

The Outlook
magazine of Inverleith St Serf's
Church

November 2023

Kirk Session update pp3-7



Ordination of elders on October 8. From left to right: Helen Hannan (Joint Session Clerk), Carol Mordaunt, The Rev Ian Alexander (Interim Moderator), Donna Flouraud, Sandy Pratt (Joint Session Clerk)

Inverleith St Serf's Contacts

**Locum Minister
In Vacancy**

The Rev Dorothy U Anderson

Joint Session Clerks

Helen Hannan
Sandy Pratt

Finance Convener

Charlie Sharp

Roll Keeper

Peter Hannan

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Next Issue

Copy for the December issue of *The Outlook* should be with the editor no later than Wednesday, November 16. The distribution date will be Sunday, November 26.

This month's cover: see pp3-7

www.inverleithsaintserfs.org.uk Scottish charity No: SC015442

Two new elders join Kirk Session

On October 8 Donna Flouraud and Carol Mordaunt were ordained as elders to our Kirk Session. They introduce themselves to you in the following article. A full list of our Session is on page 7

Donna writes

A large, and significant, part of my life has involved the church and community of Inverleith St Serf's. I was christened at St Serf's Church and have many happy memories of Sunday School, Bible Study and later helping with the creche. I also enjoyed the combined services with Wardie and Inverleith churches during the summer.

As an adult, I became a member of the church and participated in



Donna, Adrien and Emily on Emily's first day at school this August

activities such as Christian Aid collections, taking patients to the chaplaincy at the Western General Hospital and fundraising events such as coffee mornings and Christmas/Summer Fairs. I always appreciated the community spirit and support from both the congregation and the parish, which has been enhanced by the union with Inverleith Church.

Other joyful personal memories of the church include my wedding to Adrien and our daughter, Emily's christening. I am pleased that the church has also become an important part of Emily's life. She revelled in the care of the leaders at the Pram Service and she is now a regular at the Early Birds service, which she adores. I am looking forward to my new role as an elder and hope that I will be able to support the minister and other elders in the work and management of the church.



Carol and her daughter, Sophie, on holiday this summer

Carol writes

Helen Hannan approached me early in the summer to ask me to become an elder at Inverleith St Serf's Church. I felt very honoured to be asked, although in truth the position seemed quite daunting to me.

I am a very busy wife, Mum and I also work full time in a secondary school. However, given that my Dad recently retired his eldership in Auchterarder Parish Church due to poor health, I feel that it now seems the right time for me to continue my family's commitment to the church and the work of God. Since a young age I have been involved in the church through Sunday School, Bible Class and latterly I joined the church choir. I was a member at Auchterarder Parish Church until 6 years ago when I moved my membership to Inverleith St Serf's.

Since joining Inverleith St Serf's I have been extremely overwhelmed by the warm support I have received. When Sophie was a baby I attended the Pram Service, both "Margarets" and Brenda had a whole repertoire of invaluable advice given their vast experience of working with young babies and children. I found the monthly services so therapeutic, and I really enjoyed the informal way of worship without worrying about the noise Sophie might make!

We also attended the Toddler Group where many of the members of church help. Again, this was such a welcoming, supportive environment for us, and I met many friends through attending each week.

The biggest change in my life has undoubtedly been Motherhood.

Before having Sophie I had a very demanding job as a Deputy Headteacher and at the same time I gained my Headship qualification. I devoted most of my time and energy to work.

At age 41 I found out we were having a baby girl and we felt truly blessed; our prayers had been answered. I dreamed of becoming a mother for so long and whilst I felt prepared in many ways, I certainly wasn't prepared for the anxiety I felt, and still do, as she transitions through the years.

My faith gives me strength and the inner reserve to manage these emotions. However, being able to talk to people at church who I know have our best interests at heart are equally as valuable.

I will endeavour to do the very best I can in my position as elder at Inverleith St Serf's and I feel truly privileged to be part of such a warm and compassionate community.



**From left to right:
Carol and Sophie;
The Rev Ian Alexander, Interim Moderator; Donna and
Emily**

Our Kirk Session

A quote from the Kirk's Law Department: *The Kirk Session is responsible for implementing the instructions of the Church's General Assembly and ensuring that their congregations adhere to them. In the terms of secular law, the Elders are Trustees, appointing, managing, resourcing, and supporting sufficient numbers of suitable personnel to run the services they wish to provide. .*

But who is on our Kirk Session?

Interim Moderator

The Rev Ian Alexander

Joint Session Clerks

Helen Hannan

Sandy Pratt

Elders

Margaret Brown

Susan Brown

John Colquhoun

Fiona Davies

Anne Fallow

Niall Flannigan

Donna Flouraud

Peter Hannan (Roll-keeper)

Gordon Hughes

Alison McCallum

Hugh McMichael

Margaret McMichael

Dorothy Millar

Martin Millar

Jim Moir

Carol Mordaunt

Kirsten Mutch

Elaine O'Neill

Lorna Pratt

James Robertson

Allan Shaw

Wendy Stirling

Drew Walker

Kate Walker

Margaret Wilkinson

Ross Wilkinson

Charles Sharp, our Finance
Convener, also attends Kirk Session

There will shortly be a gallery of photos of the Kirk Session in the Church Centre

Worship in November

The Rev Dorothy U Anderson will conduct the services in the sanctuary at 10.30am

Everyone is welcome

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 5 | 10.30am worship in sanctuary
Fresh Start collection of household goods |
| November 6 | 10.30am Pram Service |
| November 12 | 10.30am as usual Remembrance Sunday service |
| November 15 | 14.00pm Afternoon Communion |
| November 19 | 9.30am Early Birds worship in the Small Hall
10.30am worship in sanctuary |
| November 26 | 10.30am worship in sanctuary |



Remembrance Sunday
November 12 at **10.30**

Foodbank during Advent

The Granton Foodbank collections will continue as normal during the season of Advent. Specific items with a Christmas theme will be very welcome, such as chocolate selection boxes, packets of sweets, boxes or tins of biscuits/shortbread, sultana/cherry cakes, tinned custard and fruit, trifle sponges, as well as the usual donations of tinned meats, coffee, tea and diluting drinks.

Please note that no items should contain alcohol, so no Christmas puddings but other puddings will be acceptable.

Seasonal services - cut out and keep

- December 3** 10.30am charity collection of gifts for children and young people (Circle) - see p14
3.00pm Time to Remember service in the sanctuary (see below)
- December 17** 10.30am Lessons and carols
6.30pm Carols with Granton Parish Church at Inverleith St Serf's
- December 24** 10.30am Sunday worship
6.00pm Family Service
11.30pm Watchnight Service

A Time to Remember Service ***Sunday December 3 at 3pm***

This short reflective service of worship offers a quiet space for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one over recent times. All are welcome to join us in this service.

Refreshments will be served in the Small Hall thereafter.

Dorothy Millar
Pastoral Care Convener



Congregational Christmas Cards - save paper!

The Eco Group is going to try out a Christmas card scheme which will involve those members wishing to take part sending one **Christmas card to the whole congregation**. These will then be displayed on the boards at the back of the sanctuary. This scheme will save paper and postage. It is suggested that those taking part in the scheme could make a donation to their chosen charity directly. Further information will appear in next month's issue of *The Outlook*.

Church Family

Marriage

'The joy of love cannot be extinguished. It arises from God and flows to each of us'

Verity Powell and Tom Leeman

Deaths

'There is nothing in death or life, in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord'

Mrs Rae Ellis

Mrs Rosemary Woodroffe

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Pastoral arrangements

Please contact Dorothy Millar regarding pastoral issues such as illness. The local undertakers are aware of arrangements if a member dies.

From the Roll Keeper



1. As the Roll-Keeper for Inverleith St Serf's, I remind you that I maintain the membership roll containing the names and addresses of all current members

and associates, a requirement of the Church of Scotland. Inverleith St Serf's also maintains a database giving contact details of those who receive their copy of *The Outlook* by email and another for those who have the magazine posted to them. You may also have given your email address and/or telephone number to office bearers for such purposes as duty teams, coffee rota, freewill offering, gift aid and flower list, to help with general communication within Inverleith St Serf's or as your preferred method of communication.

Inverleith St Serf's holds this information under the General Data Protection Regulation of 25 May 2018 and is committed to protecting people's privacy and safeguarding their personal data. It holds, processes and uses the information provided to it for internal Church use and related matters only and will only keep the data for as long as necessary. It is never passed on to third parties.

2. In connection with the keeping of the roll I would be grateful if members/associates inform me as soon as possible of any changes to their personal data to ensure that records are kept up-to-date and to aid internal communication.

Peter Hannan
Roll-keeper

Early Birds Round Up

The next Early Birds service is on **Sunday November 19 at 9.30am** in the Small Hall.

In August the Early Birds theme was following Jesus as a disciple and a friend. Then in September the focus was on the Fruits of the Spirit.



Early Birds enjoying post-worship activities



Early Birds - learning about God's wonderful gifts is fun

On October 1 the Early Birds families joined the main congregation for the Harvest service and participated in bringing gifts for the Granton Foodbank. After the first part of the service, the families left for the Small Hall. The photographs show some of the Early Birds in the hall concentrating on their Harvest crafts and snacks.

Early Birds is an informal service, particularly relevant to younger families, but all are most welcome.

Perhaps you will join the Early Birds on November 19!

The Early Birds Team

Christmas Toys—December 3

Each year, Christmas gifts for children and teenagers are donated to local families through Circle, a charity based in Pilton. As you may know, our team has worked with Circle for many years to ensure that children and teenagers get a gift at Christmas. Circle (<https://circle.scot/>) supports local families who face exclusion due to social injustice, poverty and health inequalities.



If you wish to support this work, please bring a gift to the Church Service on **Sunday December 3 at 10.30 am**. Families, if they wish, can bring a gift to Early Birds on Sunday November 19 or to Pram Service on Monday December 4.

This year we have decided, in discussion with Circle, to ask you to bring the toys **unwrapped**, so that parents can be more involved in choosing a gift for their child. We are also asking that you give wrapping paper and a tag along with your gift. (If, however, you prefer to wrap the gift, that will be fine too. If you do wrap the gift, please remember to attach a tag indicating whether your gift is for a boy or a girl, and the relevant age).

Last year some members of the congregation wanted to make sure that teenagers were not overlooked and asked about a suitable Christmas gift for a teenager. One option would be to purchase a gift voucher for a high street store.

Members of the Early Birds and Pram Service team will be in church to receive your gifts. There will be a box for toy collection at Early Birds and Pram Service.

Early Birds and Pram Service Team

Guild news



Look forward in faith New Wine, New Wineskins

Our opening meetings have been well attended. In the following weeks we look forward to

October 31 Our Guild project for the year Kazunzu Village of Hope

November 14 New theory New Garden with Pam Martin

November 28 Ecumenical journeying to Sudan with The Rev Ian Alexander

We are still collecting milk bottle tops, stamps and loose silver, so do bring them along.

Thank you

Kilombero Rice Challenge

Thank you to everyone who bought a bag – or several – of rice on Harvest Sunday. All 90kgs were sold with ease. The Certificate of Achievement is on display on the Eco Group Notice Board.



As well as being grateful for your support for a Malawian farmer and the education of a child, we hope you are enjoying the rice. We may repeat the Rice Challenge next year, but would like to know your thoughts before we make plans. You can email me on DAnderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thanks too to everyone who supported this event in any way. £470 plus Gift Aid was raised.

The Eco Group

The Bug Hotel

We all probably think of Britain as a country of nature lovers – so it is surprising to learn that Britain is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. The most recent ‘State of Nature Report’ published by the Government in September makes troubling reading. Some of the bare facts presented were:

- The number of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has, on average, fallen by 19% in the UK since 1970.
- The UK distributions of 4,979 invertebrate species have on average decreased by 13% since 1970. Stronger declines were seen in some insect groups which provide key ecosystem services such as pollination (average 18% decrease in species’ distributions) and pest control (34% decrease).
- Since 1970, the distributions of 54% of flowering plant species and 59% of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have decreased across Great Britain.



So, we need to do what we can to help struggling species survive. With that in mind the Eco Group is going to help the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides to build a bug hotel in the wild corner of the

church garden, and we would like your help. This will benefit pollinators and other invertebrates, and it will also offer habitats to small creatures finding it increasingly difficult to cope with our changing climate. We know that the web of life is interconnected, so whatever we can do to help one species will inevitably help others too.

Our bug hotel will probably look something like the pictures on p16.

Items needed—how you can help

The structure will be made from old pallets, and the spaces will be filled with all sorts of natural items, providing crevices, hidey-holes and nesting materials. This is where you come in! Could you please keep for us old garden canes, wood shavings, hay and straw, raw sheep's wool, fir cones and pine cones, ventilation bricks, small branches and blocks of wood, thin bendy twigs, terracotta pots or shards of broken pots, corrugated cardboard which can be rolled up and put into a drainage pipe; ideally we would also like to give our hotel a 'green roof' so any low-growing ground-cover flowering plants like sedums to provide nectar for insects, or some rolls of turf would also be helpful.

At the moment we are trying to source some free used pallets, so if, you can help with that too, we'd love to hear from you.

We'll let you know when we are ready to build – so keep an eye on the Eco Board in the entrance hall of the Church Centre.

*The Eco Group
Dorothy, Matthew, Gordon, Fiona, Anne and Pam*

<p style="text-align: center;">Pram Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.30am.</p>	 <p>Inverleith St Serf's Church Pram Service</p> <p>First Monday of each month during school term 10:30am</p> <p>Everyone welcome!</p> <p>Fun, free and friendly service suitable for babies and children up to School age. Learning through stories, songs and arts and crafts</p>
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Coffee House

Friday November 10
in the Church Centre
Anytime from 10.00-11.45am



All welcome to come for a cup of coffee or tea, a treat and a chat with friends or arrange to meet friends for a social morning We look forward to seeing everyone on November 10.

Next coffee house - December 8.

Nostalgia Café meets on
Thursday November 30
at 2pm.
All welcome



Let us pray ...

God of peace,
We trust that Your vision for the world is still there
behind all the challenges of our lives.



We come remembering that even in the darkest of days,
Your flame of hope and new life flickers
drawing us on to find the good
and to illuminate the world with Your Gospel of love.

Help us to find You in the smallest of things
and the most ordinary of our experiences.
For You are the great source of our being
and the power that sustains us through Your Holy Spirit.

When we search hard for You,
we may miss Your presence in the everyday -
so, help us to look out for You -
in the face of friend and stranger,
in the wonder and beauty of our world,
in the complexity of design
in the creativity of artist and scientist.

God of the cross and the empty tomb,
God of the road to Emmaus
and the breakfast on the shore.
You have shown us in Jesus the way that is beyond death,
so hold us in the faith of Your future.

Help us to rest in the confidence of new light and life,
to trust that those we have loved and lost have returned to You,
and that our own walk is the way home
where You wait for us in the mystery of eternal life.

May our prayers rise to You like incense,
God our maker, our saviour and sustainer. **Amen**

St Serf's Players
Proudly Present

Hansel & Gretel 75

A pantomime
by Norman Robbins

Supported by The Trinity Theatre Company

29th Nov - 1st Dec 2023 at 7.30pm
2nd Dec 2023 at 2.00pm & 6.30pm

Inverleith St Serf's Church Centre
Clark Road, EH5 3BD

Adults £10, U18 £5
Family £25 (2A + 2C)

Tickets available online at www.stserfsplayers.org.uk

• At the venue prior to performances • Elliott Clark Florist, Montagu Terrace
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The names and address of "Hansel & Gretel" supporters will be given with
consent to the press on behalf of St Serf's Church Centre, www.stserfsplayers.org.uk



the meadows
chamber orchestra

Philip Higham Director and Soloist

Mendelssohn: Die Schöne Melusine op. 32
Faure: Elegie op. 24 for cello and orchestra
Faure: Pelléas et Mélisande Suite op. 80
Bruch: Canzone op. 55 for cello and orchestra
Haydn: Symphony no. 83 in G major 'La Pauze'

7.45pm Sunday 19th November 2023

Inverleith St Serf's Church
280 Ferry Road, EH5 3HP

Tickets £16, concession £13, age 16-25 £5, under 16 free
Buy from orchestra members or from Ticketsource on this QR link

