The Outlook

magazine of Inverleith St Serf's Church

April 2025

Inverleith St Serf's Contacts

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Next Issue

Copy for the May 2025 issue of *The Outlook* should be with the editor no later than Wednesday, 16 April. The distribution date will be Sunday 27 April.

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An Easter message from Dorothy

When I was looking through some old papers recently, I was reminded of the Session Conference that was held when I was a parish minister. The elders and I took some time away from our normal routines to learn a bit more about each other and about ourselves. We were asked to undertake a Myers-Briggs personality test to see where we were on the line between two extremities: right in the middle, or closer to one end than the other. The options the test gives are: **E**xtroversion & **I**ntroversion; **S**ensing & i**N**tuition; **T**hinking & **F**eeling; **J**udging & **P**erceiving.

At the end of the test, your personality is expressed as a four-letter code, none of which is better than any other. I didn't remember what my test result was, but it turns out that, along with 15% of the population, I am ISTJ. If this is to be believed, I am a quiet, serious, thorough, dependable, logical traditionalist. Someone whose prayer might be 'God, help me to begin relaxing about little details at 11:41:32 am'!

More interesting, perhaps, than how I am categorised is the comment also found amongst those old papers I was reading. When people in training for ministry were asked to decide what type of personality they thought Jesus would be, there was a high degree of convergence between their own type and the type they assigned to Jesus. In other words: extroverts thought Jesus was an extrovert and introverts thought he was an introvert, and so on. Assuming that is so with other people and is not particular to the clergy, it would seem that the Jesus we imagine is very like the person we are; that our mental picture of Jesus makes him very much in our

own image.

Imagine that! Maybe the Jesus you worship is not very like the Jesus worshipped by the person sitting beside you in church. Perhaps you each hear the same story, the same sermon, but engage with it differently, both on account of your personality type and the way that personality type helps you conceive of Jesus.

But strange as that seems, it may actually be good news. That, like the disparate group of disciples Jesus gathered round him, each of us is called to follow, not because we fit a stereotype, but because we do not. That each of us is accepted as we are and with the personalities, gifts, interests and idiosyncrasies that make us the unique beings that we are.

As I write it is still Lent, which leads inexorably on to the season of Easter. The season when we are reminded that, whatever personality traits he had, in reality Jesus is not like any of us. Though in his living he became part of our humanity, in his death and resurrection is his divinity. A death which was and is for us. And a resurrection to secure for us – all of us, whoever and whatever we are - the hope and promise of life everlasting.

Whether you focus on details or on the bigger picture, whether you think or feel, whether you want to shout it exuberantly from the rooftops or keep it ever-so quiet…

May the joy of Easter be yours.

With blessings,
Dorothy

Worship in April

The Rev Dorothy U Anderson will conduct the services in the sanctuary at 10.30am unless stated otherwise. Everyone is welcome.

6 April	10.30am worship in the sanctuary FreshStart collection of household goods
13 April	Palm/Passion Sunday 10.30am worship in the sanctuary 6.00pm Passion Sunday worship in sanctuary
16 April	2.00pm Wednesday Worship. Enter from Clark Road. Followed by refreshments
17 April	6.00pm Maundy Thursday Seder Supper (for details, see page 8)
18 April	7.00pm Good Friday worship at **Granton Parish Church**
20 April	10.30am Easter Day Early Bird and Pram Service families join Easter morning worship with Holy Communion
27 April	10.30am worship in the sanctuary FreshStart collection of household goods

Pastoral arrangements

Please contact Kate Walker (07825 543 047) or Helen Hannan (0131 334 0276) regarding pastoral issues such as illness.

The local undertakers are aware of arrangements if a member dies.

Church Family

New members

We welcome to the congregation by certificate of transference:

Michelle Muhammed

Louisa and John Harper

Holy Week and Easter worship

Palm/Passion Sunday 13 April

10.30am Sunday worship in the sanctuary

6.00pm evening service

Maundy Thursday 17 April

6.00pm Seder Supper (more details are on page 8)

Good Friday 18 April

7.00pm Good Friday worship at **Granton Parish Church**

Easter Day 20 April

10.30am Early Bird and Pram Service families join Easter worship. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Easter Cross

in the Church Garden

from Maundy Thursday

If you would like to add flowers to the cross,

please do so any time from

Thursday 17 April to Easter Day (20 April)

Spring Clear & Spring Tea
Saturday April 26, 2.00-4.00pm

Spring cleaning is the thorough cleaning of one's house, top to bottom and including the bits that aren't normally cleaned (or not that often), at the end of winter. But it is Spring Clearing (with an 'r' not an n') that the Eco Group wants to encourage this year (though by all means clean your house too!).

At the end of last year, the Presbytery was told that, whilst donations of goods and money to FreshStart had fallen since the pandemic, the demand for its services had grown. This congregation collects and donates goods for FreshStart on a monthly basis, which is great, but the Eco Group wants to encourage you to do a bit more. We are inviting you to Spring Clear your house. To go through cupboards, drawers, dressers and so on to see if you have one or two (or more) items that you don't need that could be donated to FreshStart.
Maybe you have a few more mugs than you need, some towels that don't match your new colour scheme, more wooden spoons than you could possibly use, pots seldom used, or some bed linen that is really just taking up space – you get the idea. If that is the case, and if the items are in good condition, we would like you to donate them to FreshStart who will find a use for them, a willing recipient for your surplus items.
Realising that your past generosity means that you may not have many such items, you can do your bit by coming along to the fund-raising Spring Tea – entry by donation with profits also for FreshStart. Feel free to come to the Spring Tea even if you are able to donate goods too.

The Spring Tea is on Saturday 26 April from 2.00-4.00pm.
Goods you are donating can either be brought then or to church the following day, Sunday 27 April.

Full details of the sorts of things that are needed can be found on the Freshstart website: www.freshstartweb.org.uk

The Eco Group

Seder Supper

A Seder Supper is a traditional Jewish meal marking the Passover and both their captivity in, and Exodus from, Egypt. The gospels tell us that Jesus and the disciples were gathered together at Passover and ate a meal together, though whether it was a Seder meal or not is not known. It was after that meal – that Christians call the Last Supper – that Jesus took bread and wine and referred to them as his body and blood.

To help us understand a little bit more about the Jewish customs and traditions, and to share in Communion, we are holding a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday at 6pm. Clearly it will not be a Jewish Seder, and we come to it with different understandings of its symbolism and meaning, but it will be an opportunity for us to gather together, eat a light meal together, remember together and share in the bread and wine of Communion.

Granton Baptist food bank collection

We continue to collect food items for the food bank. Collection points are at the Church Centre and in the church vestibule. Money donations are welcome and should be put into the separate box alongside the baskets. Please ensure that the 'use by' date is well in advance.

*SSOS**

At last! We've seen the sun shining in the sky. The snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are proudly blooming. It must be Spring! And after Spring comes Summer and the Summer Fair which this year will take place on Saturday 14 June between 2pm and 4pm.

This year's extravaganza will take the usual form with one or two minor changes. We plan to have home baking, plants, books and crafts for sale, an obstacle course suitable for ALL ages, in the garden and, as ever, teas, coffees, cakes and a summer sundae.

Of course, none of these things will happen by themselves. Volunteers will be needed to help on stalls, serve refreshments, organise the raffle and set up and clear up. Scouts are already on the lookout for likely lads and lasses, but do not be shy about offering your services. Donations of goods to sell or raffle will also be needed so start looking through your cupboards for those things which are excess to requirements.

That's all for now, but I will be back next month!

Elaine O'Neill
* *Summer Sundae on Saturday*

The Bug Hotel with signage!

Garden update

We have been busy planting around the Remembrance area at the font at the front of the church and front door and will be moving onto the high wall beside the Bug Hotel next with bee and bug friendly plants. Early Birds children have made signs for the Bug Hotel.

The Garden Sale

We are now preparing the space to store any garden related objects that you wish to clear out, eg, pots, planters, tools, left over garden bits and bobs.

Also, we will be bringing on various bedding plants soon but will need greenhouse space over the next couple of months. If you have room for a tray or 2 then please let us know.

Please contact Frances Bicket if you can help with this or would like to arrange help in getting items to the church.

Plant Quiz

A Plant Quiz will go on sale in April to raise funds for the church and

The font planted up for Spring

garden with a closing date of 31 May. We hope this will be well supported.

You can get a copy at the after-service teas or see Lorna Wright. Cost £1.

Garden Group

Save the dates

Spring Tea in aid of Fresh Start

Saturday 26 April, 2.00-4.00pm in the church centre

Quiz Night Friday 2 May

After an extended break, the congregational Quiz Night will run again on Friday 2 May at 7pm. This event is much enjoyed, with some keen rivalry to the fore.

The quiz will be held in teams. Come along with a ready-made team or turn up on the night and find some team mates.

Refreshments will be available.

Rotary Club concert Friday 16 May

Rotary Club of Leith are organising a charity Concert in our sanctuary entitled "Choirs in Conflict" featuring:

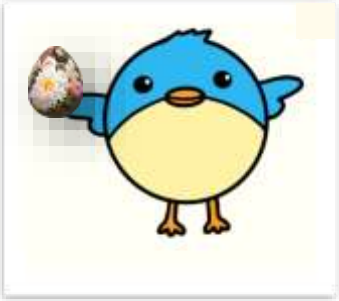
The Edinburgh Gaelic Choir
Newhaven Community Choir
Edinburgh Ukrainian Choir "Oberih"
Songbirds

Friday 16 May, 7.30pm. Suggested donation £15. Proceeds will support victims of conflict in Ukraine and Gaza.

Summer Fair

Saturday 14 June 2.00-4.00pm in the church centre

Early Birds at Easter!



For our February service, Early Birds families explored the topic of God's love through song, prayer and crafts. Some of the photographs show the creative artwork on the theme of love.

February crafts on the theme of love.

In March the Early Birds heard the story of Jesus healing the man who could not walk. The families were then challenged in teams to build a house and re-enact with Playmobil figures the lowering of the paralysed man through the hole made in the roof. The children (also the parents, locum minister and session clerk) all displayed imagination and manual dexterity (plus a degree of fierce competition rarely seen at Early Birds) in recreating the story. The photograph below shows their completed handiwork.

On Easter Sunday 20 April there will be an Early Birds service with a difference! **The Early Birds and Pram Service families are going to join the main service at 10.30am in the Church for a short time, before going out to the small hall for Easter crafts and snacks.** Families should enter as usual by the Clark Road entrance and gather in the small hall for 10.20am, so that they can park buggies etc before going into the service together. We hope to have our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the garden, weather permitting. Hoping to see some of you then!

Early Birds team

Wednesday Worship

Both the Pastoral Care and Mission & Discipleship Teams have been involved in organising the monthly midweek services. It seems sensible to adopt a more streamlined approach as well as holding a service each month. Accordingly this article tells you a bit about what is now known as Wednesday Worship.

When is it?	The 3rd Wednesday of every month, the next one being on 16 April
Where is it held?	In the church, usually in the transept
What time?	The service begins at 2pm and lasts 30-40 minutes
Who is it for?	Everyone is welcome, but it particularly suits those who like a shorter service or who find afternoons easier than mornings.
What happens?	The service is a blend of hymns, prayers, readings and reflections, with Communion celebrated 4 times a year (in February, May, August and November). The service is followed by refreshments in the hall.

There are spaces on the Wednesday Worship Rota for people to help in a number of ways:
in leading worship, playing the piano (or other instruments), on

welcome duty or helping with the refreshments. If you would like to know more, or can help out in one or more of these ways, even if only occasionally, please contact Dorothy or Helen.

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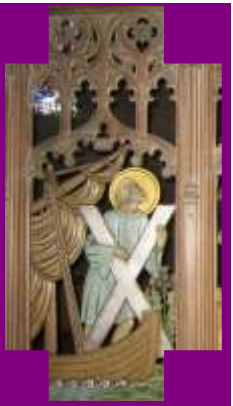
Apology. This article appeared in the March issue of The Outlook without the central table. This was due to a technical error on my part for which I apologise to Dorothy and Helen, who prepared the article, and to any reader who was, understandably, confused by the content. Lorna Pratt

Pilgrimage for Lent

Journey in Hope

on Saturday 5 April



A 'pilgrimage' around the Church building and garden

with reflection/prayer/activities en route and simple refreshments.

The route is suitable for all: the route is wheelchair accessible.

There will be stopping places on the way
with an activity, or a reflection/thinking point, or time for prayer or all 3!

These are linked to the Lent theme – Journey in Hope.

Come along to START the path at any time between 10am and 11.30am

Take as long as you would like travelling along the pilgrimage path

The building will remain open until all have arrived at the end.

Inverleith St Serf's Guild

Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Afternoon was hugely successful. A lovely happy atmosphere with about 60 people enjoying freshly made pancakes. And we raised £745 for our Guild Projects.

Continued on page 17

Some of the folk, including visitors from neighbouring churches, enjoying pancakes on 4 March, when £745 was raised for Guild projects

The Pancake Team who flipped and served pancakes to around 60 guests on Shrove Tuesday

The final meeting of this session is on Tuesday 8 April at 2pm.

This will take the form of a short 'Review of the Year' followed by a piano recital by Matthew Bicket. Any requests to Matthew in advance, please.

Fiona

Let us pray….

Loving Father,
Help us in this season of Lent – to listen.
Throughout the journey that we must take as followers of Christ,
Let us hear the words that you speak to us through other people:
Our family, our friends and all whose words may uplift us,
And also to those whose words might challenge us.
Help us to reflect not just on the words that people have spoken to us,
But on the reasons why they wanted us to hear their own story.

Holy Jesus,
Help us in this season of Lent – to learn.
The painful pilgrimage, the carrying of the cross;
Let us recognise the blessings of burden,
And how hope accompanies our heavy load.
At those times when the road seems almost unending,
Help us to be taught by your unique example,
And appreciate the value of maintaining patience through adversity.

Eternal Spirit,
Help us in this season of Lent – to love.
In those moments when our reaction may be knee-jerk and selfish,
When our response may be split-second and insensitive,
Let us reach out in a loving way that overrides risk and rejection.
Help us to think beyond the immediate moment of anxiety
To the joy, peace and love of the third day.

Amen.

Coffee House

Friday 11 April

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 11 April

Next Coffee House — 9 May

Pram Service

No Pram Service in April

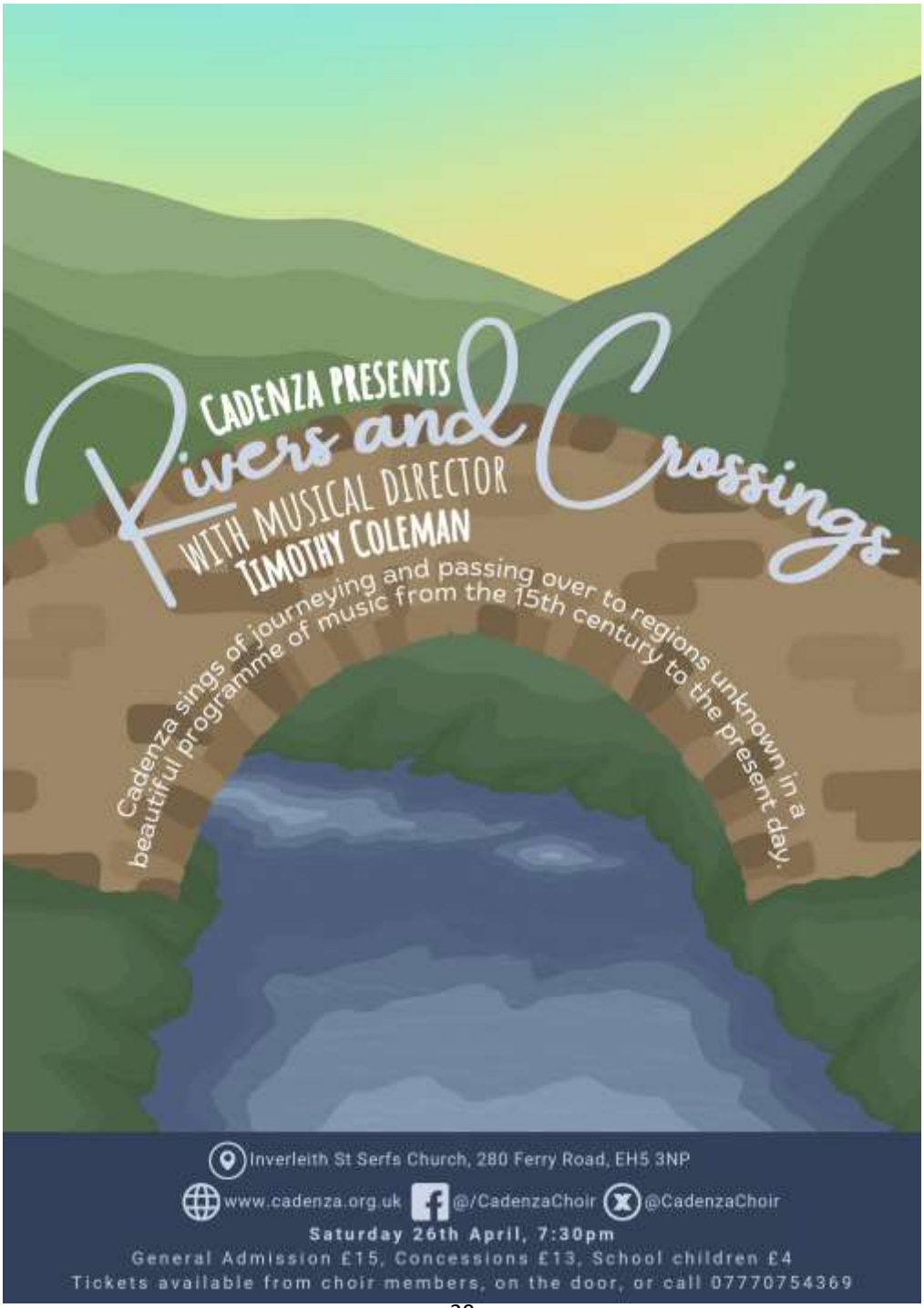
May Pram Service 12 May

Nostalgia Cafe

24 April

at 2pm

All welcome


CADENZA PRESENTS
Rivers and Crossings
WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR
TIMOTHY COLEMAN
Cadenza sings of journeying and passing over to regions unknown in a beautiful programme of music from the 15th century to the present day.
Inverleith St Serfs Church, 280 Ferry Road, EH5 3NP
www.cadenza.org.uk
@/CadenzaChoir
@CadenzaChoir
Saturday 26th April, 7:30pm
General Admission £15, Concessions £13, School children £4
Tickets available from choir members, on the door, or call 07770754369