus*

7.30 pm Good Friday Service at **Mayfield Salisbury Church**

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

6.20 am Dawn service at Blackford Hill

*A service for all ages to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus*

10.30 am **Easter Day Celebration** at **Mayfield Salisbury Church**



## *Joanna Clare Martin*

*10.03.77 ~ 21.12.22*

*Chris and Susie Martin would like to thank wholeheartedly all who accompanied them through Joanna's Story, with committed prayer, love, and concern. Although the Lord did not choose to answer our prayers as we would have wished, He undoubtedly heard every one.*

*We believe your prayers helped Joanna walk the path she did, going through death and the gate of heaven, resoundingly filled with His risen life, and with Him now for ever.*

*Thank you all.*

*Susie*



*Right: Joanna, Craig, Amelia and Eloise*



Since our successful Christmas Party, we have had a talk by Roy Johnson on "The Man Who Never Was" — the story of a wartime espionage operation, and a meeting where Tom Kelly showed us slides and videos of the "Forgotten 50's" — beginning with pictures of London smog, the Coronation and the current TV and radio programmes.

Our next speaker, Ruth Box, comes from the Guild Project team to tell us about "Chocolate Heaven", a small kitchen on an island in South East Asia which provides employment for chocolate makers and fair prices for local growers, as well as selling delicious chocolate.

Our last meeting this session is a talk by our own minister, entitled "This Guild Session"

All our meetings have been well attended in a friendly atmosphere.

*Helen Douglas*



## *Towards our Union*

News from Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury  
and Priestfield Churches

Issue 1: March 2023



This is the first of a series of monthly newsletters to keep us all informed of what's happening as we move forward towards the union of our three churches.

### **Congregational meetings**

In February the three congregations held meetings to hear updates on progress towards the union. Points were made and questions were asked.

All three congregations indicated support for the proposals, the key features of which are:

- Having the Mayfield Salisbury building as our principal place of worship,
- Keeping the Priestfield building as a hub for a new pioneer ministry,
- Releasing the Craigmillar Park building.

Of course, there were some concerns and there will be sadness with such changes but there is a sense of an exciting future beckoning.

Now for a few introductions...

### **The Union Steering Group (or USG)**

This is a group comprising the three ministers and three session clerks from our existing churches. Its role is to steer a smooth course through the complexities of union and to agree decisions where needed. The USG is ably supported by two teams...

### **The Integration Team**

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Craigmillar Park Churches. This team will address the financial, buildings and other practical aspects of union.

### **The Missional Team**

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches. The Mission team will lead the development of a missional vision for both the 'traditional' church and the 'pioneer' ministry.

Of course, until the union any substantive decisions to be made will be matters for the three kirk sessions.

### **What's in a name?**

Many of you have responded to the invitation and suggested possible names for our new congregation. We've had a good range of suggestions and we'll be taking three or four forward. On Palm Sunday we'll be letting you have a voting sheet so that you can let us know which works best for mission and is your favourite. The USG

will look at the outcome of the vote and take one forward to Presbytery for approval. The name will need to comply with Presbytery and the Charity Regulator's rules.

### **Vision for Mission**

As we begin to unpack what mission means for our new congregation, both the new united congregation and our new pioneer ministry, we're having a time away at the Charteris Centre (formerly Kirk o' Field) on Saturday 25 March from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This for everyone as we seek to understand what mission means and listen for God's promptings. More details will follow.

### **Pulpit Exchanges**

As part of our continuing process of getting to know one another better we're in the process of swapping ministers for our Sunday worship.

### **Holy Week**

We'll be having our series of Holy Week early morning services at Craigmillar Park Church. These are followed by breakfast when we can relax and chat together. If you haven't been before, why not give it a try this year? We'll also be sharing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Details will follow for all of these.

### **Easter Day**

On Easter Day we'll be sharing worship together again. We'll start with a 6:20am worship time at the top of Blackford Hill to greet the rising of the sun. Then at 10:30am we'll celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together at Mayfield Salisbury Church.

If you have any questions or if you want any background papers do speak with your Session Clerk. They are generally good natured and very approachable.

Here they are;

Pauline Weibye, Session Clerk at Craigmillar Park Church

Boyd McAdam, Session Clerk at Mayfield Salisbury Church

Barry Cross, Session Clerk at Priestfield Church





## Foodbank Donations

Newington Foodbank+ (formerly Basics Bank), one of nine foodbanks around the city run by Edinburgh City Mission, is supported by Newington Churches Together (including Priestfield, Craigmillar Park and Mayfield Salisbury among other churches) and Community Church Edinburgh, which provides the venue.

All donations to this Foodbank are very much appreciated. There are three ways you can donate:

### 1. **Bring donations to church.**

The Kirk Session has agreed to have a box in the Lounge again for tins and packets of food. Most in demand at present are tins of meat or fish and tins of fruit, but this varies from season to season, and we will update you regularly. Newington Foodbank+ also gives toiletries to their guests – shower gel, shampoo and deodorant are all considered essentials.

2. **Cash donations** help with the supply of fresh food to the Foodbank and can be given to Fiona Ferguson.



3. **Donations online to Edinburgh City Mission** help pay for the hundreds of pounds worth of goods they buy each week to supply the Foodbanks. <https://edinburghcitymission.org.uk/>  
You can specify that your gift is for Newington Foodbank.

Thank you for your support of the needy in our own community of Newington.



*The FareShare van which brings fresh fruit, vegetables and sometimes meat for the Foodbank*



## **cubs** **35<sup>th</sup> Braid Cub Scout Pack**

Cubs continue to take part in a busy and active programme. We currently have 21 members, with some new Cubs having started from Beavers in January.

This term we have held a Scots themed night, with a sweet Burns Supper and completed parts of our Teamwork Challenge. Our Silver Service night involved soup preparation, making cups of tea and baking simple cakes. We have also completed the Astronomer

badge. At the moment Cubs are working on their Navigator badge, looking at grid references, directions, map symbols and following short trails.



In February 14 Cubs took part in our weekend away with the Scouts to Bonaly. We enjoyed a short hike into the Pentlands and taking part in different centre activities – Escape problem solving and archery. Cubs enjoyed building dens, a campfire and games in the field. We also had a go at pitching tents and using tranga stoves.

*Andrew, Laura and Dorin*





*The following article **on the origins of Rosehall Church (later Priestfield Parish Church)** is excerpted from a talk by Rev Alex G. MacAlpine, which formed an address to the Rosehall Woman's Guild Gift Day Service on Monday 7th April 1969*

'You have asked me to say something about the beginnings of the Church and about its stained glass. I claim to be expert on neither. I can only offer what I have heard from others. Some of you will know far more than I.

An early Ordnance Survey map of the area (1852) shows Rose Hall as quite a long stretch of Dalkeith Road, both above and below what is now Marchhall Place. It looks as if the Church was built in the garden, formally laid out and drawn to scale. Rose Hall, the house, seems to have been demolished to make way for the first flats.



If you had walked down Dalkeith Road 100 years ago you would have seen the houses of what are politely called "Eighteen decent families at Rose Hall". Where Priestfield Road now begins, you would have passed the gates to Prestonfield House. At the opposite corner, where East Mayfield starts, was the house called Rose Bank. At the end of Queen's Crescent was a building called "City Custom's Station". Further down you would come to the village of Echo Bank; I used to hear that name applied to a person with a very bad cough. "Better take care, sounds a bit too like Echo Bank". Even nearer the cemetery gates was Cellar Bank. The lodge to Cameron House stood at the end of Cameron Park. And so down to Cameron Toll, which really was a toll, where you had to stop, if you were in a carriage and pay there and then for the use of the road.

Our concern is with the Church, which was begun in this area, variously called Gushet, Dawling's Acres, Rose Hall and finally Rosehall in one word. It must have seemed a promising field for work, as we shall presently see. And at the same time it must have been a great act of faith. All honour to the men and women of vision and courage, the known and the unknown!



Rosehall began as a U. P. Church. Bear with me if I explain that the letters stand for United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. As the name suggests, it was a union. The first Secession was in 1733 and the second Secession was in 1752. After some troublous debates and divisions they joined forces and were known as "the U.Ps." I daresay their rivals said the letters stood for a variety of less polite words but that would not worry the wearers over-much. In general they were energetic, independent folk, keen about missions at home and overseas, sometimes radical in theology and in politics.

In the second half of last century a series of churches of the U.P. system were built, which are still well known, named after their streets or areas - Argyle Place, London Road. Braid, Greenbank. The standard work on the subject is in two volumes by Dr. Robert Small, the grandfather of Dr. Leonard Small of St. Cuthbert's. He notes that "attempts were made to have it (the new church) planted between Grange Road and Morningside. But on 3rd October 1877 the Extension Committee reported that they had secured a site at Dalkeith Road".

Here is a paragraph you would have seen in "The Scotsman" of 13th October 1879, if you were there to read it, "On Saturday afternoon the foundation stone of a new U. P. Church at Rosehall, Edinburgh, was laid by Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P. The Church, the walls of which have already reached a considerable height above the ground, is designed in the early Italian style of architecture, though the French Romanesque predominates to some extent in the details of the work ... The height of the towers will be some 70 feet ... The front of the galleries will form an open arcade running round the building. Behind the pulpit a large organ gallery will be formed, opening into the church by a moulded arch supported on carved corbel shafts. Corresponding arches / arches will span the transepts. The estimated cost of the building, which is being erected from plans by Messrs. Sutherland and J. Russell Walker, Architects, Edinburgh, is £6,000 exclusive of the organ.

"At Saturday's ceremony there was a numerous, gathering of members and friends of the Congregation. Rev. Prin. Cairns presided ... After devotional exercises conducted by the Chairman

and Rev. John Young, Newington, a statement giving an outline of the congregation's history was read by Mr. Duncan McLaren, Junior, the Preses (Chairman). From this document it appeared that in the year 1874 a proposal was made by certain members of the U. P. Church to purchase Duncan Street Baptist Chapel and form a new congregation there. But, as two new churches - a Free (nowadays Mayfield Salisbury) and an Established (nowadays Craigmillar Park) were commenced in Mayfield about that time, the idea was abandoned . . . The site for the Church was chosen in the autumn of 1877 and services were commenced in Clare Hall Academy (the Minto Hotel) on 4th November of that year. The membership had steadily increased and now numbered 77.

"After the reading of this statement, Mr. John Finlay, Treasurer of the Building Fund, presented a silver trowel to Mr. Duncan McLaren, M.P. , by whom the ceremony of laying the foundation stone (where is it?) was performed in the usual manner.

"Mr. McLaren said there had been considerable room for the establishment of new congregations in Edinburgh. The population had increased since the last census in 1871 by nearly 36,000. If the church accommodation had been all right then, it was all wrong now. But the stone and lime part was only one part, because, while they were providing plenty of churches, the numbers who attended them were small ... He thought this place of worship was particularly well placed, because on the one hand they had the village of Echo Bank, which had not the reputation of being a very church-going community (quite an understatement by all reports) and on the other hand they had St. Leonard's, Crosscauseway and other contiguous districts, where vast masses of the working classes were to be found.

"The membership of the Church numbered only 77, yet that small number of persons had raised among themselves £3,000 (applause), the outside public another £250 ...

*(to be continued...)*





