

Review and Outlook

February 2024

The magazine of Palmerston Place Church

Part of Gorgie & Palmerston Place Church



PALMERSTON
PLACE
CHURCH
EDINBURGH

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

Associate Minister - Rev Douglas Reid

douglas.reid@churchofscotland.org.uk or 220-1690

Ministerial Assistant - Lisa Clark

lisa@palmerstonplacechurch.com or 220-1690

Joint Session Clerk- John Duncan

john@palmerstonplacechurch.com or 220-1690

Joint Session Clerk- Tricia Kingston

triciakingston223@gmail.com

Organist - Simon Hall

music@palmerstonplacechurch.com or 220-1690

Church Facilitator - Paul Mitchell

paul@palmerstonplacechurch.com or 220-1690

Church Office - Annan House

Open Monday & Thursday (9.30am - Noon, 2-4pm) Tuesday (online only)
& Wednesday (9.30am - Noon)

Rev Douglas Reid writes

Dear Friends,

We are now a month into the new Parish following the union with the old Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse parish at the very end of 2023.

Our first Sunday as a new united parish was a lovely celebration of all that we have in common in Christ, led by our great friend, Rev. Bill Taylor, with participation from people at both ends of the new parish.

Our first Kirk Session meeting has also taken place with our Interim Moderator, Rev Sam Torrens. That meeting appointed Tricia Kingston and John Duncan as our joint Session Clerks, Suzanne Graham and Sandy Henderson as our joint Treasurers, assisted by Susan Kay, David Taylor, and Ian Graham to form our treasury team, and Susan Kay as our safeguarding officer.

The ministry team consists of Sam as our Interim Moderator, Rev Dean Batchelor and Jessica Linde, who will for now continue to conduct most services in the Gorgie Church building, Lisa Clark and I, who will, again for now, continue to conduct most services in the Palmerston Place Church building, and Rev Reuben Addis who is focused on the evening services at Saltyard, Messy Church and developing new worship initiatives.

We have had our joint service at St Mary's Cathedral to mark the week of Christian Unity, and it was a joyful experience to take part in their service. It is good to see that God speaks to different people in different ways and that we can have many different styles of worship that all still connect people to God and know the salvation that comes from Christ.

Following on from that service we will, as usual, be having our joint Lent study groups in Annan House with St Mary's Cathedral. More information is contained in this edition of Review and Outlook about those, and I hope that you might be able to join us to take part in some or all of those meetings.

Despite my long time at PP, last year was the first year that I had managed to go to these Lent groups and the whole experience made me regret that I had not been able to find the time in previous years to go. If you have the time, I encourage you to come along.

Our day of prayer on 27th January was something new for us and for Gorgie. Thank you for trying something new and those who took part, and who have spoken to Dean or me about the experience, seem to have felt it to be very worthwhile. Dean had curated a helpful series of Bible passages and reflections to guide those who went to Saltyard and we garnered a lot of useful ideas, inspiration and information from the responses people left at Saltyard or emailed in to us. These will be used in connection with our Vision 2030 Day on 3rd February.

You may remember that we have a prayer diary in PP to allow people to record prayer requests and answers to prayer. Prayer is a vital part of the life of Christians and is, as Jack said in his sermon last Sunday, something that we should be doing for each other. With that in mind, and to allow those people who come to services online to participate, we have set up a new email address prayers@palmerstonplacechurch.com. Any messages sent to that account will only be read by me but the information given will, where appropriate, be passed to our Tuesday morning prayer group to allow greater numbers to pray for you, or give thanks for answered prayer.

There is a lot going on in our parish at this time. There is a lot of change in the background. Thank you for sticking with us.

Hopefully during February more concrete steps will be taken to allow progression with calling a permanent minister to the new parish but the timetable for that is not wholly within our control but as soon as we have any information to share we will.

God bless



Although fewer children are attending church on Sunday mornings our work and connection with children does continue and is growing.



As you may recall Jessica has started Book Lambs in

Saltyard, a short story time for babies, toddlers, and their carers. People who go to Book Lambs, and our continuing babies and toddlers groups, run in Annan House and Gorgie Church, who did not have a prior connection to church have started to come to Messy Church.

Messy Church, where Reuben and his team lead worship along with craft activities and food, is different from Sunday mornings but it is no less valid an assembly of people gathered to learn, worship, and pray together, than Sundays.

The Monday Group continues well and have just been on an outing to Pets at Home this week, where everyone agreed that Russian Dwarf Gerbils are amazingly cute.

We have a strong group who are coming together well and are happy and comfortable in the Palmerston Place Church building.

Please give thanks to God for all of these activities, that connections are being made and growing with people, and that the love of God is made evident in the time we spend together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorothy", is centered at the bottom of the page.

Our prayer day was widely supported at both ends of the parish.

People gathered in person and others prayed at home or wherever they were, but the Spirit was clearly with us as we prayed.

Many suggestions and leadings that people received which they fed back either in the suggestion box at Saltyard or to the email address prayer@palmerstonplacechurch.com. These suggestions were passed on to Liam Fraser before the Vision 2030 Day.

Some people had a clear sense of things that they think we should be focused upon as a parish, many of which chimed with ideas that the ministry team have discussed, others focused on ideas of listening to each other, the Spirit and the communities which our large parish covers.

What was clear throughout was the strong call to reach out with the gospel to our parish and tell people about the love of the Father, and rescue offered through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Exciting times lie ahead.



Operation Christmas Child

We have just been contacted to say that our shoeboxes have been sent to Moldova. The Team looks forward to Operation Christmas Child 2024



Starts February 20th, 7pm, Room 1, Annan House

Once again we'll be joining with members of St Mary's Cathedral for Lent study and discussion evenings.

The meetings will be in Annan House on Tuesdays 20 & 27 February, 5, 12 & 19 March, 7.30-9pm.

We'll be using material entitled 'Following Christ in the Footsteps of the Saints'. Everyone is most welcome to take part for all or just some of the sessions.



World Day of Prayer

**World Day
of Prayer Service
Murrayfield Parish
Church**

Friday 1st March, 2.30pm



House Groups

We have two groups at PPC. The in-person group meets in Annan House at 7pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

The online group continues to meet on Zoom at 7pm on the first and third Thursday of each month. **Zoom** - Meeting ID 940 260 453 & passcode 206720



Baby & Toddler Group

Monday 10-11.30am, Annan House

With toys and space to play. Singing, coffee and conversation.

Children's Club

Monday 6pm—7.30pm—PP Church Hall.

Earlybirds Prayer

Each Tuesday 8am. All welcome, a time of prayer and reflection.

Friendship Café

'A meeting place for the over 60's. Meeting every second week on a Thursday 2-3.30pm, Annan House. See over for meeting dates

Book Group

The PPC Book Group meet every 4th Wednesday of the month. Please contact the Church Office for details.

At Gorgie Church

Monday Fellowship at 1.30pm.

At Saltyard

Book Lambs in Saltyard is back for story time. Mainly for pre-school children but everyone can enjoy the story. Thursday at 10am

The Bridge

*A monthly event for those ages
10 - 18*

At Palmerston Place Church

12 Palmerston Place, EH12 5AA

5pm – 6.45pm



4 February - St. Valentine: Hallmark Holiday or Righteous Rebel?

3 March - Failure, Hope, & Restoration: Why We Are All Peter



2pm—3.30pm, Room 1,

Annan House 10 Palmerston Place.

**A welcoming place for over 60's to enjoy refreshments,
games and conversation**

Meeting on 15th and 29th February

We are now half way through the season, we thought that you may appreciate an update on the need we are facing.

After 105 nights (up to 19th January), we have seen 7458 accesses to the service from 467 individuals, and we see that, with the cold and wet winter weather alongside the housing emergency declared by Edinburgh City Council in November, the need for this vital service will not be decreasing soon.

We know that we could not keep the Welcome Centre open without the phenomenal partnership of churches across Edinburgh and so James Milligan, Welcome Centre and Care Van Manager, wished to share his personal thanks for what this has meant in the current season:

In this housing crisis emergency, the demand on the Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre this season has never been so great. It's with great thanks to all our Church supporters that we have the funds to make a real impact in the lives of those struggling with homelessness and are able to prevent the most vulnerable sleeping on the cold streets of Edinburgh.

The Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre has so far supported 467 individuals, men and women, into their own rooms with a WC and shower, with breakfast, lunch and a hot dinner cooks by amazing church volunteers every night.

Thanks to our highly trained staff and an abundance of partner agencies we continue to support people out of homelessness and on to longer-term accommodation.

On behalf of all the staff at the Rapid-accommodation Welcome Centre, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your help and support.



Bethany
Christian
Trust

Ending Homelessness
in Scotland,
one person at a time

With several months still ahead of us in the season, would you be able to support the Welcome Centre afresh this winter? We are still in need of support in a few different ways:

- Volunteering:- Over the next few months, we still have some slots in need of catering teams – if your church would be able to provide a small team here, please get in touch with the Welcome Centre team directly at welcomecentre@bethanychristiantrust.com
- Giving:- As the need remains high, so does our need for financial support.
- Praying:- We are ever so aware that the work across Bethany Christian Trust is held up by the prayers of the Church across Scotland, and so please hold up the staff and guests at the Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre in your church's prayers in these coming months. Please pray for safety, security and loving kindness to abound, and for our guests to quickly be reaccommodated into more long term solutions and positive futures.

Rachael Gilfillan

Churches and Communities Fundraiser

Bethany Christian Trust

Palmerston Place Church

YOUTH GROUP

OUTINGS

SCIENCE

BAKING/ COOKING

Activities include outings (pantomime trips, Norththorpe Parliament, Farm, Apple store readings), Games, Fire Station, Robot Station, science experiments and engineering activities, cooking/baking, games, craft activities led by adult volunteers with fun to raise the awareness of church, make sure all members have fun and enjoy themselves. Free Church of England message presented at the club.

General donation £20 per term, but not necessary! This could be a further 10% off for those who have been to our club before.

Palmerston Place Church Youth Group, Jersey Farm

Ages 7-12 years
Mondays 1800-1930
 For more info, please email palmerstonpcyouthgroup@gmail.com or register at

Publicity flyers are available if you know of any families who would benefit from an invite along. Please contact the Church Office.

Any list of most successful female singers of all time will include the name of the late Whitney Houston. Amongst her best-known songs is How will I know? which was released in 1985 and went on to be a number one song. The lyrics revolve around the question How will I know if he really loves me? Perhaps Whitney should have referred to Cher's Shoop Shoop Song which also asks How can I tell if he loves me so? and answers by saying you'll know by his kiss!

Most of those who consider a call to ministry find themselves asking, at one point or another, How will I know if it's really God calling me? Indeed, Church of Scotland minister, Lynn McChlery, wrote a PhD dealing with that very question, which she titled How do you know it's God?

The Towards Ministry Team is here to help those who have that question in mind and equally so, to walk alongside those who have arrived at the point of greater certainty. If you, or just as importantly, someone you know is at that place in the journey of faith then the team would love to hear from you.

We have several of our Celebrating Calling events scheduled for this year and they serve as the starting line in the process of enquiring and exploring. These will include in-person events in both the Glasgow and Edinburgh areas – following the Hamilton and Aberdeen events held last year – but the first one is taking place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 February and will be online. This may well suit those who are based in remoter areas or who live outwith Scotland but regardless, if you want to come you'll be welcome.

Anyone can attend one of these events which are informal and relaxed and come with a no strings attached guarantee. In other words, you can come and then walk away if you sense that it's not for you. And you can come if the sense of call is strong or not much more than a barely discernible, faint inkling. You can come if this, for you, is brand new or if you've been sensing something for years but haven't as yet done anything about it.

Is this for you? Send an email to ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk and they'll send you a link for the online event on February 21st - or ask to be updated when the next onsite events go live.

TECHNOLOGY IS SAVING THE PLANET

Those with an eye on the media may recently have picked up the technological advances that promote a greener planet.

UK : Heat pumps refrigerant

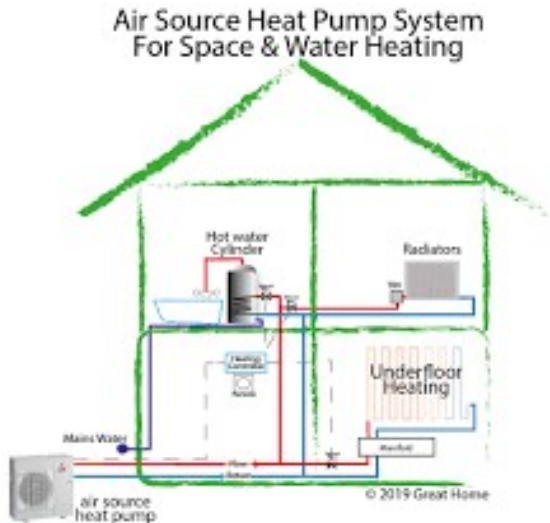
An air source heat pump has a refrigerant (which is very cold) circulating inside.

The pump captures the surrounding air – even cold air – and by compressing the slightly warmed refrigerant the air pump increases the circulating piped water temperature.

Heat pumps typically output water at a temperature of 40 deg C. While that is generally enough for domestic hot water, a higher temperature is desirable to warm radiators, particularly those with a larger surface area. New technology uses, for example, R290 - propane - as the refrigerant.

It is more environmentally friendly, as leaks are not so damaging to the atmosphere, and it is up to 34% more efficient. Temperatures of up to 75/80 deg C can be achieved, but an efficient output is nearer 55 deg C.

Of course, it is all very well having this technology installed in your home or office, but if you have poorly insulated space the benefits will be lost.



Scotland : Green hydrogen from whisky production

Scientists from Heriot Watt University have discovered a way to utilise the 1 billion litres of wastewater used in the worldwide production of whisky by chemically removing waste materials.

This treated water is then used to produce green hydrogen, which does not produce carbon when burned, hence is environmentally friendly.

The process reduces the reliance on producing green hydrogen from fresh water, of which around 20.5 billion litres annually are used, thus conserving this precious resource.

The electrolysis process uses renewable generated electricity.



St Kitts : Super large electric storage batteries

St Kitts in the Caribbean is now the site of an ultra modern power grid lithium battery energy storage system, the largest in the Caribbean. To quote Swiss providers Leclanche, the system “will allow the island the transition to safe, clean, renewable energy.....and will provide solar capacity.....and battery storage.....and replace over 4 million gallons of diesel per year providing a cost reduction of up to 40% compared to current diesel power production”

PPC Green Team

New courses aimed at encouraging people to explore their faith as well as supporting local church office holders in their roles have been added to the Church of Scotland Learning platform.

Since being endorsed by the General Assembly and then launching in August of last year, anyone with a Church of Scotland connection has been invited to use the free resource, with around 700 users benefitting so far.



The latest modules to be added to the site will explore becoming an elder, becoming a session clerk, growing as a leader, exploring your calling and spiritual gifts, and funeral ministry.

Kay Cathcart, People and Training Manager for the Church of Scotland, said: "This is a challenging time for the church, and so we are delighted to provide materials which inspire, and equip, and will build towards a hopeful future.

"I would encourage anyone involved with the Church of Scotland to join hundreds of others by signing-up for free.

"Whether you're a member, minister, deacon, reader or elder we've created resources which have been tailored to support people across the Church in their faith journey."

As well as the new courses, the original study options which range from conversations in discipleship to equality, diversity and inclusion, will remain available to users.

It is hoped that the training will also help people to make a real impact in the communities they serve, as well as to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you have any specific questions you can contact the Church of Scotland Learning team by emailing Learning@churchofscotland.org.uk



**Donation Drop Off Point
St Stephen's Comely Bank Church**

10 Comely Bank Road EH4 1DW
(on the corner with East Fettes Avenue)

*Thursday 09:30 to 11:30 (term times)
Sunday 10:00 to 10:30*

families@comelybankchurch.com
07393 577 074



**PALMERSTON
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EDINBURGH



**Informal Church Service
At Sutherland Street
Community Centre**

Sunday 11th February at 3pm

Sunday 10th March at 3pm

Led by Members of the PPC Ministry Team

As you come into the church each Sunday, our Welcome Team greets you with a smile and gives you the Order of Service and any other information.

February Team— Margaret Richardson (TL), Linda Cunningham, Eileen Horne, Mary Redmond, John Duncan, Chris Fraser, Ailsa Gray, Ann Stewart

March Team - Roy Smart (TL) Heather Carmichael, Irene Sara, Ellie Gallagher, Catina Adams, Annie Edmond

If you would like to join a welcome team, please speak to me

Roy Smart

Flower Rota



Feb	Arranger	Delivery
4	Linda Cunningham	Linda Cunningham
11	Sandra Taylor	Sandra Taylor
18	Rachel Wilson	Rachel Wilson
25	Carol Hajducka	Carol Hajducka

March	Arranger	Delivery
3	Ailsa Gray	Beth Maclennan
10	Jean Scott	Annie Edmonds
17	Janet Fraser	Margaret Richardson
24	Sally Marshall	Sally Marshall
31	Flower Team	Fiona Gove

All about 'Up'

This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it" Psalms 118:24.

Wake Up! Decide to make it a good day.

Dress Up! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks in to the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7.

Listen Up! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his mouth protects his life..." Proverbs 13:3.

Stand Up! For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all..." Galatians 6:9-10.

Look Up! To the Lord. "I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me" Philippians 4:13.

Reach Up! For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths" Proverbs 3:5-6.

Lift Up! Your Prayers. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition....make your requests known to God" Philippians 4:6.



Final Thought - "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant" - Robert Louis Stevenson



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Worship at PPC

Morning Service
10.30am

*Our morning service is in person
and streamed live on Zoom.*

Evening Service
7pm

*Our Evening Service is in person
only.*

Keep in touch

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