

EDINBURGH CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 - 2022



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EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS 2021

NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 28 November 2021

3pm

Free

St Andrew Square

Everyone is welcome to come along and sing Christmas Carols with **St Columba's Choir** and the **Salvation Army Brass Band** at the annual Nativity Carol Concert.

The collection this year is for Bethany Christian Trust.



The Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery, Dr Derek Browning will give the Christmas message; Bishop John Armes brings prayers for the city and Archbishop Leo Cushley blesses the Nativity Scene.

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on Underbelly
event

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

ECT's annual service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 will take place in the evening of Monday 24th January 2022 at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. All are welcome. More details will be available nearer the time.

Please keep an eye on our social media sites and our website.

SAINT ANDREW DECLARATION

An online conference to celebrate the adoption of the Saint Andrew Declaration by the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church is to be held in Edinburgh on Saint Andrew's Day, 30th November. The Declaration states that each Church formally recognises one another as part of the one Church of Jesus Christ and it lays a firm foundation, through a series of Acknowledgements and Commitments, for our two Churches to work together in response to our common calling to minister to the whole people of Scotland. It was adopted overwhelmingly by both the General Assembly and the General Synod earlier this year.

The conference will hear from Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly. Speakers will reflect on how we might better educate candidates for ministry in both churches by doing that together and there will be inputs from people leading ecumenical projects involving both Churches in different parts of Scotland. The aim is to stimulate lively conversations and generate fresh ideas for ecumenical cooperation.

The conference is open to everyone who has an interest in Scottish ecumenism and members, clergy and others involved in ministry of any kind in both the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church are particularly encouraged to attend. A service to celebrate the Saint Andrew Declaration, during which it will be formally signed by the Primus and the Moderator, will be held in St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh at 4:30 pm on 30th November. The service is open to anyone who wishes to attend and will also be live streamed.

Participation in the conference is free and those wishing to take part should register at saintandrewdeclaration.wordpress.com



Celebrating The Saint Andrew Declaration

30 November, 2021

An online day conference and service to mark the adoption by the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church of the Saint Andrew Declaration. Register at saintandrewdeclaration.wordpress.com

FAIR FUNERALS JOIN THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Join Quaker Social Action in the Big Give Christmas Challenge – from 30 November to 7 December your donation to QSA can be doubled in this festive online fundraiser. Your gift will support practical action against poverty. Visit quakersocialaction.org.uk/biggive2021



SILENT PRAYER

Exploring Silent Prayer: you are welcome to join these sessions which will meet weekly in the Chapel at St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ on Tuesday afternoons, 3.30pm - 4.15pm. No previous experience of silent prayer is necessary, and there is no commitment to be present every week. For further information, contact Tony Bryer at tony.bryer51@gmail.com

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



Christmas can be a difficult time for many reasons: bereavement, loneliness, ill health, and general anxiety. Morningside Parish Church is once again holding a Blue Christmas service is for those who need a little peace and quiet at this time of year, singing the quieter carols, and recognising that sometimes it is all right not to feel all right about Christmas and its celebrations. The service will take place on Sunday 19th December at 3pm. Morningside Parish Church, Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 6BQ Please contact the church office to book in advance:
T:01314476745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

On Sunday 12th December, 7.30 pm there will be a Christmas Concert by Bel Canto at Holy Cross Scottish Episcopal Church, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5BS. Bel Canto is a small Edinburgh-based vocal ensemble performing unaccompanied sacred and secular music. To book contact the Rector at hce@gmail.com

Calton Consort will be performing on 11th December at Canongate Kirk, 153 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BN



Carols at Canongate, including
Chilcott: The Rose in the Middle of Winter
Britten: A Hymn to the Virgin
Poulenc: Four Christmas Motets
A Multitude of Voices:
a selection of songs by women composers

CALTON CONSORT

Conducted by Frikki Walker
7.30 pm Saturday 11th December
Canongate Kirk
tickets: £12 (£10 concession)

www.caltonconsort.org.uk
www.facebook.com/caltonconsort
[@Caltonconsort](https://twitter.com/Caltonconsort)



Renaissance

Saturday

A Charity Concert with
Dalkeith and Monktonhall

27th November

7.30pm

Brass Band

Entry by donation

Raising funds for the Pad Project and the Edinburgh Clothing Store

Reserve a space

tel. 0131 447 6745

email office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Edinburgh: Morningside Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity No. SCO34396

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL – NO MORE IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES



The climate crisis in South Sudan is polluting fragile water sources, killing crops and destroying homes. Combined with years of conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, it's forcing mums to make impossible choices for their children. Dirty water, or none at all? A morsel of food each, or a bigger portion for one? School fees, or materials to rebuild the family home? Adut was one mum forced to make an impossible choice. She had to give her children dirty water. She knew it wasn't safe, but she had no choice. Not anymore. Adut

now has access to a borehole near her home, installed by a Christian Aid partner. That means clean water for her children to drink and peace of mind for a loving mum. With clean water, nutritious food and ways to earn money, mums on the front line of the climate crisis like Adut won't have to make such impossible choices. Christian Aid is also using recently awarded Scottish Government funding (from the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund) for emergency cash grants, farming seeds, tools and fishing kits to families in South Sudan facing a food crisis because of the impact of flooding on their harvests. Through your gifts you could help families in South Sudan and around the world stand strong with more boreholes, farming support and the chance to set up a small business. Through your prayers you can reflect on your own choices and give courage to mums facing challenging ones. Through your actions you can make eco-friendly choices to reduce the climate-impact of our own Christmas celebrations.

Mums on the frontline of the climate crisis face impossible choices every day, but our decision to stand with them is an easy one. Stand with mums this Christmas.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>

CHRISTMAS AT SEA



Stella Maris is a Catholic charity supporting seafarers, fishers, and their families in the UK and around the world. The pandemic has made a tough life even harder for people working at sea.

When you and your family open your Christmas presents this year, and enjoy your Christmas meal, perhaps reflect for a moment on how they arrived at your home.

In most cases, the new electronic device, item of clothing, or toy you bought your child will have arrived at a port in the UK on board a containership that sailed from abroad. Likewise, many of the ingredients in your meal will have been transported the same way. Those ships are crewed by seafarers, many of whom endure hardship to deliver presents and food to you and your family. Seafarers face Christmas apart from their loved ones, so that yours will be special. Amid shortages and delays, supply chain chaos and a pandemic, seafarers are working harder than ever this year to ship goods here in time – to save your Christmas. You may be aware of the perfect storm of challenges facing the shipping industry this winter. The shortage of lorry drivers mean containers are backing up at ports, and there's no space for newly arrived cargo. Containers are often transferred to smaller ships instead, but that sparks delays, rising costs – and intense work for seafarers. For many of them, Christmas will just be another long and lonely shift on the ocean or in port. Some seafarers will spend a second consecutive Christmas away from home this year, such are the demands of the job in these pandemic-affected times. They won't see their children open presents or go to church on this Holy Day. They may not receive a single gift of their own. That's why this Christmas, our chaplains and ship visitors at Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) are redoubling our efforts to reach out to seafarers in ports. We will bring Christmas gifts and Wi-Fi connection to seafarers and ensure Mass is organised for them, where possible, at this special time. Such acts of kindness really matter. One of our chaplains handed out small gifts to a crew recently, who told him, "Thank you for still thinking of us even while this pandemic is going on." And a high-ranking industry official showed one of our chaplains a woolly hat he had received from Stella Maris on his first Christmas at sea, some 20 years ago. He said that gift had made his Christmas special – and he's cherished it ever since. A donation will help to provide gifts for seafarers, to organise Mass for them where possible, to enable Wi-Fi connection so they can call their family at Christmas, and to perform little acts of kindness that will make a huge difference for them. You can safely donate via the website www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate/



LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER - EDINBURGH EASTER PLAY

Passion plays are a wonderful way of telling the Gospel and over the past 10 years or so, there has been a resurgence of them especially in England which is great to see. In Scotland, we haven't had the same history of presenting these plays within the community but have seen a number of plays taking place in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Hamilton and Edinburgh in the past few years.

Ever since 2005, there has been some creative representation of the Easter story in the heart of Edinburgh with the exception of 2020 when the world was hit by coronavirus just before we were due to go live. We managed to pivot to online character studies in 2021 which you can still watch here - [The Edinburgh Passion 2021](#)

We are already planning next year's production and are delighted to be working towards a live production in Princes Street Gardens each Easter Saturday 2pm. The play is an open-air promenade production weaving round the gardens and is a community theatre production directed by Suzanne Lofthus of Cutting Edge Theatre.

Over the years we have produced a number of different versions of the story from a very traditional productions all the way through to modern interpretations. This coming year will be a reworking of the 2018 script which is a hybrid modern/traditional retelling of the story. Seen through the eyes of some of the key characters such as Jesus, Barabbas and Judas' mother, the fast-paced script lets us into their feelings and experiences of that time.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

We are also looking at creating some "wrap around" events over the Easter weekend and are looking for churches who will open their doors, inviting people to come in for a "service of silence". If you are interested, do please get in touch with us.

It's an incredible privilege to be able to tell the Easter story in the heart of our city but we need your help! We are always looking for cast, crew, volunteers and this year we need help with costumes and catering especially. Visit www.easterplay.org for more details of the play and how you can become involved. Please do spread the word. We have a video also that can be shown/sent to congregations - <https://youtu.be/7gEZjJCw6gY>

Rehearsals are every Wednesday night 7pm at Diadem, 537 Gorgie Road [corner of Chesser Avenue]. No experience necessary – just come along with your enthusiasm!

Please do help us continue to be able to present the Gospel for free in the heart of Edinburgh. Contact Suzanne on cuttingedge21@btinternet.com if you are interested in being involved.



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Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ECTEdinburgh>

