



St Martin of Tours
Diocese of Edinburgh Scottish Charity No: 011137

Living our faith in our community
through prayer, reflection and action



August September 2024

St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church
is part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion
www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk

Who are we?

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John's letter.

Church Weekend Reflections.

Towards the end of last month, 20 of us went away for a church weekend at Shepherds Dene Retreat house near Corbridge in Northumberland. Set in extensive grounds with beautiful gardens and wooded valleys, the Arts and Crafts building provided a wonderful environment in which we could relax. Despite threats of thunderstorms, the weather was kind to us and allowed us to make the most of the lovely surroundings, enjoying peace and quiet, discussion, fellowship and great food, all in equal measure!

The highlight of the weekend was a visit to The Auckland Project, the brainchild of Christian Philanthropist, Jonathan Ruffer which has seen the restoration of the former palace to the Prince Bishops of Durham, a miners art gallery, a gallery of Spanish art and a recently opened faith museum, curating 5000 years of faith in Great Britain and what faith means today. Ruffer was keen not just to preserve the heritage of Bishop Auckland Castle, but to make the project something relevant for today and owned by the people of Bishop Auckland. Each year, the project puts on weekly shows during August called Kynren, recounting the history of Northern England. 100s of local volunteers take part in the visual show, a kind of British Oberammergau, with battles, charging on horses, people dressed in period costume – an amazing spectacle which draws in thousands of visitors each year.

Undoubtedly there will be other reflections in this newsletter, but what struck me at Bishop Auckland was the fact that it was a place of two extremes: The Prince Bishops of Durham were rich and powerful: they raised their own armies and taxes and were not afraid to display that power; the throne room imitated that of any royal palace, and a coat of arms above the throne had both a sword and a bishop's staff. Yet many of the later bishops were able to use this influence to improve the lives of others, particularly those who were oppressed or discriminated against. When anti-semitism was rife in 1750s Bishop Richard Trevor supported a bill to remove the restrictions on Jews; he bought 12 Zurberans paintings of the 12 tribes of Israel, hung them in his dining room and invited politicians to dine in their presence so he could persuade them to back the bill.

When the miners were in a dispute with mine owners in the 1820s, the then bishop of Durham, Dr Westcott, brought owners and miners together to find a reconciliation. And then in the 1980s, as Margaret Thatcher destroyed what was left of the mining communities, Bishop David Jenkins (no stranger to St Martins) was an advocate for the miners, a vociferous opponent of the Tory Government's plans, gaining the trust of the mining communities and the title, 'The Pitmen's Bishop'.

Although the relationship between Bishops and the people of Durham has not always been smooth (in the strike of 1926, miners mistakenly threw someone into the river thinking he was the Bishop of Durham!), it was good to see at The Auckland Project, that many of the bishops had used their political influence for good in supporting local communities and causes. The mines are long gone, but the

regeneration of Bishop Auckland Castle has given the local people a renewed sense of identity and purpose.

This is also reflected in the new Faith Museum, where not only are there the most incredible religious items on display, but also personal descriptions of what faith means today in a multi-cultural society. Like the castle, it looks back into history, but in a way that helps understand the present and begin to shape the future.

It is perhaps a call for us to be proud of our Christian history and tradition, but not to always look back as if it was a time of perfection; rather to own it in a way that speaks to the communities in which we serve and begins to shape the world that lies ahead.

John

Art Project 2024.

Our Art Project this year is a mural themed around The Sea. Willing volunteers and budding artists are invited to help with the artwork at St Martin's every Monday 1000-1100. More details from Stuart Campbell.



See how the project is progressing.



Art Show 2024

Another year and another show. I'm sure you all know the drill by now but I'll repeat it all anyway.

Your help is vital for all the tasks that need done.....to distribute/put up posters; set up the display boards and art work; run the café during the week; make some home bakes to sell all week; supervise the show; talk to visitors; run the Coffee Morning on Saturday 31st; and then dismantle the show and help with collection of art by purchasers and exhibitors; put the church back to normal in readiness for Sunday morning service.

There is a task to suit all abilities so please think about volunteering at some point. Even if you come along to view the show and have a coffee & cake and a blether, it all counts.

We now only open from 12noon till 4pm so it's much less tiring and time consuming than previously. Please check the Rota at the back of the church to see when you can help.....then fill your name in the space.

The Preview evening on Sunday 25th August at 7pm is open to all the congregation. Please join us if you can.

Thank you. Lynn



Artwork on this poster is by Jay Carlyle

St Martin's Church Art Exhibition 2024

Monday 26th to Friday 30th Aug

~ 12noon to 4pm

Café with Home bakes

Saturday 31st Aug

~ 10am-12.30pm

Coffee Morning

and last chance to view the exhibition.

**St Martin's Community Resource Centre
232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh**

Admission Free

Scottish Charity Number SC011137

Flowers

I learned last week that the flower market where I buy flowers for the church, at wholesale cost, will be closing and relocating to Glasgow. This is the last surviving flower market in Edinburgh. It is really not feasible to purchase the fresh flowers we require in local florists or even supermarkets due to quantity (e.g. bunch of 25 carnations), cost and longevity.

Therefore, I intend to purchase a small range of silk/imitation flowers and greenery which I can rotate in similar displays as at present. Though I may not change them over as often.

If anyone would like to make a donation to the purchase of the imitation flowers, please place money in an envelope marked flowers and put in plate or hand direct to me, Lynn Dailly.

I hope that fresh flowers are still available as far as Harvest but cannot be sure of that at the moment.

Thank you everyone for your generous donations to the flower fund over many years.

Lynn Dailly

Festival Programme at St Michael's Church Slateford Road.

Wednesday 4 August	3.00pm	Beth Taylor(mezzo-soprano) and Brian Bannatyne-Scott (bass)
Saturday 17 August	4.00pm	Stuart Montgomery (organ)
Monday 19 August	7.30pm	Sungbin Cho (guitar)
Tuesday 20 August	7.30pm	Catriona Price and Joni Strugo (fiddle and Latin percussion duo)
Wednesday 21 August	7.30pm	David Mowie (piano)
Thursday August	7.30pm	Esther Swift (harp and voice)
Friday 23 August	7.30pm	Brass Tracks (brass quintet)
Saturday 24 August	7.30pm	The Simon Mercieca Band (jazz)
Sunday 25 August	9.00pm	Renaissance Group Corncrakes (unaccompanied choir)

No pre- booking or tickets, free entry with retiring collections.

Shepherd's Dene & The Auckland Project Mining Art Gallery

The scenery down the A68 was beautiful. Very green, in a myriad of shades, perhaps helped by our lack of sunshine, with a couple of amazing purple fields along the way too. Shepherd's Dene Retreat House is a big, old historic country house, initially seeming quite dark inside with dark wood paneling and heavily patterned wallpaper. Great once acclimatized. The bedrooms, which were upstairs, were more simply decorated, lighter and very comfortable.

The chapel, terrace room, dining room, bar room and sitting room are all on ground level plus an outdoor terrace leading to the garden. The extensive grounds are beautiful. Also, it is all so blissfully quiet and peaceful. Well maybe not so peaceful when we all joined in, in teams, to enjoy John's Quiz on Saturday evening. We had such fun. We were very well fed all weekend and the weather was amazing.

Our visit to the Auckland Project was incredible. The castle itself is packed full of interest, helped hugely by our guided tour. The décor, the paintings, the information and stories of the Bishops.....well there was just so much to take in! All the people manning the whole place are so enthusiastic, knowledgeable and helpful they really help to make it what it is. There is a large walled garden to walk around and right in front of the castle, a large lawn with the most beautifully shaped Walnut tree in its Centre. I really loved that tree but sadly didn't take a photograph! After lunch I was keen to visit the Mining Art Gallery and I was not disappointed. By the time I arrived there my brain was in information overload (actually I think that's it's default position these days). But I loved the paintings which evoked so well the darkness, the bravery and hardships as well as the community, the

camaraderie and talent of the miners. The artwork varied hugely, some very dark, very sombre with an air of desolation, others full of colour, movement and hope. And I was astounded even at the little notices beside each one. One talked about a miner ploughing the same route of several miles to and from work every day for 33 years and then more miles underground. That must take some strength of character. Another picture was of a blinkered pit pony and a miner. The miner's cap was pulled down and the shadows cast on his eyes made it appear as though he wore blinkers too. Beside that the script said that at one time there were 70,000 pit ponies in the mines and I immediately wondered where they all went! Did they live in the mines all their lives and if not where could they be kept? I still wonder. There was a painting of miners relaxing in a pub, laughing, playing dominoes and with their dogs (not whippets apparently?!) wandering amongst them. Then there was another, quite colourful one, of miners leaving the pit, crammed so closely together I felt as though I was caught in the crush myself. It was amazing and I want to go back.

Many thanks to John for organizing it all.

Lynn

PS I still don't like the A68 even if the scenery is beautiful!



**This is a photograph of a carving in grey marble from a fireplace in the castle.
And Marguerites growing in Shepherd's Dene Garden**



After our visit to the palace and our excellent packed lunch we, Peter, May and myself, decided to have a walk round the garden. It is beautifully laid out with a zig zag path down a steep hill. Steep hills and gardening don't go well together but they had managed to plant fruit, veg and flowers in this difficult terrain. It was very peaceful there with plenty of benches to sit and think. There is a magnificent greenhouse at the top of the garden with curved glass panels. These glass panels came from France, the only place that makes them. During COVID the produce was distributed among the local people. A truly lovely garden.

Liz Moir





Labyrinth at Shepherds Dean

Labyrinth Prayer Guide

Walking a labyrinth is like making a pilgrimage... It is a journey where you might think about loved ones, distractions or burdens on the way in, be open to the grace and love of God at the centre and return uplifted, blessed and renewed. Labyrinths are ancient spiritual pathways found across the world and embraced in Medieval times and since as a support for prayer. Today, labyrinths are again being created to offer a spiritual space for prayer and reflection providing a stilling space in a busy world. A labyrinth is different from a maze. A maze is full of dead -ends and tricks. A labyrinth has only one path that always leads to the centre... you cannot get lost..... Just stay on the path..... There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth... no set pace... just follow the path in your own time... Finger labyrinths can be used for prayerful reflection when it is not possible to walk a full-sized labyrinth. ...did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road... Luke 24:32

Praying with a Labyrinth

♦ Be still and gently pray: I place myself in your presence O Lord, my God. ♦ When you are ready... walk into the labyrinth or on a finger labyrinth slowly trace the path with a finger, use a finger on the hand that you do not write with, just let your thoughts come to the surface and let them flow... Jesus is with you every step of the way, you are never alone. You are always loved by God. ♦ When you reach the centre...consider your thoughts... ♦ ...stay in the centre for a while and spend some time in prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing. ♦ When you are ready... return along the same path... return gratefully, prayerfully ... ♦ As you exit the labyrinth give thanks and praise to God: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. ♦ If you keep a prayer journal you may like to write down words, symbols or phrases to acknowledge and remember this time of prayer.

...Walk humbly with your God... Micah 6:8 Labyrinth Prayer Guide Walking a labyrinth is like making a pilgrimage... It is a journey where you might think about loved ones,

Your labyrinth prayer time can be as open or as focused as you would like it to be. You might want to simply enter the labyrinth and walk with the Lord... or, before you enter the labyrinth, you might like to take time to: ◇ Read and reflect on a line or two from Scripture ◇ Hold a memory or a photo of a loved one you wish to pray for ◇ Consider an experience in your life where you are seeking healing or forgiveness ◇ Think about a key celebration in your life and walk a prayer of thanksgiving in the labyrinth. ... you will reveal the path of life to me, give me unbounded joy in Your presence... Psalm 16:1

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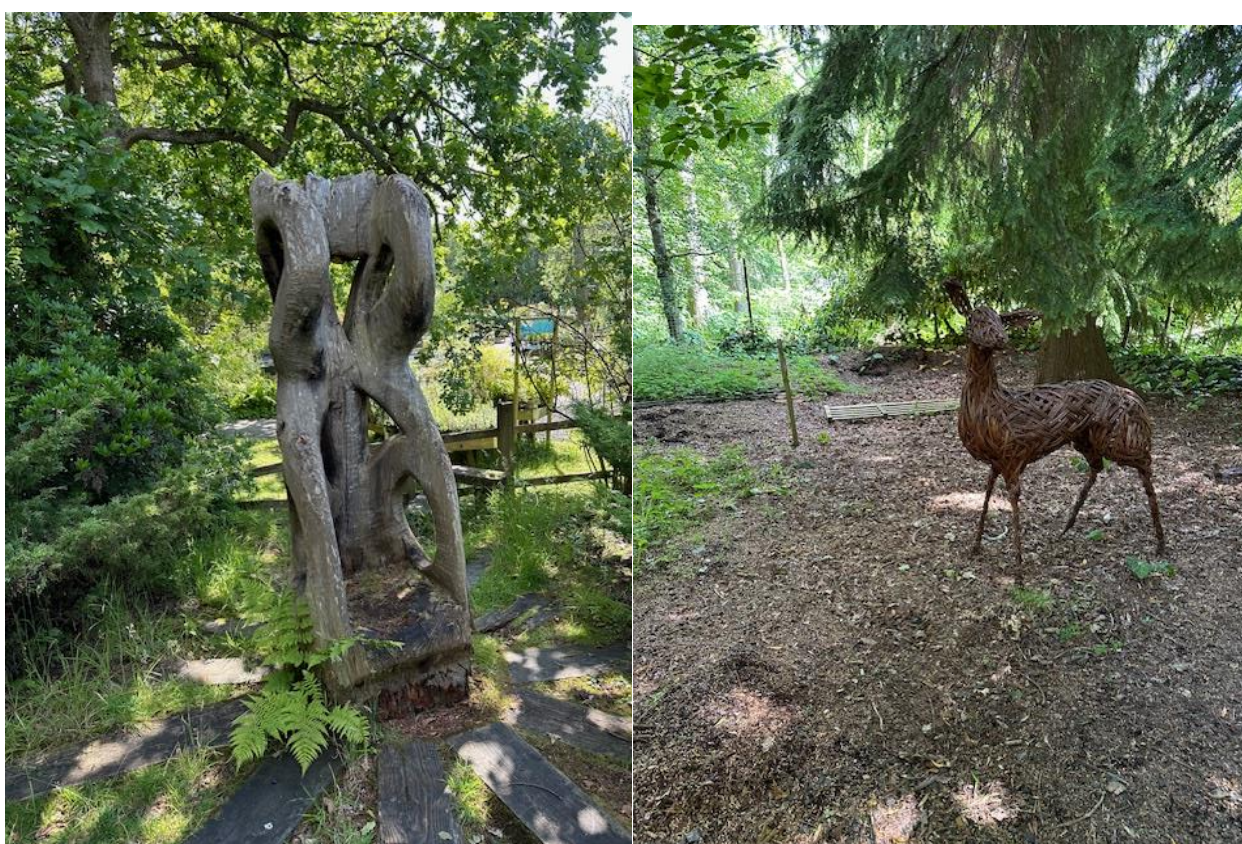


Eco Group recycling visit to New Hopetoun Gardens

You will all be familiar with the clearly labelled recycling boxes in church, thanks to much work over the years by Penny and Bob. However one thing we can't recycle locally is candle wax. Over the year we build up quite a bit of unburned candle wax – when the altar candles are changed, when the Ukraine prayer candle burns low (we are now on candle no. 3 since the start of the war....). Advent produces several barely consumed candles, and we have partially used tea lights from Advent and

other celebrations. Since we have so few baptisms and weddings, our beautiful Easter candle is hardly used outside the Easter season.

It all mounts up. Fortunately, the Recycled Candle Company, based in Exeter, which saves 40 tons of candle wax going to landfill every year, has a collection point at New Hopetoun Garden Centre, west of South Queensferry. Last year three of us took the St Martin's contribution there on an exploratory visit. It was a great discovery – pleasant and helpful staff, a wonderful collection of plants and trees, and a garden area where you can wander, sit, admire the views over the Forth. At that time we thought it would make a good day out for the eco-group.



Using various means of transport, 10 of us met at the Centre on a recent Tuesday afternoon. There was an outdoor art exhibition to enjoy as well as the extensive trays of plants, and collections of shrubs and trees. It was a beautiful afternoon, sunny and warm, ideal for strolling around and admiring the scenery. We all met up in the café for tea and cake, and a good blether before returning home.

As well as taking the church candle wax, we can also take any candle stumps or used tea lights you have at home. Any wax is fine, even if scented. Used tea lights, as long as there is still wax in the metal container, can be recycled. Unfortunately glass containers can't be recycled so if your used candle is in a glass, we can't take

that kind. You are welcome either to put the wax in the labelled box in the gallery upstairs, near the cupboard, or hand it to me or another member of the eco group.

Elizabeth South

Walking group

August 15th (Thursday) Cramond to Newhaven

September 21st (Saturday) Gullane Beach and nurdle hunt

October 12th (Thursday) West End to Botanics

November 7th (Thursday) Glasgow

More details of each walk will be given nearer the time

Community Art Project: Maroon Mile

Hearts FC are creating a community artwork for their new heritage project, Maroon Mile. They are looking for 20x20cm individual squares (needlework, crochet, mixed media) to create a large quilt, representing what Gorgie-Dalry means to the maker. Email Maroonmile@homplc.co.uk if interested.

Craft club

The craft group continues to meet in Monika & Sonia's lounge on Saturday afternoons 2.00 - 4.00. After a visit to St Martin's by Revd. Timothy Tunley, the Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers, we have been making balaclavas and beanie hats for Seafarers. Tim said that black was the best colour since they are often worn by security staff but any colour would be acceptable and the seafarers are always pleased to have the benefit of warm, woolly jumpers too – so if you're thinking of throwing out a jumper you no longer wear, please think of donating it for the seafarers. The craft group stops for tea, coffee and biscuits at 3.00 pm, and of course, we have a good natter.

Diana

Smalls for All

Smalls for All is a charity I have been supporting for a number of years and here is an extract from their latest newsletter:

“In my last update I told you about the success of our buy-to-give wish list following its launch in November with pants for women and girls. A way of making it easier and cheaper for people to donate pants, buy-to-give is a ‘shop’ on our website that allows people to buy pants from us [supplied by a wholesaler] to give/donate to Smalls directly.

“In January 2024 we also added an option for men and boys and I’m delighted to tell you that by the end of June, 12,996 pairs of pants had been bought in total through buy-to-give: 10,556 for women and girls and 2,440 for men and boys. Amazing figures that I’m beyond delighted with.

“As we’re coming up to our 14th birthday [on 10 August] we thought it would be great if we could celebrate it by reaching a goal of 14,000 pairs of pants by then. ...

“It’s lovely to take a moment to remember why we do this ...

“Tafika Youth Organisation is a community based volunteer organisation from rural northern Malawi. They operate in 500 villages and have created over 200 netball and football teams, using sport as a mechanism for behaviour change. However, the women and girls play in their day clothes and often have no underwear. Sports bras are unheard of. Smalls was able to help by providing 20 village netball teams with the underwear they need to be able to play in comfort.

“Michael James told us, ‘Tafika don’t just give things away, instead they ask teams to volunteer for other community activities as a quid pro quo. This is all about communities coming together and helping one another, and donations like this are an important catalyst for community volunteerism as well as solving a very basic need among young women and girls.

“Happy Baby Community as an organisation based in London. Rohan Ochera told us, ‘We support women seeking asylum in this country, who are pregnant or have young children. Many of them have been trafficked. One of the things we do for pregnant women, who usually have next to nothing, is send them a ‘hospital bag’ which includes some essential items that most of us take for granted.’ [Smalls] were glad to be able to help them, too.

“The difference you help us make:

“Since Smalls started in 2010 up to the end of June 2024, we’ve collected a staggering 2,239,819 items of underwear and distributed 2,205,419. *Pantastic* as these figures are, they can never be enough. So we’ll keep on doing all we can, with your help, to make a difference to everyone who reaches out to us.

“Thank you so much for continuing to support Smalls. Your help makes it possible for us to make sure all those wonderful donations reach the people who need them. It’s hugely appreciated by all at Smalls and more importantly by the people we support as I hope these snippets of feedback demonstrate.

“Wishing you the very best

“Maria”

www.smallsforall.org

Diana

Calendar: August September 2024

August 2024

Sun 4	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 10 Preacher: David Coleman
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Sun 11	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 11 Preacher: Eileen Thompson
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Sun 18	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 12 Preacher: Sarah Kilbey
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Sun 25	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Trinity 13 Preacher: John Vincent
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September 2024

Sun 1	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Creation tide 1 Preacher: Liz M Moir
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Sun 8	10.30am	Celebrating Communion – Creation tide 2
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Preacher: A. N. other

Sun 15 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Creation tide 3**
Preacher: A. N. other

Sun 22 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Harvest Festival**
Preacher: Rachel Farey

Sun 29 10.30am **Celebrating Communion - Creation tide 5**
Preacher: Sarah Kilbey



Seen in New Hopetoun Gardens