

# NEWSLETTER

## August /September 2017



### From the Rector

Dear Friends

At the beginning of July I preached a sermon that began with reference to the recent tv series "Broken", which gives the best depiction of priesthood I have ever seen on television or in films. The series was advertised as telling the story of a Roman Catholic parish priest in a northern English city, who despite suffering from his own troubles stemming from a traumatic childhood, tries to guide several of his most vulnerable parishioners through the trials and tribulations of everyday life. However I would say that it was not despite the priest's own brokenness that he ministers so compassionately and powerfully to others, but because of it. And it is the acknowledgement of his brokenness that also, without giving away any spoilers, enables him to be ministered to by others as we see at the end of the series. This priest knew that without the sacraments, a care for others, and being honest about himself there would be a betrayal of priestly ministry and a subversion of God's work.

If you didn't see the series and would like to, the church has a dvd with all 6 episodes which you can borrow (please contact the church office). If you would like to watch the dvd with others in a small group setting please let me know and we will arrange for that.

Wishing you every blessing

*Susan Macdonald*



### NEW PRIMUS FOR THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following the retirement of the Most Revd David Chillingworth as Primus and Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Episcopal Synod has elected the Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness as Primus. Bishop Mark (56), was consecrated Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness in 2007 and remains Bishop of the Diocese.

Brought up in Aberdeen, where he was both a choirboy and server at St Andrew's Cathedral, Bishop Mark studied Divinity at the University of Aberdeen, attended Theological College in Lincoln and has served in both the Diocese of Worcester and in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. For a number of years Bishop Mark was also Convener of the church's Youth Committee and ran the annual summer youth camps at Glenalmond.

Bishop Mark takes up this role as a Primate within the Anglican Communion at a point where the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church has voted to permit same sex marriage, a decision which is expected to be on the agenda of the forthcoming Primates Meeting in Canterbury, a meeting which Bishop Mark will attend.

Bishop Mark is married to Jane, a teacher in Inverness and they have a son and two daughters.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to survive a Revolution, be a religious convert, adopt a different nationality, start afresh in a new discipline, and fall deeply in love in spite of the obstacles? This engaging book is the story of a woman's journey between two cultures--her Persian Muslim heritage and her Christian life in Scotland. It describes the challenges she has faced in Iran and Europe, as well as her determination to remain loyal to both worlds. Written with passion, candid reflection, and a gentle wit, this book is sure to appeal to all who live in a multi-cultural society.

Farifteh Robb (nee Hafezi) BA, MSc, PhD, began her career as an academic in Iran before re-training as a nurse and midwife in the UK. Born in Switzerland and raised as a Muslim in a Persian family, she has lived in Europe and the Middle East. She was baptized in Tehran during the final years of the Shah's reign and survived both the Islamic Revolution and its aftermath. Her subsequent move to Britain and marriage to a Scottish doctor have enabled her to embrace a new life greatly enhanced by her intimate connection with two cultures, two religions, and two very different professions.



## Stamps for Lesotho

Commemorative and foreign stamps which we have collected in Christ Church have raised £110 this year. Please continue putting your stamps in the wooden box at the back of church.

*Jean Williams*

## GROWING WITH THE GOSPEL (not in August)

**Wednesdays 11.45am to 12.45pm in the Church Centre** *(tea/coffee available)*

We hear and reflect on the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday.

All welcome, be that occasionally or regularly.

**Care for Carers** will meet next on Tuesday  
12th September at 10.30am  
in Church Centre.



The Reflection Group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month in a member's home between 10.00 and 12.00am. Enquiries to Gill Davidson, Joy Holmes or Church Office.

## Film Evening on Monday 11th September

**6.45 for 7pm in the Church Centre**

**LION** – 2016 biographical film starring Dev Patel, telling the story of a five-year-old Indian boy who gets lost on the streets of Calcutta. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia. 25 years later, he sets out to find his lost family.

Everyone is welcome—as usual there will be a break for refreshments

*Susan Macdonald*

# Journeys in Faith

**Sundays 11.30am –12.30pm in the Church Centre**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September**      *Hugh Goddard in conversation with Frith Robb\**

\*If you would like to purchase a copy of the book “*Unexpected Grace: A life in two worlds*” by Farifteh (Frith) Robb, there are copies available from the office for £10.00/book. (see opposite for more details of the book)

**17th September**      *Edinburgh Street Pastors*

Presentation and discussion led by Heather Eboji of Edinburgh Street Pastors, who have been listening, caring and helping on the streets of Scotland’s capital since 2009. They currently have teams going out every Friday and at-least one Saturday a month and can be found in all areas of the city centre including around the Omni Centre, Cowgate, Grassmarket, Princess Street, George Street, talking and assisting folks to help them to stay safe and happy, sometimes when they are at their most vulnerable.

**1st October**      *The Reformation*

In this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, Professor Jane Dawson, John Laing Professor of Reformation History, University of Edinburgh will lead a seminar on the historian’s perspective of the remarkable events of 1517.

**15th October**      *Seeking Sanctuary: faith groups and the refugee crisis*

Presentation and discussion led by David Bradwell, Co-ordinator of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees

## Interfaith Conversations



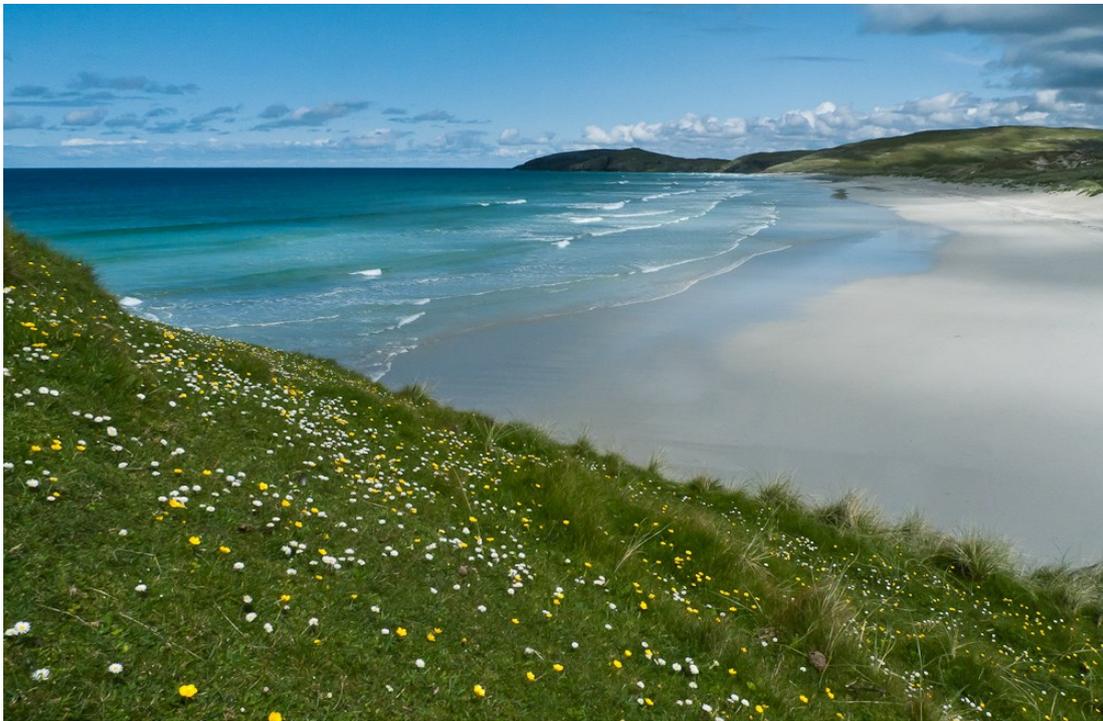
This will be a series of informal conversations between a representative of another faith and members of the congregation, as part of our interfaith programme:

*Meet Yahya Barry:* Imam Edinburgh Central Mosque  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September: 7-8.30pm; Church Centre

*Meet Trishna Singh OBE;* Director Sikh Sanjog and Punjabi Junction Social Enterprise Project  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October: 7- 8.30pm; Church Centre

*Meet Rabbi Mark Solomon:* ; Interfaith Consultant; Liberal Judaism Senior Lecturer, Leo Baeck College ;Edinburgh & Leicester Liberal Synagogues  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November: 6.45 – 8.15; Church Centre

For more information, contact Revd Yousouf Gooljary: [yousouf@6a.org.uk](mailto:yousouf@6a.org.uk)



## Barra a recollection

On 23rd May Elspeth Strachan and I travelled to the Isle of Barra for a short holiday. On the train to Oban we met a lady returning home there and learnt that her cousin's granddaughter was one of the two girls from Barra that was missing after the Manchester bombing.

After a rough crossing the ferry docked and the island was shrouded in cloud. The ferry then broke down & was unable to sail for 54 hours – this meant that people were stranded and others unable to come; it also affected food and other supplies. It was as if the weather & the ferry were caught up in the desolation the islanders felt for Laura, Eilidh and their families. There seemed to be no other topic of conversation. Flowers laid by the girl's school flagpole and a piper playing a lament were poignant reminders. We went to church on Ascension Day and joined in the prayers for Laura, badly injured, and Eilidh who had lost her life. It felt a privilege to be on the island at such a time.

Elspeth and I were able to enjoy the stunning beauty of the island and, when the sun finally came out appreciate the white sand beaches. When saying Evening Prayer together each day we found one of the prayers from the Community of Aidan & Hilda liturgy struck home for us both and wondered if the writer had been inspired by the Hebrides.

Lord, you are my island; in your bosom I rest.

You are the calm of the sea; in that peace I stay.

You are the deep waves of the shining ocean; with their eternal sound I sing.

You are the song of the birds; in that tune is my joy.

You are the smooth white sand of the shore; in you is no gloom.

You are the breaking of the waves on the rock; your praise is echoed in the swell.

You are the Lord of my life; in you I dwell.

*Gill Davidson*

## Young People at Christ Church meeting in the Centre

**Young Church  
and Crèche**  
Every Sunday  
@ 10am

**Friday Fun**  
Age 0-5 and their carers  
Every week 9.45am to 11.30am. Fun,  
music, crafts and "finger" prayers

**CC@6**  
S1 - age 15  
Term time Friday evenings 6-7.00pm for an  
hour of varied activities from crafts to films  
to ....

**Saturday Zone**  
P1-7  
First Saturday of the month  
in term time.  
Stories, crafts and games

### **"EAT AND EXPLORE"**

**S1 – age 15**  
Sundays in term time 11.30am to 1pm -  
learning about our church community and  
exploring our faith. Second and fourth  
Sundays in term time - bring your own  
packed lunch!

## EDINBURGH DOORS OPEN DAY 2017

**Doors Open Day at Christ Church**  
**Saturday 23rd September**  
**10am – 4pm**

Once again Christ Church is participating in the Doors Open Day, which offers the chance to explore some of Edinburgh's architecturally and culturally significant buildings - all for free.

For Christ Church it offers the chance for people who would not normally enter a church to come inside and wander around our beautiful building, as well as for regular members to enjoy their building alongside visitors.

### **During the day, there will be:**

A photographic exhibition charting the recent renovations to the building

A display of vestments

A quilting display

A display from the archives

Musical recitals

Children's activities

Refreshments





Calling all writers!  
For our Autumn edition of Christ Church Connects  
**“Sacred Space”**

For the autumn issue of the magazine you are invited to describe and share with us a sacred place that for you has become very important. It might be a physical place such as a Church, chapel or Abbey like Iona, a place of pilgrimage like Holy Island or the Church at Assisi. It may also be a physical place when you have felt something “other”, either fleetingly or longer lasting, such as on a walk in the countryside or by the shore, at table sharing a meal with others, in a concert hall and such like.

Alternatively it may be a sacred moment, something sown as a whisper and harvested years later as a shout. A moment of transfiguration when, in a moment too short to describe, you *knew*. CS Lewis captures this in “The Four Loves” where he wrote; “What! You too? I thought that no one but myself....”

Of course such moments may be deeply personal so if you want to be anonymous that’s fine but DO tell us because such events may resonate with another member of the congregation and become for them a word spoken in due season.

It is not essential but if you can, confine yourself to a paragraph, and thereby enable us to print as many as possible. Your story may be of much greater importance than you can ever know to someone in the pews around you.

**Submissions no later than 18th September, leave in porch pigeon hole named “editor” or submit to [magazine@6a.org.uk](mailto:magazine@6a.org.uk) or by contacting the office. Editors for this issue are Howard Moody and Susan Macdonald.**

### **Other Dates for your diary**

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

7.00pm at St Ninian’s comely Bank      **Ordination to the priesthood of Jane Green**

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November (All Saints Sunday)**

from 11.30am in the Hall      **Annual Congregational Gathering and Lunch**

#### **Sunday 3rd December (Advent Sunday)**

11.30am in the Hall      **Annual General Meeting**

## **The Scottish Episcopal Church and Same Sex Marriage**

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, after a process lasting several years, the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church voted in favour of altering the church's Canon on Marriage to remove the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman and add a new section that acknowledges that there are different understandings of marriage which now allows clergy to solemnise marriage between same sex couples as well as couples of the opposite sex. The revised canon also stipulates that no member of clergy will be required to solemnise a marriage against their conscience.

The voting was in three 'houses' of General Synod, namely Bishops, Clergy, Laity and required a two thirds majority in each house to pass.

Responding to the voting outcome, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church said:

"This is the end of a long journey. There was the Cascade Process involving people across our church – the Doctrine Committee paper which explored whether a Christian understanding of marriage could extend to same sex couples. We have studied, thought and prayed.

"In the life of the church, end points are often also starting points. This is a momentous step. By removing gender from our marriage canon, our church now affirms that a same sex couple are not just married but are married in the sight of God. They can 'leave and cleave'. They can express in marriage a commitment to lifelong faithfulness to one another and to the belief that a calling to marriage is for them too a calling to love, forgiveness, sacrifice, truth. A new chapter opens up – inclusion has taken a particular form. But this same decision is difficult and hurtful for others whose integrity in faith tells them that this decision is unscriptural and profoundly wrong. For them this new chapter will feel like an exclusion – as if their church has moved away from them.

"So the journey which we now begin must also be a journey of reconciliation.

"Every faith community must face the issues which are bound up with human sexuality – in their own way and in their own time. Others will arrive at answers different from ours. And the Anglican Communion, which is embedded in our history and to which we are passionately committed – the Anglican Communion will have to explore whether its historic commitment to unity in diversity can embrace this change.

"I have said this many times before: a vote in General Synod changes the canonical position of our church. But it cannot lay to rest the deep differences which this question exposes in this and every other faith community.

"The new Canon itself affirms that there are differing views of marriage in our church. Nobody will be compelled to do anything against their conscience. We affirm that we are a church of diversity and difference, bound together by our oneness in Christ. We shall carry forward in our life two honourable and historic understandings of marriage – one which sees the marriage of same sex couples as an expression of Christ-like acceptance and welcome – and another which says that the traditional view of marriage is God-ordained and scripturally defined.

"That is the journey. That is now the calling of this church. We must and we shall address it with truth, graciousness and acceptance of one another."

The College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church have now adopted pastoral guidelines and principles to enable clergy who so wish to be nominated to the Registrar General for authorisation to solemnize weddings of same sex couples. Christ Church Vestry will be discussing this at their next meeting on 25th September, and further information about communication and consultation with the congregation will be made available at the beginning of October.

*Susan Macdonald, Rector*

# CONTACTS

STAFF	VESTRY
<b>Rector:</b> Revd Canon Susan Macdonald	<b>Chair:</b> The Rector
<b>Associate Rector:</b> Revd Yousouf Gooljary	<b>Rector's Warden:</b> Lindsay Graham
<b>Assistant priest:</b> Revd Imre Katay-Fodor	<b>People's Warden:</b> Robin Morris
<b>Director of Music:</b> Dr. Michael Green	<b>Treasurer:</b> Kenneth Ramage
<b>Assistant Organist:</b> Kat Whigham	<b>Secretary:</b> Alison Amin
<b>Families' Networker:</b> Alex Barrett	<b>Lay Representative:</b> Howard Moody
<b>Church Manager:</b> Dorothea Nelson	<b>Elected Vestry members:</b> Chris Arnold, Mike McNamee, Mary Snow, Stuart Valentine and Helen Wosu.
<b>Office Assistant:</b> Christine Johnson	
<b>Factor:</b> Michael Herriott	

All staff and vestry members can be contacted by telephone or email through the Church Office: 0131 229 0090 or [admin@6a.org.uk](mailto:admin@6a.org.uk) | Office open: Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

Twitter @CCMEdin Facebook Christ Church Morningside

## WALKERS' PROGRAMME

**"A" Walkers** ([awalkers@6a.org.uk](mailto:awalkers@6a.org.uk)):  
2nd September. Glen Tilt from Blair Atholl. .

The route passes through woods and open hillsides before a steeper climb to the viewpoint . Distance 20km OS Sheet 35 (Contact: S. Green)

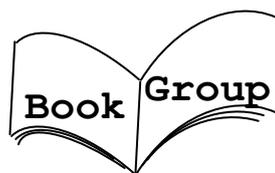
**7th October. Wether Law from Romannobridge**  
Starting from Newlands Church we ascend Whiteside Hill to explore ancient fortifications at the summit. Then we follow a line of several tops. Distance 18km OS Sheets 72 (Contact: A. Shotter)

**"B" Walkers** ([bwalkers@6a.org.uk](mailto:bwalkers@6a.org.uk)):  
**August 19<sup>th</sup>** Glenaber from Traquair (7+ miles) - Contact: Alison Nice & Chris Rees

**September 16<sup>th</sup>** Glentress circuit from Peebles (7 miles) — Contact: Christine Melvin

**October 21<sup>st</sup>** Cademuir Hill and river Tweed (8 miles) — Contact: Chris Rees

\*\*\*Please contact the organiser by the preceding Thursday to arrange transport.\*\*\*



**Tuesday**  
**5th September,**  
**3rd October**  
**7.30pm**  
**in the Church Centre**

**5 September: I am Malala—**

Malala Yousafzai

*"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."* When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

**3 October: Summoned by the Bells—**

John Betjeman

The blank verse autobiography by John Betjeman describes his life from his early memories of a middle-class home in Edwardian Hampstead, London, to his premature departure from Magdalen College, Oxford.

Book Group contact: Church Office



The deadline for the next edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, 24th September 2017.**

Please email submissions to [magazine@6a.org.uk](mailto:magazine@6a.org.uk)  
or leave material in Church Centre letter box marked 'Newsletter.'