



News from the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church



Summer 2018

EDITORIAL

City News magazine is part of the work of the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church. For the past four years, it has been put together by our Communications Coordinator, Gillian McKinnon. Having followed up an advertisement from the Church Office seeking, amongst other voluntary helpers, someone to be editor to succeed Gillian, I investigated. And this is my first attempt to share some of the activities and enthusiasms of our congregation. Please let me know what you think – all replies addressed to ‘**Editor, City News**’ via the Church Office, please. Gillian continues as our communications person, and is a great help in the technical aspects of preparing **City News** magazine.

Our Church Council has heard concern expressed that it isn’t easy to find our church as we are tucked away in the corner of Nicolson Square, and our building doesn’t look like a traditional church. During the refurbishment of our church, the noticeboard was removed (and appears to have been lost).

This tiny photograph has been found showing it in place:



If you have larger photographs showing the old noticeboard, and/or the gate area and front of the church, would you consider allowing the Church Council to copy them? This would help us greatly in deciding what to do about making our presence felt for worshippers and other users of our premises alike. Thank you.

Chris Shreeve



Ever been to a music festival?

Are you a fan of being in the outdoors, listening to bands, camping, getting muddy?

Or does that sound like absolutely not your thing –

no-one's going to catch you sleeping in a tent and you like to spend your time on something a little more intellectual than pop music?

Well, whichever of those camps (pun intended!) you fall into, or if you're somewhere in between, *Solas* might be for you. It's a festival, yes, but it's not just about the music (although there's a wide variety of that) – there are plenty of other arts represented, as well as seminars, speakers and things you've never even thought of. You'll find explorations of politics, faith and culture, with strong themes of equality and justice running throughout.

Solas Festival 2018 runs Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th June 2018 at The Bield at Blackruthven, Tibbermore, Perth, Perth & Kinross, PH1 1PY, More information and tickets can be found on their website at www.solasfestival.co.uk. Watch out for in-between events and info. If you've missed this year, you can book early for 2019!

It's in a field (so there might be a bit of mud if it rains), but it also has some events indoors, and although camping is an option it's just outside Perth, so it's easy to go for the day and there are plenty of accommodation options nearby if you'd like a proper bed. It's a small, family friendly festival (tickets are free for 0-11s) and the Methodist Church in Scotland are long term partners of the event, so it's pretty likely that you'll run into someone you know, especially in the Methodist tent where there's bound to be something creative going on. **Rev Helen Jenkins**



Our church actively supports Christian Aid's work, notably through our Book Sale and Festival, which this year has raised £2514!

But what sort of work does Christian Aid do? Here is a case study:
Vilia's story from Haiti



Thanks to the lessons she learnt from her mother, Vilia feels well rounded, strong and alive. But sometimes strength isn't enough. Sometimes you need someone else in your corner too. Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince in Haiti when the 2010 earthquake hit. Vilia was on her way home when she heard people running and shouting. She saw wires fall and houses crumble. The streets were confusing and terrifying. She couldn't even

recognise her home or neighbourhood. As she searched for her home and for her mother, she had to step over bodies lying on the ground.

Vilia never found her mother. Her mum was an incredibly strong woman, but strength alone wasn't enough to save her from the earthquake. Vilia never got to see her mother again, and still doesn't know how she died. It's still a deeply painful source of sadness for her. Bereaved and homeless, Vilia went back to her hometown with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle, and she had nowhere safe to stay.

Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire Vilia's situation was, and built her a new home, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. Vilia will never forget her mother, but our help has helped her to move on from the other things she lost.

The new house made Vilia incredibly happy, but it's done more than that. It's been a safe haven for dozens of people when they needed it most. On that terrifying night in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours soon saw that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope. They fled to her house and were welcomed. As the storm raged, she shared food and safe shelter for 54 people, saving their lives. Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, her house lost only one roof panel. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed. Vilia's crops and livestock were swept away, but KORAL helped her with a water filter and seeds for beans, sweet potatoes, yams and plantain. Vilia started to rebuild with crops that help soil retention, also helping to protect her future crops. Not long after Hurricane Matthew, Vilia's husband passed away. This time, KORAL gave her the cash she urgently needed to keep sending her children to school.

During Hurricane Matthew, Vilia and her house were at the heart of the community, and it's the same in good times. She's the president of her marching band, which plays basic drums and other instruments at weddings, funerals and during communal farming. They do more than play music: as a group of marginalised people, they pool their resources, forming something between a credit union and a community insurance policy. They work on each other's land and help out when someone is sick or dies.

Vilia is incredibly grateful for the help she's received. But she knows there are still many others in her neighbourhood who are struggling. She wishes we could help them too. Christian Aid Week brings tens of thousands of Christians together to achieve incredible things with some of the poorest people in the world.

Together, we're stronger than the storms.

Find out more at www.christianaid.org.uk

WHAT'S PC FOR A METHODIST?



'The ministry of all believers' is a fundamental principle of the Methodist Church and an important part of such ministry is being able to offer '**pastoral care**' (PC) to one another. Pastoral care is a model of emotional and spiritual support: people acting in that role support people in their pain, loss and anxiety, and their triumphs, joys and victories. So, how does this work in reality?

In our busy church, where Sunday congregations are constantly changing and evolving, it can prove quite difficult to provide the mutual support and pastoral care to which we ideally aspire. But Methodists originally got their name because they were 'methodical' in their approach to living out their Christian faith, and we try to continue in this way today.

So, when it comes to pastoral care, we have an organised, but flexible, group of pastoral carers (sometimes also referred to as pastoral visitors) who work together, to provide care for the needs of the whole church family. Each pastoral carer has a short list of members and regular worshippers who they endeavour to keep in touch with, throughout the year, either by phone, e-mail, letter or, occasionally, also by visits.

The PC team meet together about 3 times each year and are fully supported by the clergy team. Distribution of *'City News'* and membership tickets, providing a confidential listening ear and praying, keeping communications with church going during periods of absence due to sickness, or other difficulties, are all tasks undertaken by the PCs.

We do ensure that we are also 'PC' in the more conventional, 'politically correct' sense of the word, when it comes to safeguarding training, which is mandatory for all pastoral carers. However, the necessary training sessions do not occur with onerous frequency, and they are made very enjoyable, as well as informative, by our excellent District team of dedicated and skilled safeguarding trainers.

Other training events are occasionally offered as well. This coming autumn we are hoping to host an afternoon or evening focusing on Bereavement Care. The date for this is not yet fixed, but do look out for it being advertised, if it is something you feel could be of benefit to you, as this gathering is likely to be open to anyone who would like to attend, not just the PC team.

So, what about you?

Are you a church member, or an occasional, or regular, worshipper with us, but don't think you are linked up with a pastoral carer, and would like to be? Alternatively, do you feel you could offer to be a pastoral carer yourself? Most pastoral carers regard their role as a privilege, not a burden. We would warmly welcome more volunteers.

Could it be 'PC' for you?

If you would like to know more, please have a word with Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet or Christine Stark.



The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church will launch our first **Alpha** course on Tuesday 18 September, from 6.30pm until 8.30pm.

Alpha is a 12-week course that offers an opportunity for those who wish to deepen their understanding and /or discipleship, and also for those who may have never attended church, who want to find out more. It includes a series of DVD presentations, each lasting 20 mins followed by some discussion around questions of faith. These will be in small groups. It's a safe place to explore and your questions about the Christian faith, with no pressure to attend church or make long term commitments.

We begin each evening with a shared meal, to which there is no cost, although contributions are welcome. Anyone, of any age is welcome and it does not matter if you have been in church for years, or never at all. We would love to see you.

We welcome this opportunity to share our faith with others, to learn more and to go deeper with God as well as building relationships with those in our community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the office if you have questions about the course or are thinking about coming along.

Rev Hilda Warwick

METHODIST
Statement and prayer
about Syria

We lament the continuing violence in Syria and remember the Syrian people whose lives have been devastated by years of war.

Over five million Syrians have been forced to flee the conflict to date and even more have been displaced within Syria. More than 10,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in the United Kingdom where they have been welcomed and supported by many, including our own Methodist churches and other faith communities. Syrian people have always been our neighbours, but now they are part of our Churches, our communities and our nation. As a result, we are more aware than ever of the devastating impact that war has on families and individuals.

We continue to remember those killed or injured in Douma and their families in our prayers.

The use of chemical weapons is deplorable, and it is essential that those responsible are identified and held accountable for their crimes. There is a role for the whole international community to play in bringing justice to this situation.

However, air strikes on Syria risk further destabilising the situation in the country and escalating the conflict.

We pray that in this situation national leaders will demonstrate qualities of understanding, perception, creativity and commitment. We ask that any immediate response recognises that ultimately the conflict can only be brought to an end through negotiation with all parties.

The Revd Loraine N Mellor,
President of the Methodist Conference, and Jill Baker,
Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2017 –18

England and Methodist Church to continue exploring closer communion

After an announcement from the Church of England and subsequent debate at the General Synod back in February 2018, the Church of England's *Faith and Order Commission* will now undertake further refinement and clarification on proposals that would see the Church of England and the Methodist Church enter into a relationship of communion and enable an interchange of their presbyteral ministries.

Building on the theological convergence encapsulated in *An Anglican-Methodist Covenant*, signed in 2003, and the work of the Covenant's *Joint Implementation Commission* from 2003–2014, acceptance of the proposals would mark a further step on the journey of reconciliation between the two Churches.

After the debate, the Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said: "We are very grateful to the Church of England for this opportunity to address the General Synod and discuss the progress we are making together on the path towards reconciliation and the ordering of our existing ministries in a way that reflects the needs and wishes of both Churches.

"We recognise that these are matters of significance to all within our Churches. As we move forward, we will continue to discern the will of God and deepen our understanding of each other through ongoing dialogue."

The proposals are already available for discussion in both Churches. In light of the further work, and to enable time for proper reflection, it is unlikely that the proposals will be brought to the Methodist Conference for discussion before 2019.

We will keep you informed.

CONGRATULATIONS!

It is with great joy that we announce that **Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet** completed her probation studies and was unanimously recommended by the District Probationer's Committee to be received into full connexion and ordained at Methodist Conference this summer. Two services are on Sunday 1 July: reception into full connexion in Nottingham at 10.45am & ordination in Southwell Minster at 5.30pm.



The Sunday morning service from Nottingham is live streamed, and City of Edinburgh Methodist Church will be joining with it for our morning service that day. We all offer Elizabeth our heartfelt congratulations and prayers in this important step on her journey.

This year, we have been blessed in Forth Valley Circuit by the ministry of **Rev Laurent Vernet**. Laurent began his probationer appointment working part time alongside his secular employment, but through the year he discerned a call into full time ministry. There has been an unexpected vacancy in Strathclyde Circuit, and Laurent was asked to consider this move. He has accepted this invitation, and will be moving in the summer and begin his new post on 1 September. We are very sad to see Laurent leave us, but excited at the possibilities this new appointment brings for him and Strathclyde Circuit. We offer him and Joe our love and prayers at this time of transition, and hope that news will filter along the M8 to us of all they will do in this new phase of life and ministry.



Last Autumn, I updated you about the development of Hope's Garden within a social enterprise framework; highlighting the "A Touch of Hope" project and affordable outreach clinic. Approved a year ago by Church Council as an official Outreach Project of the church, Hope's Garden develops links with charities and non-profit organisations in the city to make aromatherapy accessible to all.

Through the affordable clinic, service users on a low income can access aromatherapy on a donation basis, from £20. For those most in need, the A Touch of Hope project, which is funded through public donations, makes treatments completely free for the recipient. I am extremely thankful for donations to this project; it is your support that allows it to continue, and the difference it makes to the lives of those in need is considerable.

For the second year running, Hope's Garden is off to Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network's "Social in the Gardens" (July- Princes St. gardens). It's a festival of social enterprise and taster sessions will be offered, as well as information about the A Touch of Hope project. The network is a valuable resource of help and advice, as I continue to grow Hope's Garden. I was also at a Health and Homelessness Conference in March, giving taster sessions to support workers, doctors, nurses and service users between speakers (I think there were a few delegates who were late back after lunch, as they were enjoying their treatments so much!)

Hope's Garden has partnered with local charity PF Counselling from day one, and the organisation strongly supports the "A Touch of Hope" project. They had a very successful round of fund-raising for treatments for their service users, and the combination of counselling and aromatherapy is working really well, with recipients reporting a marked improvement in their health and well-being.

Earlier in the year, Barnardo's Edinburgh Community Support Service became a charity partner. They've been so pleased with their clients' feedback that staff held a cake-sale to raise more funds for their own "A Touch of Hope" project "pot" of treatments and they're planning other sponsored events for later in the year. Clients coming to Hope's Garden are parents/ guardians of children with additional support needs, to give them time for themselves and prioritise their own health and well-being, which is often naturally neglected as they focus on the needs of their family.

Very recently, Penumbra, a mental health support charity, contacted me about working together. One service user has already been referred and clients will be accessing both the affordable clinic and treatments from the A Touch of Hope project. In the near future, Penumbra also hope to fund-raise for their "pot" of treatments.

Most clients through "A Touch of Hope" are offered a block of 5 treatments, so a measurable change in well-being can be observed- one recipient described the difference in their health as nothing short of miraculous! It is this positive feedback which really highlights to me the value of the work I do. It gives me a real sense of warmth that I've helped someone, even in a small way, to feel a bit better. I love my work, and although it can be physically and emotionally challenging, knowing that I'm part of the church family here is a huge support and helps me to feel valued, held and loved, so thank you all. I'm looking forward to all that may lie in store for Hope's Garden this year! **Angela Wells**



'Breakout' sessions for children & young people

Our 'Breakout' sessions for children & young people are led by Amanda Baker in conjunction with our new team of ministers and with support from dedicated church members who are experienced in working with children. They take place during the church service on Sunday morning. Full sessions are on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month – easy to remember!

**The sessions end on June 9 and
Start Again SUNDAY SEPT 2**

Some of you may know that **YMCA Edinburgh**, part of the mission and outreach of the church here, underwent a strategic review and restructuring and will be focusing efforts on three

main areas of work:

Mentoring, Play and Women's Work. From May 2018, Hayley Gillies is back as part of the staff team here and taking on some responsibility for work with children and young people. The post of Youth and Children's Programme Manager, held by Hayley, now sits under the Perth & District YMCA, and Hayley will spend one day a week in Perth as part of the YMCA team there, supporting and expanding their work. For us, she will be taking on more of an oversight role for the development and expansion of work with children and young people within the life of the church and continuing to develop the **Early@TheWell** service along with other all-age, worship activities, working closely with the existing team. Watch this space as she gets back into the swing of things!

Your Last Copy of City News?

Our congregation uses City News to keep you updated all year round on life at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and amongst our partners. City News is a key part of how we keep you in touch with all that is happening. Presently, the magazine is available to 500 contacts in Edinburgh and beyond – across the world. Communicating with you is really important to us and we hope you will sign up to continue receiving City News. We hope you know that from May 25 2018 you will have more control over your personal data under important new data laws. We take data privacy very seriously and want to make sure you still want to receive City News. If you receive it through the post, the new laws state that you must confirm if you still want to hear from us. **Please let us know!**
City News Editor, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX

Evening Prayer

*Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory
forever.*

*As darkness falls you renew
your promise
to reveal among us the light of
your presence.*

*By the light of Christ, your
living Word,
dispel the darkness of our
hearts
that we may walk as children of
light and sing your praise
throughout the world.*

*Blessed be God: Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.*

*Blessed be God forever. The
night has passed, and the day
lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and
mind.*

*As we rejoice in the gift of this
new day,
so may the light of your
presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love
for you; now and forever.*

Amen.

methodistprayer.org



Café

Opening Hours

Mon - Fri
9am - 3pm

Morning Coffee

Home baking

Daily Lunch
Specials

Event Catering



FREE Wifi

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Minister

If you would like to speak to a Minister, please contact Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet on 01875 615 208.

Church office / lettings

For general Church enquiries, including lettings, please telephone the church office on 0131 662 8635 or email cemc.office@gmail.com

Scottish Charity Number SC039655

CITY OF EDINBURGH  METHODIST CHURCH