



Autumn 2018



From the Editor:

Our new Methodist year begins with changes. We have bid farewell and Godspeed to **Rev Laurent Vernet**, who has been stationed as a probationer presbyter in the Strathclyde Circuit at East Kilbride; to **Lou Davis**, who has ended her role as a Venture FX Pioneer at our church; to **Jo Morrison** and **Sergio Jimenez** (the Well Café manager) as they depart for pastures new. As Hugh Prather wrote: *Just when I think I have learned the way to live, life changes.*

With welcoming new ministers and lay staff, our team will look like this: **Rev Eddie Sykes** – our new Superintendent Minister; **Rev Mary Patterson**, newly appointed to pastoral charge of Stirling, Wallacestone and Armadale, and shared care at Grahamston United Parish Church; **Rev Helen Jenkins**, who continues to split her time between pastoral charge of our church, and working as Scotland Synod Secretary; **Rev Stephanie Njeru**, sharing pastoral charge at Livingston United Parish; **Rev Hilda Warwick**, sharing pastoral charge at our church, and adding Tranent with Cockenzie; along with **Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**, who continues to serve our church, adding pastoral responsibilities at Tranent with Cockenzie.

We welcome **Alex Ratcliffe** who is our new full-time Hospitality & Facilities Manager and **Heather Wilkinson** as part-time Payroll & Finance Administrator.

Not quite 'all change,' but certainly, new faces to get to know and pray for, and old ones to remember in our prayers. Change needs us to be willing to move as well, so that all needful adjustments can be made to enable our worship and work to prosper and grow. Please look out for and support all our newcomers.

All good wishes

Chris Shreeve



WANTED! New YMCA Treasurer

YMCA Edinburgh, our ecumenical partner and a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) based in our Leith premises, the Acorn Centre, seeks an experienced Treasurer to join the Board and assist the Finance & Funding Officer with the recording, monitoring and reporting of our finances. Recognised as part of our mission and outreach, YMCA Edinburgh SCIO aims to empower young people, children and their families across Edinburgh to transform their lives. For more information please email Mike Kerracher at plusone@ymcaedinburgh.com

Attention all Book-Lovers ***Novels & Natter is coming!***

Members and friends of our church have been gathering as a Book Group for several years, meeting in members' homes to discuss a different book each month. We realise, however, that it isn't always easy to get across to another part of the city for an evening meeting, and that some people who might like to join us haven't been able to. So we have decided to try doing things differently, taking advantage of the opportunities presented by a city-centre church, open in the day-time and providing an attractive, hospitable café.

From October, we welcome new or returning members to share in **Novels & Natter** as we meet **from 10:30 to Noon on a Tuesday each month**, over tea or coffee in **The Well Cafe**.

Over the years, we have enjoyed relaxed and informal gatherings which allow us not only to discuss our chosen novel, its characters and themes, but also to reflect on how it sheds light on past or current events and topics and, at times, relates to our own experiences.

Sometimes the book is simply a launch-pad for wide-ranging discussion. And, of course, in the process, we all get to know

each other just that little bit better, which is a very lovely thing...

We hope that this new group will be attractive both to regular attenders and to those who may want to 'drop in' only occasionally, if the book appeals and their diary allows. We aim to read a wide variety of serious and light-hearted novels by a range of authors and on diverse themes. The group welcomes suggestions, from members and non-members alike, for books we may like to read and discuss, so please do share!

To give us all a chance to obtain and read the book, the novel and date for each month's meeting will be publicised in advance in the church notices, which are also accessible on our church website at www.edinburghmethodist.com

The first meeting of **Novels & Natter** will be **10:30 - 12:00** in **the Well Cafe** on **Tuesday 9 October**. At this initial meeting we will bring along books, or ideas for books that we might like to discuss, then select a few to start us off. Don't worry if you don't have a suggestion to make - you can still join in.



All of this will be helped along by delicious beverages from the café. In case you need further persuasion, they sell scrummy scones and tray-bakes too.

We look forward to welcoming new friends, renewing acquaintances and deepening friendships over books and a blether on **Tuesday 9th October**. **See you at The Well Cafe?**

Marion Hellewell

Our Church Project 2017-2018

GILMERTON ROAD SHORT BREAKS SERVICE

Our Church annual project which ran from September 2017 to August 2018 raised funds for Gilmerton Road Short Breaks Service, a local service which has cared for children from Edinburgh and the Lothians since it opened in 1998.

Under the umbrella of ***Action for Children***, the Methodist charity founded in 1869 as The National Children's Home, Gilmerton Road is a specialised service which supports the development of children and young people with, for example, autism or Downs syndrome who have learning difficulties and complex neurological, medical and associated needs.

Residential short breaks are offered which allow the children to develop new skills, to socialise, and to gain independence with help and guidance from the specialised care team. Outreach support can also be provided to enable these children to enjoy leisure and sports activities in their own communities. Families can be given help to create behavioural management plans and speech and language therapists are available if needed.

Training is given to project workers, parents/carers and, just as importantly, to siblings, helping for example to introduce new foods to the restricted diets of autistic children or helping families who struggle to get more than three hours sleep a night to plan bedtime routines. Ongoing links with education, social services and health professionals help to break down the barriers faced by many families in accessing the services of these different agencies.

Funds have been raised through the generosity of church members and friends and items as diverse as 'ChillaKilla' scarves, jellies, tablet and cards have been sold.

A bike ride, daffodil tea, beetle drive and house birthday party have taken place.





Concerts by Morag & Eric and the Linton Singers have been enjoyed.

George and the choir willingly played and sang sponsored choices of introits, anthems and voluntaries



Notelets of Lou Davis' print of CEMC have been sold. At the time of writing £4000.00 has been used to purchase a disabled access swing but there is another (approximately) £2000.00 still to be processed. The team and I are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped to raise such a generous amount.

Katherine Dalton

'Own Arrangements' - Sunday evenings

Our church has an evening service, but you may be unaware of the range of things that go on at 6.30pm on Sundays. Evening services are held in the Chapel and are a smaller, more intimate, gathering than morning services. Twice every month (1st & 3rd Sundays) a preacher is planned by our Forth Valley Circuit, and the third Sunday is usually a Communion service. For the other two or three Sundays each month we have what are called '**Own Arrangements**' – it's down on the Preaching Plan simply as 'Local' ... So, what does that mean? It means there is a rota of different people to lead those sessions – some Ministers or Local Preachers, some visiting speakers, some members of the evening congregation – and often these are more collaborative than a morning service. Formats include bible studies or discussions, or talks; worship services or some combination of these things, all fairly

informal. Everyone is welcome to participate as much or as little as they wish. We often sing, (thanks to Eric who accompanies us on the piano), and share times of prayer.

We also often welcome visitors. We have heard about Israel/Palestine, Africa, and the results of PhD studies at New College – a real mix and fresh people contribute to that mix, adding suggestions of new topics to explore or different people to invite to come and speak.

The program is advertised in advance so you will know what is coming up.

Our numbers are small. Come along and see what is going on, if you haven't been before. You will be very welcome. Our sharing usually lasts 1 hour from 6.30 till 7.30pm followed by tea/coffee & biscuits and an opportunity to chat and meet new people, or to get to know some of us better.

Those of us who have been part of the evening service for the last few years really value what it has provided and feel sure there are other people who would find it valuable too.

Anne Pennington

'Cultural Experiences' and our Faith

by Louise Gilchrist

As a local preacher 'on Trial', I was recently set the following task:

'Over the course of a week, make a note of the cultural experiences you participate in (television and radio programmes, films, theatre and gigs, books and newspapers/magazines etc.) and who you participate with (including in social media). Prayerfully reflect on what your choices say about you and about your faith and the ways in which you experience and express your faith in God.'

What an intriguing exercise! What might it reveal? I was, I admit, curious to find out.

Well, I dutifully noted down all my 'cultural experiences' and then had a look back at what I'd been consuming. The first thing I noticed was that there was nothing overtly religious in character. Unsurprising, as I am by nature inherently suspicious of the overtly religious; I worry (perhaps too much) about appearing to be a religious nutcase. However when I 'do' read works of faith I almost invariably benefit; and so (I concluded), I should try to 'salt' my cultural intake with at least a 'little' such material.



But what then did I choose to watch, etc. over the week in question?

Overall, there was a reasonably good balance of the serious (Dostoyevsky's *The House of the Dead*), and the light-hearted (*Gangsta Granny*). And I think this is a good reflection of my approach to life and faith.

Growing up I was instilled with the need to take a balanced view of things, drawing on a variety of sources; not just Scripture and Tradition, but also Reason and Experience.

Most interesting (to me) of all, though, were the two music programmes featuring 'psychedelia'. Psychedelia attracts me, I think, because fundamentally, the aim of most of its participants was to challenge the received wisdom and cultural norms of the age; to break out of the earth-bound cycle of the everyday, and reach some kind of liminal zone, where foundation realities such as Truth, Peace and Love can be experienced first-hand. Sounds a lot like the bedrock of most world religions to me.

My conclusion? By all means read works of faith, but keep an open mind - God will surprise us by appearing in a variety of guises; from the detached empathy of Dostoyevski's *Goryanchikov*, to the joyfully playful Joanna Lumley, dancing

her way through the Christmas Broadcast at the end of *Gangsta Granny*.

What do *you* think? What would a week spent recording *your* viewing, listening and reading habits reveal about you? Go on, try it if you dare!

Louise Gilchrist is a Local Preacher on Trial in our circuit. This training period involves her in studies; in supervised preaching and in leading worship to equip herself to serve across the circuit. She wrote this piece as one element of her studies. If you would like to know more, please talk to Rev Stephanie Njeru who is our Local Preacher's Tutor or to Louise herself.

Lou Davis is creating Original Prints



Lou writes to say: "For anyone who likes my art and would like to support me, I've set up a 'Patreon' account. This is a way for you to access new art first and to see behind the scenes of making it.

Patreon is a crowdfunding platform that offers a new way for supporters to become patrons of creators they admire. There are different tiers of support based on what you can afford and you get greater rewards in return. "I'll be creating a digital work of art once a month for subscribers based on the Revised Common Lectionary [*that's a scheme of reading through the bible which we use in our church - ed.*] - something useful for preachers or worship leaders or simply for your own reflection and engagement. Each month I'll be writing up the ideas that went into creating the art, plus bits of poetry, prayers, short stories or links to other resources online.

"For those who would like to own original pieces of art, there is an option to subscribe for a year and get to choose from any available print in my online shop. I hope this will make buying my original art accessible and affordable."

Read more about it here: www.patreon.com/loudavis

Did you know?

Some of Our History

Nicolson Square is one of a collection of small garden areas on the southside of the city including St Patrick Square Garden, Hill Square, and Deaconess Garden. It was built on land owned by Lady Nicolson (Elizabeth Carnegie) around 1743 as a memorial to her husband Sir James Nicolson of Lasswade, Bart. The area became a sought-after location attracting notable residents, including [in 1784], Lady Sinclair of Stevenson and David, Earl of Leven and Melville, Commissioner to the General Assembly was also a resident. The Orientalist and surgeon, John Borthwick, lived at number 3 for a time.



Nicolson Square - Methodist chapel - Hamilton, J. R., 1914

The southwest corner is occupied by our Church, originally a Wesleyan Methodist Church, which was built in 1814. It was designed by architect Thomas Brown to replace the first octagonal chapel in Scotland. It is Scotland's only Grade A listed Methodist Church. This does require us to maintain the character of the building, and the surrounding townscape. You will have seen in our last *City News* that we are seeking to improve our signage as we strive to broaden our welcome to our community and visitors.



Nicolson Square, the Gardens and Marshall Street - Hamilton, J. R., 1914 General view of Nicolson Square and Marshall Street from Nicholson Street. Nicolson Square and Marshall Street in Edinburgh. Tenement buildings and a house agent's premises can be seen. Within an area enclosed by railings is a statue. Next to a cobblestone road is a lamp-post, behind this is a handcart.

In the latter part of the 19th century numbers 1-11 and 43-45 Nicolson Square began to change as properties were subdivided into flats, shops and a school. This continued into the 20th century with many buildings losing former unique architectural features. Our Community Association is working to bring back the character of the Square, and had a meeting in the gardens during the summer pursuing this end, at which we were represented.

You may not know that during World War One, on the night of 2 April 1916, tragedy struck Marshall Street. A German Zeppelin dropped a bomb which landed outside number 16 killing six people, four of whom lived at number 16.

John and William Smith

John Smith was a tinsmith married to Helen Thomson. From the 1891 Census we learn that aged 16 he lived in Marshall Street. John had six sisters and two brothers. By the time of the 1901 census, John's father William had moved away with his wife and five children. John, now 26, and a qualified tinsmith, had moved out of the area with his wife Helen and

their baby William. In the valuation roll of 1915, John, Helen and William are back at 16 Marshall Street. Sadly, both John and his son, William now aged 15, were victims of the bomb.



*After the 1916 Zeppelin Raid Image taken from *The Evening Dispatch*, Friday April 8th 1938. The image is captioned, 'Some of the damage done in Marshall Street by another bomb. This was the most seriously affected place, lives being lost.'*

Henry Rumble

Henry Rumble was born at Roslin in 1899 when his parents were living in army married quarters at Glencorse. The 1911 census shows his widowed mother Mary living very near to Marshall Street at 11 Lothian Street with three small children. Henry, aged 12, was by this time living in the St Joseph's Industrial School for boys at Tranent where he received work training in addition to classroom tuition.

The 1915 Valuation Roll lists Mary Rumble, his mother at 16 Marshall Street. Henry, who may have moved back to be with her, was another victim of the bomb blast.

David T Graham

David T Graham was born in 1865 at North Sunderland where his father Alexander was carrying on the family trade as a baker. The family included seven children at that date.

David's occupation by the time of the 1901 census was a grocer. David was the fourth casualty but we do not know how he got caught up in the blast on Marshall Street.

His occupation on the death certificate, verified by his brother, is Chief Cinema Attendant.

Victor Macfarlane

Victor Macfarlane was born in 1892 and was married to Jean Boyd on 29 March 1913. They lived at 16 Marshall Street and both had jobs as waiters. Victor was the fifth victim of the Zeppelin.

William Ewing

William Ewing was a master hairdresser, aged 23. His usual residence was in Kirkintilloch, so it is assumed that he must have been on a visit to Edinburgh when he was killed by the bomb blast.

The tragedies surrounding that one house, so close to us in our corner of the Square, are a stark reminder that we are part of a living community, facing the challenges of life every day, including 2018.

With thanks to Chris Stark and Edinburgh Libraries for access to information - History of the house: Nicolson Square and Marshall Street by edinburghcitylibraries



Have you any stories to tell of our Church and its community?

Please let the Editor know so we can share the information widely – *Thank you.*

Wish I'd Said That! –

Always do right.

*This will gratify some people
and astonish the rest.*

* Mark Twain *

The one who hesitates is probably right.

* source unknown *

The Call of God



This poster can be found in many French Churches.
The translation is:

"By entering this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is less probable that He will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off your phones.

If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him.

If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving..."

Information from the 2018 Methodist Conference

held at the University of Nottingham from 28 June - 5 July.

The Revd Michaela A Youngson was inducted as President and Mr Bala Gnanapragasam as Vice-President of the Conference. 'Radical Grace' was the theme chosen by the President for her address, with the Vice-President exploring 'Transforming Hope' in his address.

- You can download and read the President's address in full here: bit.ly/presaddress18 and the Vice-President's address in full here: bit.ly/vpaddress18

Ordinations of presbyters and deacons

38 presbyters and five deacons including our own Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet were received into Full Connexion on Sunday morning during Conference Worship, along with four presbyters by transfer. Later that day ordination services took place in seven venues across the region.

Ministry in the Methodist Church

This major report considered the nature and understanding of ministry within the Church and how this might change in the future. It included a draft Conference Statement setting out the Church's understanding of ministry, as well as a discussion of questions raised in recent years and on which further work is being done.

The draft Statement will now be made available widely for study and discussion, before a final version is brought for approval to the Conference in 2020.

Mission and Ministry in Covenant

The Conference, in receiving a report that had been welcomed by the Church of England's General Synod in February, directed further work be undertaken on proposals for bringing the Methodist Church and the Church of England into closer communion with one another.

A report will be brought to the 2019 Conference. The Reader's Guide about the proposals can be downloaded here: bit.ly/MaMiC-guide.

More information at: www.methodist.org.uk/conference