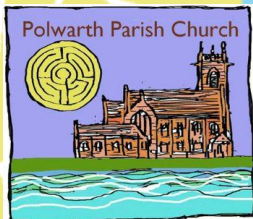


EDINBURGH CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021



In this edition:

- All Aboard the community canal boat!
- Ben's 100 Days
- Doing the Kiltwalk with EWA
- Activities for Lent
- And much more.....

NAVIGATING LIFE TOGETHER



Scottish charity People Know How and Polwarth Parish Church are delighted to announce the purchase of our All Aboard canal boat, which will nurture community cohesion and wellbeing in the community. Born from a common drive to bring opportunities for wellbeing to the community, our partnership began at the All Aboard project launch in June 2019 where we first announced our aims to purchase and run a canal boat docked at the Polwarth Pontoon.

Following the launch, we ran a pilot programme of consultations, events and activities, including hosting People Know How's projects for children and young people aboard canal boats. The pilot tested and demonstrated the importance of our aims to provide a space for wellbeing and community cohesion and the response we received from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Since the pilot we have been collaborating with other canal-based organisations such as Re-Union and Sorted to continue engaging with the community and running projects along the canal. In doing so we have been building our learning, listening to the community and fundraising towards the purchase of our own boat.

We are now delighted to announce that we have purchased our very own purpose-built canal boat. Once in the water, our canal boat will serve as a safe space to gather, socialise and improve wellbeing. The boat will also host People Know How's projects supporting children, young people, families and adults, while providing work or volunteering experience for those who support us to maintain the boat.

"Scottish Canals welcome the decision of the All Aboard project to purchase a boat for use of the local canal side community. Scotland's canal network plays an important part in connecting communities across the country and the latest announcement from the All Aboard project will create a stronger bond between the local community and the Union Canal. I look forward to working with the All Aboard project in the coming months and welcoming the new boat to the canal network."

Richard Millar, COO of Scottish Canals

The boat will launch in the spring, with socially distanced plans for running the boat outside of lockdown already in place. As we recover from this pandemic, our drive to support wellbeing and community cohesion is stronger than ever.

As New & Used Boat Builders begin construction of our All Aboard canal boat, we are now launching a campaign to raise funds to meet running costs once she is launched. These funds will ensure the boat's future on the canal, improving wellbeing in the community. Follow us on social media to track the boat's construction, delivery and launch in the water of the Union Canal. We're so grateful to all our donors, and as such will be adding each individual donor's name to a feature area in our new boat!

Text ALLABOARD to 70085 to donate £5 or donate via PayPal at <https://peopleknowhow.org/positive-transitions-service/all-aboard/>

BEN'S 100 DAYS

That's the name of school boy Ben Liddall's Twitter handle at twitter.com/bens100days. Ben, a pupil at Trinity Academy in Edinburgh, is running 1042 miles for Motor Neurone Disease. He explains in his own words:



'After a bike accident in July 2020, I decided I was going to run my first marathon within 4 weeks, I completed this in August 2020! It was by far the hardest thing I had even done but I had discovered a passion that I wanted to use to help people. I love my rugby and I decided that from January 1st 2021 to April 10th 2021 - the first 100 days of the new year - I would run 1042 miles in support of the My Name's Doddie Foundation! This is the distance between all 4 of the home nation rugby stadiums! So far, I am almost 600 miles down and over £5000 raised! I would really appreciate any

support - it's for a very worthy cause! You can donate on my JustGiving page, just search Ben Liddall on the JustGiving website, or follow the links through my instagram (@ben.liddall) or my twitter (@bens100days). Thank you!'

Doddie Weir OBE is one of rugby's most recognisable characters. In 2017 he revealed he was suffering from Motor Neurone Disease. A few months later he founded My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation to raise funds to aid research into the causes and potential cures for MND. Find out more at <https://www.mynames5doddie.co.uk/about>

SUPPORT EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID FOR VIRTUAL KILT WALK

A poster for 'Scotland's Virtual Kiltwalk' held from 23-25 April 2021. The top half features silhouettes of various people participating in different ways: a person on a bicycle, a person performing a handstand, a person on a scooter, a person on a bicycle with a pannier, and a person in a wheelchair. The bottom half features silhouettes of a person running, a person with a hula hoop, a person walking a dog, and a person walking. The text on the poster includes 'Support Edinburgh Women's Aid and change the lives of children and young people recovering from domestic abuse.', 'Edinburgh WOMEN'S AID', 'JOIN IN, GET FIT, MAKE A DIFFERENCE', and 'Email hello@edinwomensaid.co.uk for more information'.

Since Sir Tom Hunter took it on and gave it a makeover a few years ago, the Kiltwalk has become a life-saving event for many small Scottish Charities. It is an inspiring philanthropic model which enables communities across Scotland to literally vote with their feet for charities that they want to support. Sir Tom's Hunter Foundation then matches funds raised with a significant uplift – the uplift this year will be an additional 50%!

Edinburgh Women's Aid first took part in the Kiltwalk a couple of years ago. A brilliant team of EWA staff and friends plus corporate supporters walked between 5 – 24 miles each to raise funds to support our work. Last year, the Edinburgh Kiltwalk was cancelled and instead a virtual event was organised where participants were invited to choose their own challenge. EWA staff, board, local businesses and friends and family walked, cycled, scootered, ran and swam our way to raising funds to support our services

for children and young people! This year the Edinburgh Kiltwalk has again been replaced by a single virtual event taking place in April. The Virtual Kiltwalk is a fantastic and easy way to support a charity of your choice. If you don't know what charity to support, we would like to invite you to join us to be one of 100 people attempting to raise £100 each, to again support our work with children and young people over the next 12 months.

The increase in domestic abuse since the pandemic has been widely reported. Less well reported is what is happening to children who may have been in lockdown with an abuser. Edinburgh Women's Aid is currently operating a waiting list for its children's services. We aim to use funds raised by participants in this year's Kiltwalk to help us reduce that waiting list and provide much needed additional support to children and young people recovering from trauma.

If you are interested in helping us, please consider taking on a challenge. (It can be as tough or easy as you choose – last year someone took part in a sponsored silence!) To find out more, get in touch at hello@edinburghwomensaid.co.uk - our fundraiser Kate would love to talk to you. Both adults and children can take part - either on their own or as part of a family or a socially distanced team. Together we can make a life changing difference to children and young people who need our support!



ON DEMAND CHURCH PHONE SERVICE

The advertisement features a black background. On the left, the text 'on demand' is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To its right, 'by phone' is written in a light blue, cursive script. A gold-colored telephone handset is positioned on the right side of the image, with its cord extending towards the center. Below the main text, there is a white text box containing the following information: 'A cloud based telephone worship broadcast service. A service for your church from our church.' At the bottom of the white box, it says 'Provided by Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark'.

We know that more and more people are missing their weekly visit to church and for some, keeping up with internet broadcasts is simply not possible. Almost everyone has a telephone, however, and Greyfriars Parish Church in Lanark offers churches everywhere the ability to stream their services on a local phone line (local to you) - one way you can keep in touch with your community. The only cost to your church is the monthly fee of £5 for recorded services or, if you use YouTube Live to stream services, £7.50 for recorded services PLUS restreaming your YouTube Live or YouTube Premiere Videos. The cost of the calls are borne by the caller (as this is a local call, local geographic call charges will apply and will, in most cases, form part of any inclusive minutes or call packages). Payment is requested quarterly, in advance and you will be sent an invoice to enable you to make payment by cheque or bank transfer.

The process is simple. Just sign up and Greyfriars Parish Church will apply for a number on your behalf from their phone partners. Within 3 working days you will be issued with a username and password, along with your On Demand phone number. You will then be able to record your line's welcome message and upload an MP3 containing your service or reflection. That's it... your community can then dial in and listen to some words of hope and comfort from your church. If you sign up for this service your church is responsible for ensuring appropriate licensing is in place whenever you stream music on your phone line. Please note that words spoken in a reflection or prayer, as long as it is written by your minister or other member is unlikely to require any copyright permissions.

If you feel this service would be of use to your church and your community then we are pleased to support you. Should you have any questions, email to odbp@lanarkgreyfriars.com.

Testimonial from Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh:

“We have been using On Demand for a couple of months now. Although we broadcast a weekly service on You Tube, there are members of our congregation who don’t have access to the internet and have been delighted to be able to use this phone service. It is straightforward to set-up and Rev Bryan Kerr is extremely helpful if you have any questions.”

PRISON CHAPLAINCY

The pandemic has enforced changes for everyone, not least workplace chaplains. We continue our occasional spotlight on workplace chaplains around Edinburgh with a word from Gordon Pennykid DCS – Full Time Chaplain at HMP EDINBURGH.



Chaplaincy of many forms is often described as a “ministry of Hanging About”. As Chaplain to HMP Edinburgh this past year has felt like this more than ever. Whilst many agencies and support systems in prison suddenly stopped or were denied access, Prison Chaplains felt like the last man standing. This ministry of presence has not gone unnoticed by prisoners, nor officers and management. When locked up 23 ½ hrs a day a new or different face was a blessing. Just having someone to speak with or moan too was a blessing to many. Over Easter and Christmas, we visited every prisoner of any faith and none – bringing a Christian greeting. Putting ourselves (by choice) into

the perceived danger zone. Alongside the pastoral visiting our faces became well known on the In-Cell TV channel and we became overnight TV stars! Everyone in the prison recognised us and said hello! Covid hasn’t brought many blessings but this is one. Guys who wouldn’t be seen dead in the chapel on a Sunday morning, engaging and listening to the worship services. I’ve had many a conversation with our well known ‘big players’ about what I “was on about on Sunday morning”. Theologians might describe this aspect of ministry as Incarnational and remind us of how Jesus became man and came alongside – but for us it is simply seen as an honour and pleasure. Prison Chaplains are being valued by prisoner and staff alike as those who have been with them throughout this difficult time. Can I take this opportunity to invite you to remember us in prayer:

(Prisoners Week Prayer)

Lord you offer freedom to all people.
We pray for those who are held in prison.
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
Support with your love: prisoners, their families and friends,
prison staff, chaplains and those who care.
Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others,
especially victims of crime.
Help us to forgive one and other,
to act justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly together with Christ
In his strength and in his spirit,
Now and every day.
Amen

“Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them”
Hebrews 13:3

INTRODUCTION TO WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY

Have you been inspired by Gordon Pennykid's reflection on his work? If you want to know more about WPCS and you are interested in becoming a volunteer Chaplain, then



We're Recruiting...
Making a difference in Scotland's workplaces.

Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy
Wednesday 31st March 2021
from 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Email info@wpcscotland.co.uk to book a place, or on EventBrite

TRAIN TO BE A VOLUNTEER WORKPLACE CHAPLAIN

WORK PLACE CHAPLAINCY Scotland

The poster features a man and a woman in conversation, with a green background and a white cross icon.

take part in this introductory module which will help you to understand the structures of WPCS and where you might fit into the organisation. What is chaplaincy and what defines it from other arms of ministry and pastoral care? What is the theological understanding of the purpose and functions of chaplaincy? What are some of the skills required? Book on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-workplace-chaplaincy-tickets-137249473871>

LENT EVENTS



Newington Churches Together

Church of Scotland (Craigmillar Park, Reid Memorial, Priestfield, Mayfield Salisbury), City of Edinburgh Methodist church, St Columba's Catholic church, St Peter's Episcopalian church, King's Hall Community church, Salvation Army

Churches in Newington working together in the community

Discussion groups by Zoom for Lent 2021

On 22nd February 23 members of NCT began their weekly Lent meetings by Zoom, sharing Bible reading and discussion. They represent five different denominations and ten churches in the Newington area.

Participants are split into three groups of seven or eight.

Two of the groups, both on Monday evenings, are using the Faith and Worship study guides available online from John Birch - "Followers of Jesus" and "Living in the Light".
(<https://www.faithandworship.com/shop.htm#lent>)

A third group on Wednesday evenings is using Hilary Brand's "Not a Tame Lion", based on the works of CS Lewis. This was the chosen book for the NCT Lent groups in 2020, until the pandemic lockdown brought meeting in person to an abrupt end in week 3.

If anyone would like to join one of the groups online, please email annthansch@gmail.com. Even if there is only a week or two left, they would be very welcome; each week is quite self-contained.

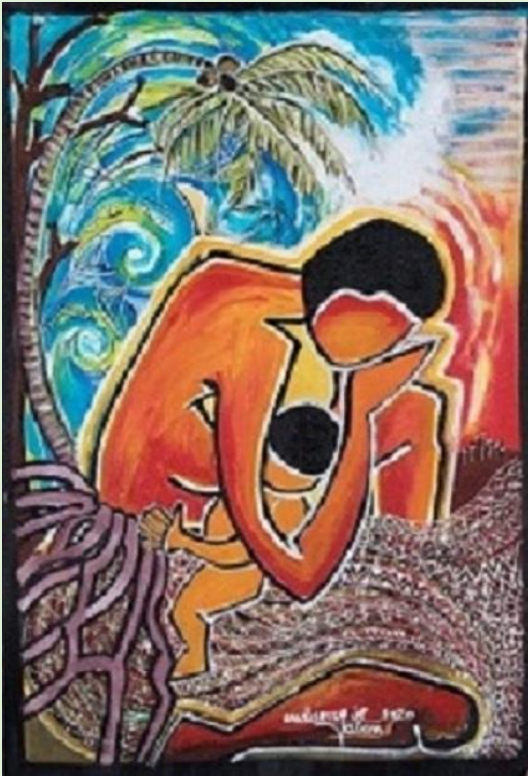
LENT SILENT PRAYER

During Lent there will be an opportunity to join in times of silent prayer via Zoom. This is an ecumenical opportunity to explore this spiritual practice. Anyone is welcome to join in; no previous experience is necessary. This follows a similar Advent series last December, which attracted members from various Christian traditions and other backgrounds.

Dates and time are: Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25 March at 8pm. Please email margaretannf@gmail.com or tony.bryer51@gmail.com to receive details of the Zoom link for joining, or with any questions you may have.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



On Friday 5th March at 2pm Augustine United Church, Edinburgh, are hosting a virtual service for World Day of Prayer 2021. Materials for 2021 have been written by the women of Vanuatu and the theme is *'Build on a strong foundation'*. There will be participation by women, men and young people from all over Scotland and it will be led by musicians of Augustine United Church.

Join using the Zoom link:

Webinar ID: 895 9398 3883

Passcode: 901656

Or phone 0131 4601196 and you will be asked for the above webinar ID and passcode. (There may be costs involved if you dial in with your phone.) For more information contact administrator@augustine.org.uk

A note on World Day of Prayer Artwork

The creator of the artwork on the left for World Day of Prayer is Juliette Pita, currently the most well-known artist in Vanuatu. She was born in 1964 on Erromango Island and is the third of eight children. The painting

titled Cyclone Pam II: shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree bends protectively over them. The palm tree is Juliette's favourite tree with strong roots able to withstand strong winds. The woman's skirt is modelled on the traditional clothing of Erromango. On the horizon you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.

CHRISTIAN AID EVENT

Join a panel discussion hosted by Christian Aid and Faith Impact Forum on this critical topical subject. This Zoom event will be held on Thursday, 18 March 2021 - 10:00 GMT. How does conflict and climate drive displacement? Speakers include: **Rev Dr Susan Brown**, Convener of the Faith impact Forum of the Church of Scotland. **Fiona Kendall**, a legal advisor with Mediterranean Hope, a refugee project created by the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI). She has a special interest in climate refugees. **Rev John McCulloch**, minister at St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church in Jerusalem. He is closely involved with the Palestinian community and their displacement issues. **Val Brown** brings insight from Christian Aid partners around the world that work with migratory populations and how climate change affects them. **Carol Finlay** is the Head of Congregational Engagement for Faith Impact Forum of the Church of Scotland. She will facilitate this session. To attend this event, please register your interest to faithimpact@churchofscotland.org.uk A Zoom code will be sent to you a few days before the meeting.



Migration, Refugees and Climate Change

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/migration-refugees-and-climate-change>

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT TRUST



EOTDT is a community organisation based in normal times at The Crannie, their community hub in Cranston Street, EH8. They have continued to offer on-line community gatherings and information throughout lockdown. They send out a regular e-newsletter and you can request to be put on their mailing list by contacting admin@eotdt.org or contacting via www.eotdt.org or www.facebook.com/TheCrannie. You can also write to their administration centre at: Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust (EOTDT), 14 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2PW. Here's news and information from EOTDT about what's on at the moment:

The Weekly Wednesday Digital Drop-in!

Our regular online Weekly Wednesday continues at 3pm each Wednesday, so you can have a relaxed chat with others. If you would like to join, contact Melina - email: melina@eotdt.org or phone 0786 465 4731 for the details.

Community Capacity & Digital Buddies projects - help is available

A reminder about our new Community Capacity project and Digital Buddies programmes - helping with:

- Transport, public transport, bikes or alternatives
- Outdoor games and picnic sets
- Shopping
- Clothing
- Digital inclusion/ devices / internet
- Supplies (e.g., masks) PPE

Contact Malin, the Project Worker, if you have difficulties accessing essentials, do not have a digital device or internet, or know someone who could use our support, at malin@eotdt.org or phone 07873 866 174. Also, she would love to hear from you if there is anything else that you would like to see happening in your community and as part of this project.

Hardship Fund for Creative Freelancers

Currently there are still funds in this hardship fund though it will close before the stated deadline date - 31 March 2021 - if they are used up so if you are a creative freelancer working in Scotland who is experiencing immediate financial hardship due to the loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic - apply soon! Details at: www.creativescotland.com.

Looking for A Job? LINKNet's mentoring Service can help

This service offers limitless opportunities to those who need one to one support to find a job, get a place at College/University or for personal development. Experienced and qualified mentors will support you to achieve your desired goal. They invite all minority ethnic people who require support to take advantage of this valuable service for free. The project is funded by the Scottish Government's Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund, Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund and the city of Edinburgh Council's Employability Third Party Grants Fund. For more information contact: Afaf tel: 0744 722 8686 or email: linknet2@linknetmentoring.com or volunteers@linknetmentoring.com

And here's a repeat of the details of some other organisations EOTDT published in their newsletter before Christmas that may still be of help over this lockdown period and beyond:

Breathing Space Scotland - For anyone living in Scotland over the age of 16 who is feeling low, anxious or worried. Contact: 0800 83 85 87. Opening hours - Weekdays: Monday-Thursday 6pm to 2am and Weekend: Friday 6pm-Monday 6am

Empty Kitchens, Full Hearts - Free daily meal packs delivered - 7 days a week. Contact: 07895 347 157.

Crisis Skylight - Food, clothes, essentials and gifts for homeless and vulnerable adults. Contact: 0131 209 7700 or edinburgh@crisis.org.uk

Red Cross - Food parcels and shopping for people who are self-isolating with no family/local support and under financial hardship. Contact: 0800 196 3651

Edinburgh Food Social - Food packs and meals delivered to adults, families, older people and young people. Contact: online I 07968 090530 or hello@foodforgoodedinburgh.org

'The Spark' - a free relationship counselling service provided by the Scottish Government. The Spark offer counselling to individuals, couples and families. During Covid-19 restrictions services are offered online or over the phone. For more information visit: <https://www.thespark.org.uk/relationship-support-parents-families/the-relationship-helpline/> or freephone: 0808 802 2088.

Scottish Welfare Fund - For people age 16+ on a low income/receiving benefits. Contact: 0131 529 5299 or welfarefundteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

Social Care Direct - anyone at risk due to illness, frailty, disability or concerns about safety. Contact: 0131 200 2324: 8.30am - 5pm, 8.30am - 3.55pm (Fri); 0800 731 6969: evenings & weekends or socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

ECT's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will take place in the form of an on-line meeting at 7pm on Thursday 11th March. All are welcome to attend, please email Imogen Gibson at the address below if you would like to take part and joining details will be sent out to you. The AGM will be followed by ECT's quarterly meeting.

In the meantime, a happy Easter to all when it comes!



Lenten Roses

Please email material for the ECT newsletter to imogen.gibson.ect@gmail.com
Visit <http://edinburghchurchestogether.org.uk> for information and resources.

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghChurchesTogether/>

Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ECTEdinburgh>

