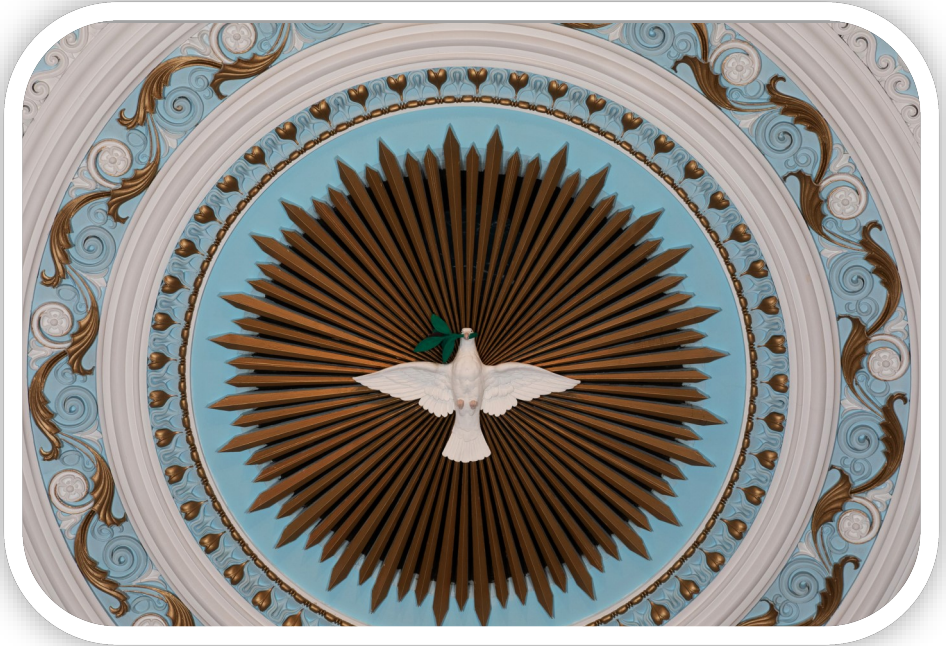


Review and Outlook

Summer 2022

The magazine of Palmerston Place Church



PALMERSTON
PLACE
CHURCH
EDINBURGH

Bringing Christian worship,
fellowship and service to the heart of
everyday life

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CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY AND THURSDAY 9.30AM - NOON AND 2 - 4PM. THE
CHURCH FACILITATOR IS WORKING FROM HOME ON A TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
MORNING.

Scottish Charity Number SC004291

Very Rev Colin Sinclair writes

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in the aftermath of a wonderful final Sunday at Palmerston Place. It meant so much to Ruth and I to see the church as full, if not fuller, than it had been before we went off on our adventure as "The Moderator and his Mrs" three years ago and before Covid struck.



We were humbled that former people from PP, (staff and members), came from Worcester, Inverness, Aberdeen, Pitlochry, Fife, Kinross, Glasgow, Innerleithan, and other places outside Edinburgh. It was great to see two of my former secretaries, Muriel Culbertson (my first) and Fiona Baker return, together with Andrew and Rebecca Caskie and their family and , of course Willie-John. Some made extraordinary efforts to be there despite severe mobility issues, such as Margaret McNeill, Florence Morley and Ian Kay. Others were back in their usual seats for the first time since the Pandemic. So we could go on.

Then in the evening, sitting side by side, were Dawn, Jack, Douglas, Fraser and Allan all now ministers, probationers or candidates together with a significantly larger congregation for our final service which also can be watched online on catch-up.

How right it was that our final service was on our congregation's 147th Anniversary Service and also on the Sunday closest to Ascension when we remember Christ's exaltation. Ruth and I want to thank you all for your very generous words and gifts, given at both morning and evening services.

It began with the children and young people and their gifts including an apron to me with the PP dove— hint about how to spend retirement! Then Helen Hood brought greetings and warm scarfs, (memories of worshipping in the Cathedral in January!), from across the road, Gregor Innes reflected on Kirk Session meetings and presented me with a Kirk Session photograph.

Peter Gray presented a beautiful painting of the church that he had painted on behalf of the congregation, Ian Graham gave a photo book of memories and told us that a very generous financial gift had been put in our account,

Norma Rolls gave a lovely tribute to Ruth and a pearl necklace with a dove attached.

Linda Cunningham brought flowers and Susan Kidston and Joan Meikle brought anniversary cakes. John Duncan was an excellent MC throughout and added a few words of his own.



For us it was very special that all our family were there. When I first came in 1980 as the Assistant I had just got engaged to Ruth; when I left there were 15 of us! We had a lovely relaxed lunch and afternoon together at the manse.

At the end of the evening service John Duncan told the congregation about the morning and added a final gift of a voucher for us to have some time away together in one of our favourite places.

Finally having gone to the vestry Ruth and I returned to be “clapped out” by the congregation, who lined the central aisle before returning for more coffee, cake and conversation. We got home at 9.30!!!

I still have three weddings to do in June before I finally finish at PP. We have more decluttering to do before we move to Peebles on 16th June. Our new address will be 18 Dukehaugh Peebles EH45 9DN. Our mobile phones remain unchanged. My personal email is camsinclair90@gmail.com.

It has been a wonderful 25 plus years and yesterday was the perfect finish to it all. You will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your minister. Ruth and I thank you all for your love and support to us and our family over these years

Love from us both

Colin and Ruth

Services at PPC

The following people will be leading worship over the next few weeks ;

Date	10.30am	7pm
19 June	Rev Christine Clark	Douglas Reid
26 June	Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison	Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison
3 July	Rev Bill Taylor	No Service
10 July	Rev Bill Taylor	No Service
17 July	Rev Bill Taylor	No Service
24 July	Rev Bill Taylor	No Service
31 July	Ewan Ritchie	No Service
7 August	John Duncan & Ian Graham	No Service

In a recent program about the Queen I heard her recall some words of Winston Churchill, her first Prime Minister. He commented "the further backward you look, the further forward you can see". As Colin retires, I have been doing just that.

Looking backward : I first met the Very Rev Colin A M Sinclair over 50 years ago. The service in Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church Glasgow in the early 1970s, commissioning him to do pioneer work for Scripture Union in Zambia has remained fresh in my memory.

Colin had recently graduated and was still in his early twenties. I was concerned that he was going to a situation without accommodation and though a car was provided the only other provision I knew was the support of the church prayer meeting.

In 2005 I visited Zambia and met with Church Elders who warmly remembered Colin's time in Zambia. As preachers themselves, they were grateful for the focus he gave to their preaching. They testified that many of the people who came to faith through Colin's ministry now form the backbone of many Christian communities in Zambia.

I need not have been concerned for God is always faithful and worthy of our trust. I personally think that these years in Zambia were formative and foundational to the way Colin's ministry developed.

Looking forward : During his time in Palmerston Place Colin always reminded us of two things, firstly that he was a Glasgow boy and secondly, an ardent supporter of the Scottish Rugby team.

The story is told of a man driving up to a Glasgow church to collect his mother after the Sunday morning service. The doors were open and the Beadle (Church Officer) was standing at the door. "Is he finished yet" asked the man "Oh yes" said the Beadle "But he won't stop".

It is my hope that Colin and Ruth will not stop either. After years of fruitful ministry, including a legacy to the future in young men and women called to full time Christian service while worshipping at Palmerston Place, Colin still has much to give.

I hope that some of his time will be spent creating a legacy in print to enable others to benefit from his writing. However they choose to spend their retirement years, I know Colin and Ruth will continue to witness in word and action to the faithful Saviour they love and worship.

Willie-John Macdonald



After I retire the Presbytery has appointed Rev Bill Taylor to be Interim Moderator during the vacancy. Bill will be our link person with Presbytery and will work with our joint Session Clerks to prepare and then chair Kirk Session meetings and anything else requiring to be done. Bill will lead services from time to time but will not be our Locum.

A small group chaired by Ian Graham and made up of David Hare, Pam Ashing and Amanda Ferguson, will arrange who will be taking the services until our future is clarified.



Ministerial Team at PPC

From September Cat Rawlinson-Watkins, a Church of Scotland candidate, will be joining us for her third placement from the autumn to the spring. Cat is a member at St Stephen's Comely Bank and we look forward to welcoming her.

Discussions are at an advanced stage about a substantive post of Associate Minister with a focus on mission planning and outreach, to which the person appointed would be ordained. We hope to be able to make an announcement soon.

Director of Music

We received a letter from our Director of Music, David Hare, indicating he would like to retire after the summer. David's music on organ and piano has been hugely enjoyed, but more than that, it has helped our worship, consoled us when in need and lifted our praise with joy. As Musical Director David also led the Choir and helped in our ministry with young people through the Praise Band. His Carols by Candlelight were memorable and his interests extended to music as a means of mission. We will want to express our thanks to David for his dedicated service when the time comes.

Panicking, I wondered if my copy of *The Cloud of Unknowing* had survived a recent decluttering. Ministers, it seems, acquire books so it was good to pass some on, nowhere near the 5000 Colin took to the Christian Aid Book sale! Relieved, I turned afresh to this gem of medieval Christian mysticism, written, in the 14th century, probably in the Midlands, when pandemics and war assailed Europe, author unknown. The title refers to the space between God and humanity and suggests it's as we recognise how little we know that we find ourselves well placed to discover the wonder of God's love. "So go on, I beg you, with all speed. Look forward, not backward. See what you still lack, not what you have already; for that is the quickest way of getting and keeping humility." (p60, Penguin Classics, translated by Clifton Wolters 1978). *The Cloud of Unknowing* came to mind as I thought about the situation in which we find ourselves as a Church (both locally and nationally), the vacancy, Presbytery plans, conversations with our neighbours at Gorgie, Dalry and Stenhouse and at Murrayfield. I'm honoured to reprise the role of Interim Moderator, officially from 1st July and look forward to working as part of a new ministerial team being put together over the summer. It's essential our Churches develop new models and re-invent themselves. Office-bearers, members, all who are a part of the fellowship we share, let's try many things, experiment with what works, and find new ways to connect with people in Jesus' name!

James, that very practical book, opens with this advice: "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help and won't be condescended to when you ask for it." (1:5; Peterson, Eugene H. Holy Bible - Message version). Believing prayers, asked in faith, are required! So whilst we may not know, we know One who does; as we look forward in faith we can be sure the way ahead will become better known. "How right you are to say 'for the love of Jesus'. For it is in the love of Jesus that you have your help. The nature of love is such that it shares everything. Love Jesus, and everything he has is yours" (p64, *The Cloud of Unknowing*).

Wising you every blessing as the adventure continues,

Bill

Post-COP26, low Covid - a time for reflection on our use of resources?

The Covid pandemic resulted in a significant improvement in urban air quality and a reduction in emissions from motor vehicles. As the crisis receded, motor vehicle use returned though we have yet to see what rising fuel prices will do and I think that we have achieved a permanent increase in cycling.

But now we have the war in the Ukraine and the issue of Russian gas and oil. Who knew how dependent the world is on Ukraine and Russia for sunflower oil and wheat? The UK is essentially unaffected by the loss of those sources, but not unaffected by global market pricing. Germany and much of eastern Europe will burn more coal, especially its very polluting brown coal. The UK too may end up burning more oil.

What then of the approvals now being given to opening new oil fields west of Shetland, in the North Sea and on land in Surrey? Energy security, jobs at home and lower carbon cost in their delivery? We are some years away from being able to dispense with the internal combustion engine, nor can we yet do without oil-based plastics, paints, packaging, clothing, consumer goods, building materials.

I am in Ireland as I write this, travelling by wind power, around a country that used to generate most of its electricity by burning peat derived from its vast areas of easily mined, by massive machines, peat bogs. Such mining ceased a year ago though peat, with its evocative smell, is still burned in home fires but it comes, in a poorer and more polluting form, all the way from Lithuania. A result of varying application of EU directives?

I hope that this piece provokes thought and reflection on how so much of our current way of life has a carbon cost and how policies alone cannot be the solution. We all need to use less carbon by thinking about how we travel, where we shop and what we buy.

Peter Dunlop on behalf of the Green Team

The Fringe is back!

This has been a particularly difficult time as we all know for those in the theatre industry but we look forward to hosting Saltmine Theatre with their new play 'The Liberator' from 17th to 20th August and the Searchlight Theatre group with 'Return to the Hiding Place' from 24th to 27th August once again.

The Liberator was originally commissioned all the way back in 2019, with the intention to premier the show at Saltmine's 40th birthday celebration before a summer tour.

Return To The Hiding Place follows the story of Dutch watchmaker Corrie Ten Boom, whose family hid Jews during WW2 in occupied Holland. Her remarkable true story has sold millions of copies worldwide.

As an Outreach team we feel that this is an important way to have a Christian Witness in the city during the festival but it does require significant support from us working together as a congregation.

There are a number of ways that you can help ;

Stewarding

Front of house' welcome and stewarding at performances.

Hospitality

Providing some meals before the evening performances.

Accommodation

Bed and Breakfast for the Saltmine team members for 4 nights from 16th to 20th August.

Planning in advance is vital so If you can help in any way please contact

Màiri Graham - mairigraham@mail.com / Mobile 07899757724

In a city just like yours, hope is in short supply. Cynicism reigns; power overrides justice; lying is as easy as breathing. Until one day, a series of peculiar events begins splintering normality: the sick rise from their beds, the dead live again and the oppressed glimpse a life worth living.

For the first time, the city's bloodstream seems to thrum with change. At the centre of it all: a strange man radiating love. How long before the powers that be crack down on this subversive, this quiet revolutionary, this liberator?



***** (BroadwayBaby.com). ***** (ThreeWeeks).



From Searchlight comes a wonderful new reimagining of Corrie Ten Boom's biographical tale of forgiveness and reconciliation in the shadows of WW2.

The family bravely hide Jews in their small clock shop. The consequences are dark and devastating. The production looks not only at the story from Corrie's viewpoint but also from a German army officer's angle as well. How do they both regard their families, their faith, the

Jewish people and the occupation of Holland? They begin in different worlds, but eventually come face to face with each other. Moving and inspiring, and relevant for today.

The Flower Team has continued to provide flowers for the Sanctuary since we returned to services in the church. My thanks to everyone who has supported this and those who have continued to donate to the Flower Fund.

I will now print the rota again, in the Review and Outlook I apologise if I have missed out anyone in this rota, and will remedy this .

If you wish to donate to the Flower Fund in the future and you have a date that you would like to be remembered then please get in touch.

July	Arrangers	Donors	Distributers
3	Ailsa Gray		Beth Maclennan
10	Linda Cunningham		Linda Cunningham
17	Tina Dunlop	Fiona Gove	Tina Dunlop
24	Joan Meikle		Joan Meikle
31	Carol Hajducka		Carol Hajducka
Aug	Arrangers	Donors	Distributers
7	Sandra Taylor	Mary Bennett	Sandra Taylor
14	Rachel Wilson	Barbara Dickson	Rachel Wilson
21	Janet Fraser		Margaret Richardson
28	Jean Scott		Annie Edmonds
Sept	Arrangers	Donors	Distributers
4	Sally Marshall	Rona Garden	Sally Marshall
11	Linda Cunningham	Christine Smith	Linda Cunningham
18	Ailsa Gray	Margaret Gill	Lesley Smart
25	Tina Dunlop		Tina Dunlop



A PRAYER TO BEGIN SUMMER

For more light in the day, we thank you,
For gentle mornings, we thank you,
For nighttime conversations,
we thank you,
For friends and family,
we thank you,
For gardens and all manner of creatures,
we thank you.
Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.

Help us love this earth.
Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives
this day.
Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest,
and create.

Amen.

Volunteering Opportunities

You will find in Church a new display on a couple of boards regarding helping out at PPC. They will be kept up to date with the various volunteering opportunities within PPC. Please check and help if you can!

Starbucks. *The conversation went like this: Peter: 'Have you seen the trypraying adverts on the buses?' Barista. 'Yes, they're everywhere!'*

Peter: 'Have a look at this trypraying booklet. It's all part of the campaign.' Barista: 'Thanks. I'll read it.'



Driving. *'I was out in Kilmarnock with my family and the bus in front of us had a large trypraying advert on the back. When I returned home I looked this up and found your website. The advert was striking and came at the right time. I have enjoyed the booklet and my children have also read it. I'd like to continue learning more. Could you send me more information please.'*

Holiday. *'We have just come back from a break in Devon and it was there that I learnt about trypraying; there is a whole campaign going on in Barnstaple, and I was really impressed. I got a booklet from the church for my use and ordered one to send to my own church in case they haven't heard of you. The booklet is a really good, gentle, non-controversial item to hand over to some of the prodigals in my family to give them a nudge'*

In many places banners have been displayed on hundreds of churches. These make significant visual impact and give pause to many people who see them.

You can carry a trypraying booklet with you and pray that God will give you an opportunity in a conversation with a friend, neighbour, colleague or somebody you just bump into. When the conversation is right you could simply say, *'try praying for a week and see what happens in your life.'*

We are very grateful for your interest, encouragement and participation. Trypraying is something we are all doing together as we invite people to experience the kindness of God. ***The trypraying team.***

An historic vote has taken place which will allow Church of Scotland ministers and deacons to marry same-sex couples. The General Assembly voted to change a standing church law to allow the right to apply to become an authorised celebrant to conduct same-sex ceremonies by 274 votes to 136. The decision, which would enable ministers and deacons to opt-in to a new scheme, came after a majority of presbyteries – 29-12 - approved the "Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage Overture".

A report to the General Assembly makes it clear that no person would be required to participate in the solemnisation of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly, said: "The Church of Scotland is a broad church and there are diverse views on the subject of same-sex marriage among its members. There has been a lengthy, prayerful and in-depth discussion and debate about this topic for many years at all levels of the Church to find a solution that respects diversity and values the beliefs of all.

"The Church is committed to ensuring that debates on this subject are held in a spirit of humility and grace, the tone and tenor of discussions are civil and people are respectful of those who hold opposing views. The General Assembly has today approved the Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage Overture to change a standing Church law to enable Ministers of Word and Sacrament and deacons to apply to become authorised celebrants if they wish. However, no minister or deacon would be required to participate in the solemnisation of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so. All celebrants would be expected to take account of the peace and unity and pastoral needs of the congregation and any parish or other grouping of which it is a part while considering to conduct a same-sex marriage ceremony."

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/general-assembly-approves-scheme-to-conduct-same-sex-marriages>

Commissioners at the 2022 General Assembly gave a ringing endorsement to an historic agreement between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland, proposing that it be named the Saint Margaret Declaration, after the 11th Century Scottish Queen venerated for her missionary Christian faith and her kindness and generosity to poor people.

The declaration of friendship offers 'a decisive and irrevocable statement of our friendship with one another, based on our shared faith in Christ.'

Already approved by the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church in Scotland, the declaration is the culmination of more than 100 years of dialogue and emphasises the shared faith and common ground that unites the Churches.

Archbishop Leo Cushley accepted the name suggestion on behalf of the Scottish Catholic Bishop's Conference, saying he has always had a special admiration for Saint Margaret.

Rev Alexander Horsburgh, Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee told the General Assembly that friendship is a key Biblical concept for all followers of Jesus.

"Friendship is a very deep relationship, a relationship of conscious and deliberate choice, in which individuality is respected and there is room for disagreement, but a relationship in which we stand alongside one another, support one another, rejoice together and weep together, pray for and with each other, and do things together," he said.

"We are declaring a friendship which already exists, which has existed for a long time, and we want everyone to know about it and understand it. By saying out loud that the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland are friends, we contribute to changing, not only the narrative of our churches, but the narrative of our country too. There is no going back.

"We can and do say these transformative things out loud because of a gift, expressive of God's relationship of love and grace with all creation, which we receive from God."

A minister has become the first woman to take up the role of Principal Clerk of the General Assembly on a permanent basis.

Rev Fiona Smith joins a select group of people – around 40 – who have served in the leadership role since 1572. She succeeds Rev Dr George Whyte in the post, which requires in-depth knowledge of church law, history, practice and procedure.



She said: "It is a huge privilege to accept the appointment to become the next Principal Clerk. God called me to be the minister of Ness Bank Church in Inverness 12 years ago and it is God's call that is now leading me to new pastures."

The Principal Clerk also supports the Moderator throughout the year as well as providing training courses and advice on church law and procedures to Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, ministers and other Church bodies. In these times of change, challenge, reform and restructuring, Mrs Smith has a key role in supporting and enabling the traditional and emerging practices of the Church of Scotland within its framework of governance and law. She will be the secretary of the Legal Questions Committee and the Assembly Business Committee and represent the Church in a number of areas of public life.

PPC Groups

Earlybirds meets at 8am online each Tuesday – all are welcome. Please supply your own coffee ! Our regular Thursday Prayer meeting will take place on 23rd June and will re-start in September. Baby & Toddler - Will be on holiday from the start of July and will return in September.

Groups already on their summer break - Friendship Club, Bible Study (Housegroups). We are looking at how we can bring back Housegroup meetings. Look out in the intimations and E-News for details of any outings by the PPC Walking Group and the PPC Film Club.

Ian White, one of our Caretakers, has taken a three month sabbatical from PPC so will not be in and around the Church during June, July and August. Ian was the only Caretaker not placed on furlough during the pandemic and we are grateful for all his work over that time. We hope he enjoys his break.

I am delighted to say we have recruited a new Caretaker. Liz Jameson joined us earlier this month and will work Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The Saturday shift will be a split shift. It will be 9am-1pm on days that there is not a music café being held at PPC. On the days that there is a music café, Liz will work 9am - Noon and 4pm - 5pm. The café will be meeting on average three times per month at PPC (those involved have a monthly event elsewhere that they are involved in). It is great to be able to host the café and have a member of staff on hand.

Paul Mitchell, Church Facilitator

Back to School With God

Sunday 21st August at PPC

The 2022 theme is God's Golden Rules, exploring Luke 10:25-37.

We aim to explore what it means to love God and love our neighbour through looking at the Parable of the Good Samaritan with a special focus on living for Jesus in school and what that might look like.

This will be an all-age worship service starting at 10.30am.





sunday worship services

Sunday Morning at 10.30am

A welcoming time of worship including singing, prayers, bible readings and teaching. Music is a blend of hymns and songs, both new and traditional.

A crèche is available every Sunday morning.

For children aged 3 and above we have Sunday School and New Horizons.

Sunday Evening at 7pm

A welcoming time of worship and an opportunity to explore the Christian faith more deeply.

There are no Evening Services in July & August

Full service details at www.palmerstonplacechurch.com.