



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

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



April May 2025

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

Who are we?

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COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 12 April in St Martins, 10.30-12.30. Delicious home baking and a chance to chat with friends - please invite them to come! In aid of Eleanor's Orphanage in Liberia, which we have supported for many years. The orphanage gives care, education and training to children without any relatives to support them. **All welcome!**

Rectors letter

Spring is undoubtedly my favourite time of year as nature wakes up from its long winter slumber; the solitary daffodil in the front garden has made its annual appearance and the leaves of the three Flower Onions have appeared in the back garden, so Spring is definitely on its way.

In the Northern hemisphere, our liturgical cycle generally harmonises with nature as she imitates the resurrection with new life springing up around us; new life which brings a warmth to our lives. New life in nature echoes the Easter message: the New Life that Christ has won for us and his victory over sin and death. And yet it was a



victory that came out of vulnerability; In Christ he became human, suffered, died and only then, rose triumphant on Easter morning and so the very nature of God reflects the fragility of life, and the grace of God to transform its brokenness into something new and glorious.

Spring also assures us of the faithful love of God towards his creation and we are blessed that every year, our Creator God enriches our lives with natural beauty. Spring fills me with a renewed sense of faith and belief that God is truly with us. The Holy Week and Easter themes of vulnerability, new life, and God's profound love for all that he has created can also be applied to Creationtide.

Maybe we miss an opportunity by placing Creationtide in The Autumn; perhaps it's because it resonates with our long-standing celebration of Harvest we adopt it later in the year. Yet whereas Harvest is a thanksgiving for God's generosity, Creationtide while including elements of thanksgiving, has a primary focus of the precious nature of our eco system and a commitment to protecting that which God has created. I personally think Creationtide is better placed in Spring as it is a time when we can really observe the unique preciousness, beauty and fragility of new life.

Last Sunday, Karen and I went to The Hermitage of Braid for the first time, and as we were walking around Blackford Pond in the nature reserve, I saw some rat

traps strategically placed by the water and right on cue, a large rat sauntered along the bank past the trap (too smart to be caught by one of those) and then popped into a hole where two young rats peered out, anxious for her return. A mother rat trying to look after her vulnerable young, but the rat traps out to stop them from eating the eggs newly laid by the ducks, who also needed to protect their young. Spring certainly reminds us of the vulnerability of *all* life and the importance of protecting our precious world. I can't think of a better time for us to consider the themes of Creationtide and to renew our commitment to treating our world with compassion and care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal line underneath.

At Brian Kilbey's Funeral, 7 March, 2025

“Well, I don't suppose we'll see them again” said someone at St Columba's, as the family from Currie hastened away on their first visit. “They seemed very shy – especially the mother.” How wrong can you get? The Kilbeys and the Goulds soon got to know one another, and at least the Goulds can say what a valuable support knowing all the Kilbeys has been now for more than 50 years. Among other things, the support of Brian and my wife Sheila was particularly important as Sarah and I moved toward ordination to the non-stipendiary ministry in the rapidly changing church of the late 20th century. Although the Kilbeys moved on to this church some years ago, their contribution to St Columba's lives on in many ways. The most striking is the fact that when they returned from a stay in Rochester NY about 40 years ago, Brian suggested that what we really needed was a eucharist and discussion group at 7 am every Wednesday – a great time, when there is little else going on. There was much laughter, but, 40 years on, that group is still alive and well, and Brian himself was a regular attender until a few months ago.

Both Brian and I found music a strong draw to the church, and both of us were strong believers that science and religion are not enemies but can strongly support one another. If one is looking for conflict, what comes up first is usually Darwin's theory of evolution. That is the idea that we do not live in a stable world where all remains essentially constant, but in a world of continuing development. In an article published in the Jesuit journal, *Thinking Faith in*

2010, and then more fully in his book *Evolution*: Brian argues that we can think about God's creativity in a way that recognises and welcomes the full value of the theory of evolution and the insights that it offers. God can draw back from his creation so that it has the freedom to become itself. To do this is to embark on a vast gamble – anything might possibly happen, but this seems to have been an acceptable price for the Creator to pay for what we are told he wants: the response of an independent and free love.

Christianity demands that our love must do more than think – it must act. Professor Brian Kilbey was a distinguished scientist, elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in his mid-forties. He chose to be involved in genetic studies related to the disease malaria, which kills over 600,000 people a year, almost all in Africa and of which 75% are children. This is research clearly related to the teaching Jesus repeated most often: that all the people of the world, particularly the poorest, are our neighbours and need our love, care and concern.

Today, we struggle with a third choice – one that maintains that neither first-rate science nor the clear message of the New Testament is worth believing. Extensive scientific research very clearly teaches that our reckless behaviour is causing the climate to change in a way that will make life very bad or even impossible for everyone, particularly those in the poorer parts of the world, who have done the least to cause the problem. It is very worrying that many people choose to reject both concern for our world-wide neighbours and exceedingly well-established scientific research. How well this fits the words of our first reading*: “The time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but will turn from listening to truth and wander away to myths.” As we say farewell to Brian, let us give thanks that he has “finished the race and kept the faith”. May God go with him, and may none of us forget the shining example he has left for us.

*2 Timothy 4.1-8

Robert Gould

Evolution by Brian Kilbey

Even Darwin was worried that his theory of evolution would antagonise Christians because it seemed to cut God out of creation altogether and leave him with nothing to do!

In this book, Brian Kilbey provides the evidence for an evolutionary process which doesn't seem to need supernatural direction. But rather than interpreting this, as some have done, as pointing to the non-existence of God, he prefers to ask whether there may be good reasons why a very real God would refrain from directing the evolutionary process. Perhaps He had some more profound objective in mind, one that necessitated his withdrawal from the project's control? This may be bound up

with the difficulty of bringing into existence a creation with the complete freedom to love its Creator. This idea is explored along with several related issues, for example, Is God really as almighty as Christians believe, can He really do what He wants to do? Where does Jesus of Nazareth fit into the narrative of evolution? Did human disobedience bring about a break in our relationship with God and what is today's message of the Gospel in the light of what we know now about the history of life on earth?

Brian Kilbey, An Appreciation

Brian and Sarah came to St. Martin's in the Summer of 1996 when Sarah was appointed Team Priest to assist our then Rector, Bill Brockie. Brian with his lovely 'bass' singing voice soon became a welcome addition to the choir. Brian became more involved in life at St. Martin's and he eventually accepted an invitation to join the vestry and was an integral 'cog in the wheel' during the most recent interregnum being on the Interviewing Panel to appoint John as our new Priest. On a personal note, both Brian and Sarah have been good friends to Elizabeth and me, particularly when I was housebound recovering from a broken leg,

On March 7th, St. Martin's was full to capacity to bid farewell to Brian who sadly passed away peacefully on the 12th February after a long illness bravely borne. Brian was a much loved and respected friend to us all. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank Sarah, Anna, Mark, Rachel and Rebecca for sharing Brian with us and allowing him to be the man he was. Brian will be missed by all of us.

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory

BRIAN JOHN KILBEY 1/3/36 – 12/2/25

Roderick

Sarah read this poem at Brian's funeral

Atlas by U. A. Fanthorpe

There is a kind of love
called maintenance
Which stores the WD40 and
knows when to use it;

Which checks the
insurance, and doesn't
forget
The milkman; which
remembers to plant bulbs;

Which answers letters;
which knows the way
The money goes; which deals with dentists

And Road Fund Tax and meeting trains,
And postcards to the lonely, which upholds

The permanently rickety elaborate
Structures of living, which is Atlas.

The maintenance is the sensible side of love,
Which knows what time and weather are doing
To my brickwork; insulates my faulty wiring;
Laughs at my dryrotten jokes; remembers
My need for gloss and grouting; which keeps
My suspect edifice upright in air,
As Atlas did the sky.

From : Safe as Houses
Copyright: 1995, Peterloo Poets

Report on Synod 15th February 2025

This time all representatives were seated in their area groups. Our group Edinburgh South West had representatives from the Cathedral, St Salvador's, Balerno, Good Shepherd and Dalmahoy and, of course, St Martin's.

Bishop John announced that after 13 years as Bishop he will be retiring in August this year and will live in Balerno.

The Lent appeal this year will be West Bank, Christian, Muslim and Jewish children in crisis, to help them with their medical, psychological and education needs.

We heard about the Cathedral accounts, a Safeguarding report and the Mission and Ministry Committee.

The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Committee has invested in five areas, St David's Pilton, Jedburgh and Hawick, South Queensferry to build a Garden room for people to meet in a less formal setting.

St Hilda's Fund gave a grant of £2500 to Old St Paul's for them to repair their kitchen so they can continue to give a main meal lunch to 60-70 people regularly.

St Adrian's Gullane had £250 to engage a story teller to come to their summer fete, a way to bring the community together.

The Big Day will be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 10th May on the theme of Blessings on the Way! Each Church will be asked to produce a poster showing the Blessings received.

Calling a Bishop. The Bishops follow in the way of the Apostles and should be attentive to the Holy Spirit and seek God's will. The Edinburgh Preparatory Committee will be in charge of the process to elect a new Bishop. Dean Frances has been involved in this process in Glasgow Diocese.

Paul Williams spoke about Net Zero. The Net Zero team are working with Historic Scotland.

Ian Lawson gave a Report on Finance, expenses have gone up. Investments are doing well. The new registration of Charges (Parishes) requires 400 forms to be completed and sent to the Scottish Government.

Dean Frances gave her report, this is her 9th year as Dean. After a new Bishop is elected she intends to step down.

Bishop John formally closed the Synod for his last time.

Felicity Murdanaigum (Lay Representative)

Diocese of
EDINBURGH

THE BIG DAY

Blessings on The Way!

**SATURDAY
10 MAY
10:30-3:00**

Sharing and Celebrating Blessings and Gifts
Worship and Prayer Continuity and Change

edinburgh.anglican.org St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

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To make a poster we need to ask. How has St Martin's been blessed and in what way do we bring blessings to others and our community? Is there an image or words that reflect your thoughts.

Here is a list of some people's ideas. Please let us know if you think something is missing.

A church without walls and a door wide enough for everyone.

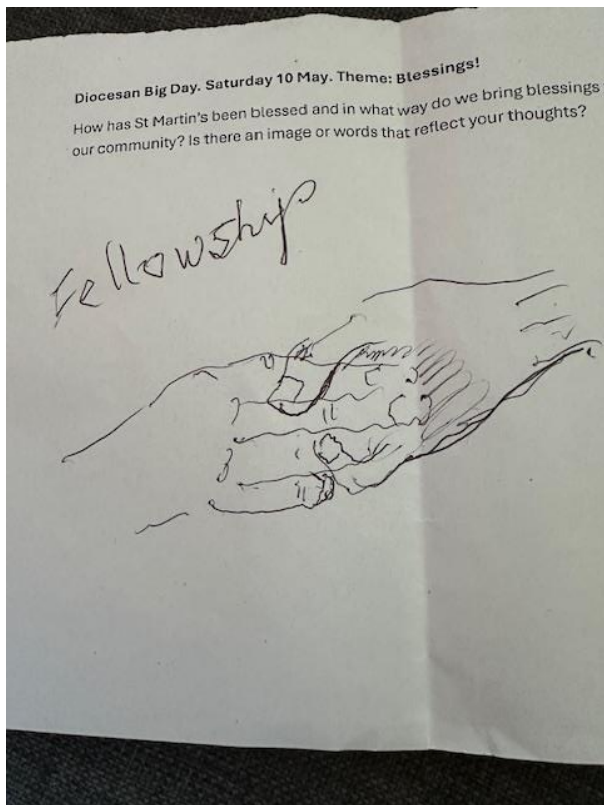
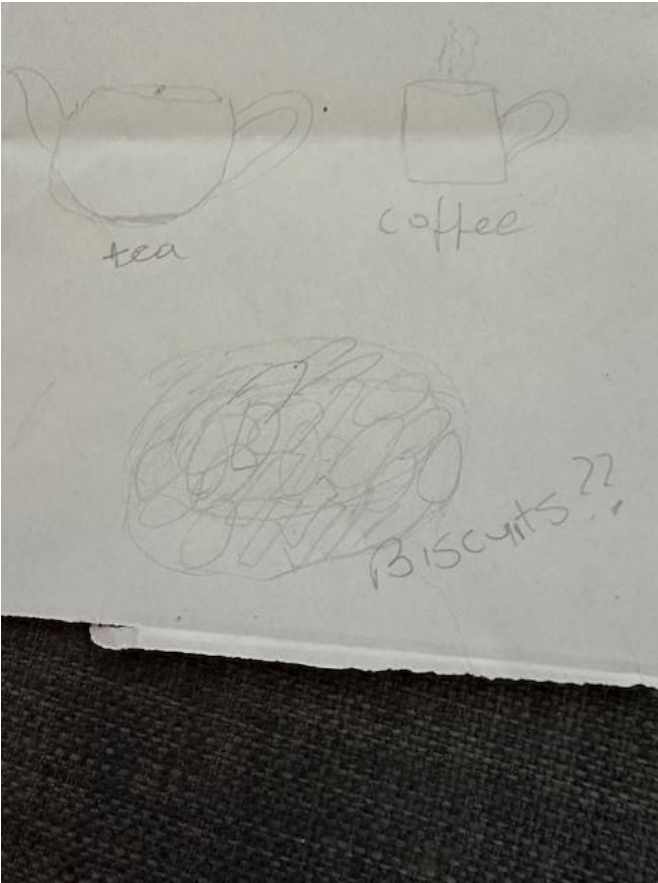
A building with a roof (by someone who remembers the old building which was falling apart.)

Friendship with everyone.

Advent angles

Meeting parents and carers from all over the world and their children at Little Martin's Toddler Group.

Friendship and hospitality



Welcoming, friendly, helpful.

We have been blessed by having John (Vincent) as our priest. People from the community are glad to use our building. That of blessing is to bless----- Diocesan Big Day Blessings.
Love and Joy

Art Festival, giraffe, our clergy, flowers and walks.
Quiet Space, our friends at St Michael's and our ecumenical contacts.



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

Thoughts for Easter by Canon Bill Brockie

I have just come back from spending an hour with some of the students at St Nicholas School in Gorgie.

I was asked about why I follow Jesus and want to be a Christian. I wanted my answer to be real - not just clever or easy words. This is something like what came out.

I asked my questioner did he like football and what would he do if he saw Gilles Rousset or John Robertson or Stephano Salvatori playing football in the playground. One of the others answered, quick as a flash: 'He'd try to copy them.'

And it's just as simple and as complicated as that. It seems to me that Jesus is real. For me he is not "gentle Jesus, meek and mild". He is a man with a vision of what the world could and should be, a world as it can be and hopefully as it will be.

To achieve this vision he had to challenge the entrenched system of political, religious and social establishments. He wanted to open up systems that excluded; to reform laws that exploited and to reconcile relationships that demean people.

When I was younger I built kits of railway engines. I'd sit and look at plans for ages - it seemed as though the bits would never go together. Then suddenly a bit clicked, then others, and soon it all came together. That is my Jesus experience.

At the heart of it is death and a new life. Easter says the following of Jesus is not smooth, is not success, is not my victory; but that the vision, despite everything, is correct. Light does break through darkness. Love can melt hate. The closed can be opened. Life is stronger than death.

Lent Group. 1030 at Gorgie Church and Saltyard

The Lent Group has been following the Diocesan Lent Course, *Christ Has No Body But Ours*. It has been led by John Vincent, Janet Spence (St Mary's Cathedral) and Lisa Clarke (GAPP)

The Prayer used at the start of each session is:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks with
compassion on this world,
Christ has no body but yours.

At the end:

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And in my departing.
Amen.

The sessions were well attended and I think it was a good time to share thoughts in an ecumenical group.

This year's Bishop's Lent Appeal is for Abraham's Children in Crisis (ACIC), a small charity working in the Holy Land supporting children living in extreme poverty, sometimes without parental care, often in areas of ongoing violence. ACIC seeks to care for their education, health and welfare. It is dedicated to helping children solely on the basis of need, not the faith of the child. Donations can be left in the marked collection bowl at the back of church or via Lynn Dailly



This design appeared on my window from drips running down. We are looking for the best caption – pay £1 and have a go. Proceeds towards Eleanor’s Orphanage

Diana

Eco Group

Good News

I am a member of Springwell Golden voices and we meet every Thursday at Craiglochard Church. I noticed their Spring magazine, The Steeple, had an article about blister packs. Blister packs can now be taken to Boots at The Gyle, Princes Street or Shandwick Place. I checked out the Boots on Princes Street and found the recycling box on the upstairs floor near the Pharmacy.



I visited the Eric Liddell Centre in Morningside and they have a collection point for old laptops, phones or iPads (and all cables for them) to be collected by Edinburgh Remakery to repair and reuse these items where possible, or recycle them responsibly, thus saving them from landfill.

Felicity



Tom wonders if anyone would like to take part?

Westerhailes Fun Run / Walk is being held on **Sat 7 June 2025 at 11am** Start / Fin

Distance 5K

Address

Clovenstone Community Centre , 54 Clovenstone Park, Edinburgh, EH14 3EY

Tele 0131 453 4561

Register on-line, or on the day.

Walking Group

Peter organized a meeting which was held on Saturday 5th April at St Michael's coffee morning, to discuss the walks.

We had a fruitful meeting while enjoying being with walking group members from St Michael's.

St Martin's Stroller Walks for 2025

Tuesday 10th June Glentress Forest Walk, Peebles

Thursday 17th July Anstruther (Jim's caravan near Cellardyke)

Saturday 9th August Newhailes House and Gardens

Saturday 13th September West End to Botanics

Saturday 11th October Ratho

Saturday 1st November Little France Park

A walk to Lauriston Castle and back by Corstorphine Hill



Chinese Garden



Corstorphine Hill Tower erected in 1871



I expect this tree was blown over by Storm Eowyn.

This walk starts on the new Dalry Community Park walkway and then joins the Roseburn path (old railway) to Craigleith Shopping centre, a useful stop on the way before taking the left fork on the path to Davidson Mains. There is a right turn on Cramond Road South to reach the entrance to Lauriston Castle. Fine views of Fife and beautiful grounds to wander round including a Japanese garden, wonderful when the cherry blossom is out. After a visit to the café the return walk goes through Davidson Mains Park to reach Queensferry Road and then cross over to enter the grounds round Corstorphine Hill.

Felicity

The craft club

The craft club continues to meet at Monika's and Sonia's on Saturday afternoons, 2pm to 4 pm, with refreshments at 3pm.

Diana

Calendar: April May 2025

April 2025

Sun 6 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Preacher Eileen Thompson

Sun 13 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Palm Sunday**
Preacher: John Vincent

Thursday 17 Maundy Thursday

Friday 18 Good Friday

Sun 20 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Easter Sunday**
Preacher: John Vincent

Sun 27 10.30am **Celebrating Communion – Low Sunday**
Preacher: John Vincent

May

Sun 4 10.30am **Celebrating Communion –**
Preacher: Sarah Kilbey

Saturday 10.30 am to 3pm The Big Day at the Cathedral

Sun 11 10.30am **Celebrating Communion –**
Preacher:

Sun 18 10.30am **Celebrating Communion –**
Preacher:

Sun 25 10.30am **Celebrating Communion –**

Preacher:

The bench is back

