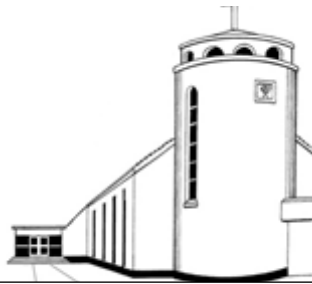


**SLATEFORD
LONGSTONE
CHURCH
KIRK NEWS**

**VOLUME LIV
ISSUE 4
December 2024**



**SLATEFORD
LONGSTONE
PARISH CHURCH**
Morning Worship
every Sunday at
10.30am
or join us on line

We want to keep you up-to-date with what's happening in and around the Church! Do remember that the Kirk News is not always about official stuff—we like to have funnies and things that make us laugh. Deadline for articles to be included in the next edition is Sunday, 16 February 2025.



Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in the awareness that 701 Slateford Longstone Christmas Shoeboxes are now in transit from Scotland to wartorn Ukraine, where Christmas I imagine, will be observed under the painful loss of life, emotional trauma, and the devastation that accompanies war.

Wondering what a traditional Ukrainian Christmas might be like I stumbled upon the 2022 Christmas Issue of The Big Issue, and an article from a Ukrainian journalist Olena Skachko, who spoke to fellow refugees and asked about Christmas back home in Ukraine. From her

article I learned that Ukraine at the time celebrated Christmas on the 6th and 7th January and that food was very important.

“They set the table, where there must be 12 lean dishes, which symbolise the 12 apostles or 12 months. Dishes prepared for Christmas Eve that I cook every year include: kutya, uzvar (a dried fruit drink), cabbage rolls, pickled mushrooms, beans, pancakes, herring in oil with onion, stewed cabbage with mushroom, a pickled cucumber salad or cabbage and onions, pirozhki with cabbage, pears and doughnuts. As you see, all 12 meals are without meat. The main dish on our table is kutya. It's boiled wheat with honey, poppy seeds, nuts and raisins. In old times on Christmas Eve people only ate this dish, but on the next day the fast is finished so you could eat everything you want.”

But since December 2022 the war has changed things on the ground. The Ukrainian government have

changed the date of Christmas to 24th and 25th December aligning it with the Gregorian Calendar and the rest of the Western world. Secondly, many families are torn apart and separated by the war and food, so much at the centre of things, is in shorter supply. Things are harder than before and we long and pray for a peaceful end to the war and a new era of freedom for the people.

But perhaps its into this situation that the message of Christmas is even more relevant than ever before, for it was into the midst of a people who had been invaded and conquered that Jesus came. The Prince of Peace was birthed into a place oppressed and ravaged by decades and centuries of invasions. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks/Egyptians, the Romans, one invasion after another. And into the midst of this Jesus brought what Jesus brings, namely, the energy to rise and transcend hardship in faith, hope and love; the awareness of God who never leaves us even in the darkest of times; the deep consciousness that there is meaning to be found in everything and in every moment and finally the reality of a Saviour who is Good News to all who will believe. This Advent and Christmas we will enlarge on these four components of Jesus coming amongst us as captured by the four Gospel writers, Mark, Matthew, John and Luke.

Join us as people across the world in all its complexities, remember His Coming.

Warmly and prayerfully

Samuel AR Torrens

Obituaries



5 September

Robin John Winney

12 September

Mrs Beatrice Mary Simeon

27 September

Mr John Robert Wallace

29 September

Mrs Helen McLaren Kerr

30 September

Mrs Catherine McCulloch

Please pray for the families.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Introducing Jesus from Four Perspectives

Sunday 1 Dec 10.30a.m.
Jesus, the Baptised **Baptiser!**
(Mark)

Pantomime
The Witches of Oz
Thurs 5th at 7pm
Friday 6th at 7pm ,
Saturday 7th at 2pm

Origin Scotland Light of the World
Saturday 7 Dec 7pm

Sunday 8 Dec 10.30a.m.
Jesus, **Emmanuel** - God with us!
(Matthew)

Friday 13th December 5-7pm
Messy Church
"Wiggly" Nativity

Sunday 15 Dec 10.30a.m.
Jesus, the **Word** dwelling among us
(John)

Sunday 15 December 3pm Candle
Lighting Memorial Service

Sunday 15 December St 7pm
Nicholas Candlelit Service

Sunday 22 Dec 10.30 a.m.
Jesus, the **Saviour** born for us (Luke)

Tuesday 24th 11pm
(Mince Pies/Mulled Wine) for
11.30pm Christmas Eve Watchnight
Service "**and a baby cried**"

Wednesday 25th Dec 10.30a.m.
Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 29 Dec 10.30a.m.
End of Year Service

Sunday 5 Jan 10.30am
New Year Service

WHO AM I?



Hi Everyone,

For those who have not met me yet, my name is Elaine Hogan and I'm a probationer minister for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) and will be based at Slateford Longstone Church until August 2025. The first two and a half months have gone by in a whirlwind of activity...but more of that later.

I am wife to Chris, mum to Matt and Sarah (and their partners), and granny to 5 boys...on the way to building my own rugby team... which, as some of you will know, is a passion of mine. In my day job I work (part-time) for Barclay Viewforth Church as the Pastoral Associate. The job is varied and

interesting and keeps me on my toes (I use the term loosely as arthritis limits my mobility). I love travelling and have visited Peru and Tanzania a number of times, leading teams of volunteers in housebuilding expeditions and meeting local people. Rugby travel has taken me to New Zealand, Japan, South Africa and France (I did say I was passionate), as well as to Murrayfield (Hive) on Friday evenings for Edinburgh rugby matches (my grandson and I have season tickets).

I came to faith as a child (my neighbours invited me to go to church with them) and have had a lifetime of following Jesus... and we've had some interesting times on the way (you may hear snippets of my journey when I'm preaching, but feel free to ask anytime).

I started studying for my Theology degree online (during lockdown) at Highland Theological College and graduated last year. However, having started on this for my benefit, I felt God nudging me to do something else with it and so, early in my studies, I made an application for ministry training. After a discernment period at Drylaw, I was accepted into training and have since had placements at St Ninians Corstorphine and Holy Trinity Wester Hailes. I now find myself with the lovely people of Slateford Longstone. In every placement I feel that I have grown in experience

and in the ability to share God's love in different ways (moving the loo roll wall will forever stick in my memory).

As well as taking part in the services over the year, I will also continue to drop in on the various group meetings, so please say 'hello'...and apologies if I can't remember your name as there's quite a few to remember.

Praying for God's blessing on you all.

Love and blessings,

Elaine



Cookers for Christmas campaign for 2024 -

Not everyone enjoys a Merry Christmas. For those with little or no money purchasing a cooker or other white good items can be an unaffordable luxury. Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas helps those in need by providing cookers and other essential white goods.

By donating to Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas campaign, you are not only helping someone at the most troubling and stressful time of their lives – you are putting a hot meal on the table for a household, you are

allowing someone to make healthy life choices by giving them the means to store their food properly and giving them the basic dignity of being able to wash their clothes.

The following is what some clients have said:

"If it wasn't for Fresh Start, I don't know what I would have done. The help (starter packs and white goods) was brilliant - it saved me. I can eat and store food without worrying. I feel comfortable in my home and feel content that I didn't have to worry about finding the money for all these things. You have no idea the impact your help has had on my mental health. Thank you"

"It really takes some of the stress away knowing I have what I need in this time"

Last year, thanks to the Cookers for Christmas campaign, Fresh Start distributed 282 white goods across Edinburgh.

Please consider donating and sharing. You can donate at Just Giving Fresh Start Cookers for Christmas 2024.

Many thanks and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Jean Gordon



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

By the time you read this, 701 of our shoe boxes will be on their way to Ukraine. The team are constantly delighted with how much you all get involved. We are a close team of 6 who quite understand that all this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the congregation, family and friends who continually support us.

There are knitters, wrappers, buyers, donators and general supporters who put in a massive effort which lets us fill all those boxes.

We never try to beat previous years because even if we send 100 boxes, that is 100 children that receive a wonderful, thought-filled box of treats and essentials. That said, with the way the cost of living keeps going up, we never thought we would be able to match last year, let alone increase it.

Each box needs £3.00 towards postage and we are delighted that for the first time we raised enough money for all the boxes through our two coffee mornings, a car boot sale and lots of donations. What a great accomplishment.

Some people spend a lot of time but others have really busy lives and want to hand in donations instead, we frequently receive donations of 10 bars of soap, a pack of pencils or 5 toothbrushes so here is a list of items that we like to include in every box if you want some ideas:

Hat/Scarf/Gloves, Underwear, Toys including dolls, cars, skipping ropes, dominoes, puzzles, bat and ball, travel board games, play doh etc., Soft Toy, Notepad, Crayons/Pens, Filled Pencil Case, Soap/Facecloth, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Comb/Brush, Sweets, Tennis Ball, Knitted Hand Puppet, Knitted handbag/purse... the list could go on.

An appeal to the knitters – we receive beautiful, knitted items, most of which are hats. We currently have 245 hats needing a scarf and gloves and 119 hats with scarves that need gloves. That is a lot of scarves and gloves so it would be much appreciated if you were to knit gloves and scarves before hats. We understand not everyone is skilled at knitting gloves so if you want something easier then we ran out of pencil cases, bags and hand puppets so they would be most welcome. But above all, a massive thank you to all those who hand in knitting, we know how much time you spend. We also know that a lot of you have started for next year already.

As if we weren't busy enough with our own shoe boxes, we were again a drop-off station; people from other churches, schools and organisations or just people doing it on their own were able to deliver shoe boxes to us. We were open for deliveries from 10am until 4pm on the first two Saturdays in November and spent the days checking through each box adding items and literature then taping them and putting into cardboard boxes ready for collection from Blythswood. We received over 400 boxes this year.

This also wouldn't be possible without the volunteers, most of whom stayed with us the whole day.

We haven't set our calendar for next year yet but timings will be roughly the same; Coffee mornings in March and September, monthly wrapping nights May to July, packing on Thursday evenings from September and checking on the first two weekends in November. Firm dates will be advertised in Kirk News, so put the dates in your diaries and come along to help this great venture; Sarah and Carol make a lovely cup of tea.

The team are immensely grateful for the support we receive. We really couldn't do what we do without you.

Thank you from Carol, Jane, Jean, Lin, Marion and Sarah

The Tale of a Shoebox

*I'm just a humble shoebox
And not worth very much,
But wait and see me in a while
I'll have a loving touch!
I could have been discarded
And simply thrown away,
But now I've been recycled
And cared for day by day.*

*So many little toys and gifts
Are snugly packed within,
And when I'm really filled up
tight
Adventures will begin.
I'll soon be wrapped up neatly
In paper shiny bright.
And I'll be feeling very proud
So full of love and light.*

*Then soon I will be travelling
To many distant lands.
And children will be waiting
With eager, stretched out hands.
So don't discard your shoebox,
Just think what you can do.
God bless those folk who work so
hard
God bless the children too*

Iris Hesselden

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that after our article about Easyfundraising in last month's magazine we had two more members join. All the donations count, and are much appreciated. £25.51 was paid to us for the period Aug to Nov.

If you shop online, please do think of joining and adding to the donations.

As at end October we were on budget. The gas and electric invoices due in November are much higher than estimated. There are a few other extra expenses to be paid before the end of December, so this may mean leaving us with a deficit at end of year.

Many thanks for the donation of £300.00 which was received towards cost of the new Audio-Visual System.

Church Bank Account details -
Bank of Scotland
Slateford Longstone Parish Church
Sort code 80-02-27
Account no. 00127604

Liz Chalmers Treasurer



Messy Church is going strong with up to 18 children along with an adult attending each month. We have been learning about the Beatitudes and Jonah and the

whale. We are going to have fun with the Wriggly Nativity over the next two sessions, just within our meeting.

The Nativity set will be travelling around the houses again throughout December, finishing up in the church for Christmas celebrations.

Wishing you all a Messy Christmas and a Messy New Year!

Sheila Ward and the team

The Return of the
Witches of Oz

Thursday 5th December 7pm
Friday 6th December 7pm
Saturday 7th December 2pm

in our new home at
Slateford Longstone Church,
Kingsknowe Road North, EH14 2DF

£5 adults / £2.50 children
(All children must be accompanied by an adult)

Tickets on sale now!

Tickets can be purchased via Ticketsource.
Scan QR code for details or visit
www.ticketsource.co.uk/westendersdrama

BOOK NOW

17th BROWNIE PACK

SLATEFORD LONGSTONE BROWNIES.

BROWNIE COFFEE MORNING

The Brownies would like to say 'thank you' for all your support at our recent Coffee Morning. Our final total for our Fundraiser was £540.55.

This will go towards our bus for Brownie camp and help with our Christmas night out.

Many thanks again.

Sarah Johnston
Brownie Leader



Four Tap into it "Tappers" have just completed their ten week course on Zoom, and will continue with the others in the drop in group meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.00 till 4.00pm, to continue their learning from Mike Ellis and each other.

See our photos each month on Slateford Longstone Church Facebook page to see the fun we have. The drop in meetings are open to all, so come along to join us with your iPad or tablet to see if we can help you with any problems you may be having, or to see what you can learn.

Sheila Ward and the team



KNIT 'N' NATTER

The ladies have been very busy this session knitting items for the shoeboxes but things will be slowing down now that this year's Appeal is finished. We got a request from Joanne Ormiston to knit premature baby blankets for Simpsons Maternity Unit. Some of our ladies have been doing this as well as knitting hats, scarves and gloves etc. It is my intention to continue supporting Simpsons as well as the shoeboxes, so if anyone would like to knit a blanket please let me know and I can supply a pattern. We will be having a short break over Christmas/New Year - our last date for meeting will be Friday, 13th December, and we will start again on Friday, 3rd January.

Carol Murray (tel: 07812 786389;
email carolizzie@btinternet.com)



The Leadership team wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and a Happy New Year in

2025 with best wishes, for a good year for everyone.

The second session of the Guild starts again in January and meets in the Activities Hall at 7.30pm on the dates shown below

7th January

Edinburgh Prison Chaplain

Speaker: David Swan

21st January NHS

Speaker: Pauline Halliday

4th February Photography

Speaker: John Gilhooly

18th February Butterfly Music

Guitarist: Margot Falconer

4th March Experience of a Tour Guide

Speaker: Pat Blair

18th February Fashion through the ages

Speaker: Jackie Sangster

1st April Guild Project

Operation Hope Egypt

Speaker: James Fraser

15th April Guild AGM

22nd April Easter Service

7th May (Wednesday)

Afternoon Tea

Kingsknowe Golf Club.

All are welcome to our meetings.

Mary Hynd

Convenor



Thank you for the lovely flowers we received from our friends at Slateford Longstone. They really cheered us up and lasted ages.
Pauline and Derek

Another fall on June 28 and another bunch of lovely flowers I received then and again a big "thank you" for the flowers and cards I received from members of the congregation in celebration of my big birthday on September 9th.
Maureen Ritchie

A big thank you for the lovely flowers. My husband is home from hospital and slowly improving. Thank you also to Sheila for putting my name forward.
Ann Lowrie

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers Jean gave me a few weeks ago.
Susan Sandison

Would just like to say thank you for the lovely flowers I received when I had my hand surgery. I am glad to say I'm on the mend.
Sarah Johnston.



PLEASE JOIN US AT SLATEFORD LONGSTONE CHURCH

It's for all kinds of people! It's for the old and the young, and for family units as well. We welcome children who will be given a talk of their own, while the parents are listening to the Word of God in the Sanctuary.

After the Service, there is an opportunity to meet up with others for some Tea/Coffee in the hall.

We are a community church within the Parish and we send out an invitation to come along and share Sunday mornings with us. That way, you'll be able to find out what other organisations we have using the Church premises. Perhaps there is something JUST FOR YOU!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME TO CHURCH 'VIRTUALLY' ON SUNDAYS, SAM HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER VIA ZOOM

Our Zoom Services continue on Sunday opening at 10.15am to allow people to Join and say Hi, then we will begin at 10.30am with worship. Looking forward to hosting as many of you as possible on Sunday.

If Joining with Smartphone or computer just click the link below and follow the instructions, or Join using Zoom ID and Password below if needed.

<https://zoom.us/j/5771655415?pwd=MVZCd3JoTWtZa0R2RmFmSFovUEhTZz09>

Meeting ID: 577 165 5415

Password: EDATH (ALL UPPERCASE!!!)

Also, DIAL UP OPTION

If you can't do Zoom you can phone in using the number below.

The dial up number for Edinburgh is **0131 460 1196**. You will be asked to use the phone keys to put in the ID number which is **577 165 5415** followed by the hash # key

then you will be asked for a password which **476443** followed by #

that takes you into the zoom service, but you will only hear and not see!



Web address: <https://www.slatefordlongstone.org.uk>

DUTY ROTAS: January – March 2025

Date	Door Duty	Flowers			
5 Jan	L Baillie	M Ritchie			C Murray
12 Jan	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	M Hynd
19 Jan	E Chalmers	H Chambers			A Simpson
26 Jan	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	R Alexander
2 Feb	L Baillie	M Ritchie			Vacant
9 Feb	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	M Nicol
16 Feb	E Chalmers	H Chambers			J Howes
23 Feb	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	Vacant
2 Mar	L Baillie	M Ritchie			Vacant
9 Mar	S Ward	C Palmer	C Mitchell	J Ormiston	C Murray
16 Mar	E Chalmers	H Chambers			Vacant
23 Mar	J Gordon	D Brown	J Howes	M Nicol	K Clement
30 Mar	L Baillie	M Ritchie			J Wright

To assist with the church flowers, either by placing in Church or helping to deliver them, please contact:
Carol Murray
07812 786389
 This Ministry is much appreciated by all who give and receive.

COMMUNION DUTY: January - March 2025

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
10.00am prep	Joanne Ormiston	Sheila Ward	Sheila Ward
10.30am service	Marion Marshall(L) Pauline Halliday Joanne Ormiston Nathan Baillie	Lin Baillie(L) Gordon Clephane Hamish Leal Ian Brown	Sheila Ward(L) Jean Gordon Dennise Brown Donnie Thomson

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