The Outlook

magazine of Inverleith St Serf's Church

March 2026

Shahrukh Gill called to be our Minister see p4

World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**

Friday 6 March 2.30pm

Wardie Parish Church

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Next Issue

Copy for the April 2026 issue of *The Outlook* should be with the editor no later than Wednesday 18 March. The distribution date will be Sunday 29 March.

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Shahrukh Gill, our new Minister, with his wife, Essi, and their baby, Timo

Shahrukh Gill called

On Sunday 8 February the congregation voted overwhelmingly in favour (98 for, 1 against) calling Shahrukh Peter Gill as Minister to our congregation.

We look forward to welcoming Shahrukh, his wife, Essi, and their baby son, Timo, to our congregation, parish and community.

It is for the Presbytery to set a date for his ordination and induction. We have not yet received that information. Once it is known, it will be publicised on FaceBook, the website, in church intimations and in any other way deemed necessary.

World Day of Prayer 6 March

'I will give you rest, come' Matthew 11:28-30
Prepared by the women of Nigeria

For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

Global solidarity

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

Burdens of many kinds

At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, Nigerian Christians offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us

Nigerian Christian women, copyright Erik Tryggestad

understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The service features stories of three Nigerian women: Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing. Their experiences reveal how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope.

The artwork

The artistic work of Gift Amarachi Ottah beautifully captures the theme through her depiction of burdens carried by women from diverse backgrounds (*see front cover*). She writes, *'*My artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women, whose lives are marked by endless labour from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often carrying both their harvest and their children - a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head, while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush.

'The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria's diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

'Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying. These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation *'Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'* When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey. '

This year our local World Day of Prayer service will be held in Wardie Parish Church on Friday 6 March at 2.30pm.

Worship in March

1 March	10.30am worship in the sanctuary. The Rev Matthew Bicket will lead worship Fresh Start collection of household goods
2 March	10.30am Pram Service in the small hall
8 March	10.30am worship in the sanctuary. The Rev Dan Carmichael will lead worship
15 March	9.30am Early Birds in small hall
	10.30am worship in the sanctuary. The Rev Mattew Bicket will lead worship
18 March	2.00pm Wednesday Worship, followed by refreshments. Enter from Clark Road
22 March	10.30am worship in the sanctuary. The Rev Matthew Bicket will lead worship
29 March	10.30am Palm Sunday worship in the sanctuary

Church Family

Death

'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 Helen Hamilton

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

New member

We welcome to the congregation Mrs Gillian Walker by certificate of transference.

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.

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.

News from the ECO group

Quite a lot has happened since the last issue of *The Outlook*, and we are keen to share with you what we have been doing.

Recycling

We received news that £84.05 was raised from the last sack of donations for the Recycling for Good Causes which were sent. Thank you so much – the money has been passed on to the church.

Three members of the group attended a Zoom meeting of the Edinburgh West Lothian Network and many new ideas were gleaned from that meeting which we will report in the coming months.

'Earth Matters'

There is a new exhibition about to start in Inverleith House in the Botanic Gardens, entitled 'Earth Matters' which opens on 20 March and we are planning a guided tour for all who are interested, organised by one of our members, Fiona Davies. More details will appear once the exhibition has

Wardie Walkers (see p9) with our own Alison McCallum, front & centre

started.

Granton Initiatives

There are a few local organisations which we are keen to support, including Granton goes Greener which organises a clothes exchange, details of which are on the church website – grantongoesgreener.org.uk. It is called Share 'n' Wear.

Blister pack collection

You can also get a free hot community lunch at 1.30pm on Wednesdays. If you're new, ask for Lisa, Tom or Claire. Garden Address is: 10 Wardieburn Road, EH5 1LY.

Wardie Walkers

There is also the Wardie Walkers. Wardie Walkers is an informal group who meet on a Wednesday (usually) once a month. They have walks of different lengths, with a variety of leaders, sometimes including a visit, such as an historical point of interest. They often stop off at a teashop. A great chance to get to know people. Most walks start at the Clark Road cycle path entrance at 10am. More details available on the Wardie Church website.

Blister packs

Our Guild at Inverleith St Serf's has started collecting empty Blister Packs for recycling. Please bring these along to any Guild meeting. If you are unable to come, hand them to Matthew and he will ensure they are recycled.

Silver award ahead

We are almost ready to apply for our Silver Award. Wouldn't a Silver Award be a great start to a new ministry at Inverleith St Serf's? Please keep up the good work. We ARE making a difference.

Matthew (on behalf of the group)

News from the rollkeeper

At the Kirk Session on 20 January 2026, the Trustees attested the Membership Roll as at 31 December 2025, a requirement of Presbytery.

For your information:

* the Roll was 237, a fall of 4 from the figure of 241 the previous year
* there were 4 admissions, all by Certificate of Transference
* there were 8 deletions, all through death.

In order to ensure the Roll is kept up-to-date, I would be grateful if members would inform me of any changes of address as soon as possible.

Peter Hannan
Rollkeeper

Happy & successful Shrove Tuesday event

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake afternoon raised £424. The first £60 is going to an African garden which the ECO Group have twinned with. The balance will be split between Guild projects and church funds.

A number of Early Birds families were able to attend because it was mid-term. We also welcomed folk from other local churches and our minister-in-waiting, Shahrukh Gill, his wife, Essi, and their baby, Timo.

The Manse gets a makeover

With the imminent arrival of our new minister and his young family the Manse is getting a make-over following 10 years of being rented out.

Ongoing refurbishment programme
There have been 3 tenants in that period and we have always carried out staged re-decoration between rentals and also continued our programme of carpet replacement to spread the cost. White goods in the kitchen have also been replaced on a phased programme and the central heating boiler was replaced in 2023 so all those things are in good order.

Paint refresh
With the building completely empty for a few months, we decided that this was a good time to paint the whole place so that is what is happening just now with some colour choice input from the Gills. They have also chosen the two carpets that are due to be renewed just now.

At the suggestion of the Presbytery property manager, we have also undertaken an Energy Performance assessment which tells us that we come under Band D, which is the average for Scotland. The Church of Scotland, however, has set a target of Band C for manses which will help reduce the fuel costs. By adding an extra layer of insulation in the roof space, changing all light bulbs to LED and doing away with an electric fire in the lounge, we can achieve this and that is what we will do.

Allan Shaw

The Manse in East Lillypot

Early Birds

The next Early Birds will be on Sunday 15 March at 9.30am in the small hall. Early Birds is an informal service particularly suitable for families, but open to all.

Easter Early Birds

On Easter Sunday 5 April the Early Bird and Pram Service families will be joining the wider congregation at the 10.30am service in the Church. After the first part of the service, the Early Bird and Pram Service families will go out for an Easter Egg hunt – hopefully in the garden, but inside if the weather does not permit. There will, therefore, be no Early Bird service on the third Sunday of the month.

Early Bird Team

Pixabay library photo

Inverleith St Serf's Guild

Bear Necessities

We had such a good meeting on 10 February when members of Wardie Guild joined us to hear about our Guild Project, 'Bear Necessities for Bulgaria – Build My Church'.

As well as hearing about the origins of the project, which arose from Blythswood Care Shoebox delivery and provides essential school supplies, winter boots and coats and a Teddy Bear to very disadvantaged village children, we heard how this has grown into a new Church plant in the poorest area of the city of Sliven.

Cathey and Christina from Alness in Ross and Cromarty spoke with such energy and enthusiasm about their journey so far with Pastor Rumen, including the purchase of a former car parts store which is now the church building. Some of the proceeds of our Shrove Tuesday Pancake afternoon will go to support this church. Please pray for all those involved and the growth of this outreach.

Meetings still to come:

March 10	Irish Genealogy with Jill Williams
March 24	Annual Review followed by Music from Matthew – requests in advance please.

All are welcome at our meetings. Do come along by 2pm.

Fiona Davies

Bear Necessities logo

The Song of the First Snowdrop

Here I am,
Here I am,
I may be very small but here I am,
All through the winter,
Every night and day,
I long for the moment when I appear and say:

Here I am,
Here I am,
I don't grow very tall but here I am,
The weather may be cold,
The snow still falling,
But if you listen closely you might just hear me calling:

Here I am,
Here I am,
I don't stay very long but here I am,
And soon you will see
Blossom on the tree,
Flowers growing everywhere,
Suddenly new life is there
But until then

Here I am,
The very first snowdrop of springtime.

Loving God,

Help us to see your strength in what might seem fragile,

To sense your boldness in what might appear weak,

To notice your warmth in what might feel cold,

And to observe your endurance in what might seem temporary.

In your name we pray, Amen

Coffee House

Friday 13 March
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 13 March.

The next Coffee House is 10 April

Pram Service

2 March

10.30am

Enter from Clark Road

Nostalgia Cafe

Nostalgia Café

26 March

2pm

new
EDINBURGH
ORCHESTRA
Maurice Ravel: Le Tombeau de Couperin
Michael Tippett: Ritual Dances from 'The Midsummer Marriage`
Antonín Dvořák: Symphony no. 6 in D major, op. 60
Tim Paxton,
Conductor
Joanna Duncan, Leader
7.30pm
Saturday 28th March 2026
Inverleith St. Serf's Parish Church
280 Ferry Road
Edinburgh
EH5 3NP
Tickets £15/£10/students £5/children free from WeGotTickets on the QR link
http://www.newedinburghorchestra.org.uk
Registered Scottish Charity no.SC023729