

# FORUM FOCUS

The quarterly magazine of  
Leith Churches Forum



**North Leith  
Pilrig St Paul's  
Leith St Andrew's  
South Leith**

**June 2016  
Vol. 59/16**

## Letter from the Chair

Rev. Mark Foster

*When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness towards the Red Sea. ~ Exodus 13: 17-18a*

Dear All,

We are all familiar with the Exodus story of Moses leading his people out of slavery in Egypt and into the promised land. As we continue on our shared journey together as the Church of Scotland's presence across Leith there is much that we share with this story. Here are a few points for us to reflect on:

"Let my people go". This well-known refrain is repeated several times in the dialogue between Moses and Pharaoh. Although it was not just Pharaoh that needed to let the people go. After spending so long in Egypt many of the Israelites had become comfortable with their captivity and did not want to embark on a perilous journey with an uncertain future. They too needed to "let go" of many things in order to leave Egypt behind and set off for the promised land. *As we look to the future of the Church, what do we need to "let go" in order that we can make the journey?*

Scripture tells us that God did not lead the Israelites by the quickest route into the promised land, but by a roundabout way to avoid their enemies. But this Godly detour also allowed time for other important lessons to be learned. During this time the people were led by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:21). Without maps of their own they had to learn to trust in God's guidance. *Where is God calling us to go? How good are we at following God's signposts and not our own?*

There were times when the people had to stop and set up camp, so that those who were further behind on the journey could catch up with those at the front. They learned that this was a journey that was made together in stages rather than everyone for themselves. *Do we see ourselves as in this together? Do we have patience and understanding for those who travel the journey at different speeds than ourselves? (>p3)*

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They were given the ten commandments – a new set of rules for living that defined their relationship with God and with one another (Ex 20). *How do we seek to live in relationship with God and with those around us?*

They received manna from heaven (Ex16:4-5) and water from the rock (Ex 17:1-6) teaching them that they had to rely on God's provision. *Are we willing to trust that God will provide us with what we need for the journey? Will we be willing to share our resources rather than hoard them?*

In my last letter I said that transitions will inevitably involve times of uncertainty and doubt – times when it is tempting to turn around and go back to the false security of our old familiar ways. Let us take strength in the knowledge that other people of faith have taken similar journeys before and have come out stronger because of them. May God bless us as we continue to journey together towards a new future for the Church in Leith and beyond.

Shalom

Mark -----

### **Leith Churches Forum Update**

Rev. Mark Foster

On Saturday 16 April the Ministers plus four members from each of the LCF congregations met in Pollock Pavilion as part of the ongoing discussions on the future of the Church of Scotland's presence in Leith. We were joined in our discussions by the Rev's Iain Goring and Russell McLarty from A Place for Hope, who have been invited to accompany us in this shared venture.

A Place for Hope arose out of a report to the 2008 General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, which highlighted the need for additional support for congregations going through or exploring periods of change. Thanks to the generous support of the Guild of the Church of Scotland, the Place for Hope Project was launched. A Place for Hope became an independent charity in 2015, allowing it to offer its skills and help to a wider audience. Their work is still supported by the Church of Scotland, which has allowed us to access their help without any financial cost to the four congregations. However LCF has decided to make a donation of £1,000 from their funds in support of A Place for Hope. You can read more about their work at [www.placeforhope.org.uk](http://www.placeforhope.org.uk)

Iain and Russell are both Church of Scotland Ministers and come with a vast experience of skills in mediation work and practical experience of working with congregations in periods of transition. With Iain and Russell's help we had a productive morning in which we started to look at some of the 3

processes that can be used to help make planning for the future easier. We have agreed to meet with Iain and Russell every two months and we hope to report back soon about some of the proposed outcomes of this work. Please keep Ian, Russell and the work of the planning group in your prayers. The Ministry Team

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**Pilrig St. Paul's Church**

John Innes, Session Clerk

These last few months have been an interesting time at PSP. We are in the middle of our Local Church Review which has been producing some interesting insights into what we do now and where we need to go for the future. The process of the review encourages us to seek the views of more than just the Kirk Session so we'll get a much broader input. We had a morning conference on 7 May to help flesh out the information packs and prepare us for consideration of our future plans.

Our Pastoral Care team has been doing some fantastic work since it was created: conferences for the elderly on social exclusion, heating advice and smart shopping, engagement with service providers, improved contact with those members who need that. A new initiative was the very successful partnership with Leith Community Cinema showing a number of popular films in our church hall accompanied by a Community Café, craft events and discussions relating to the movie being shown. In May we marked the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Congregation Lunch and a Leith Community Cinema showing of Dad's Army.

The congregation has been chosen to be one of the pilot congregations for the Church of Scotland 'Path of Renewal' project which is aimed at enabling churches to break out of a cycle of decline and strike out on that path of renewal. The programme starts by training the minister in change management and will then roll out a small group of future leaders who will begin thinking about where we want to go as a congregation with a great deal of emphasis on Discipleship.

We continue to run the Open Doorway twice a week providing a listening ear and a space for quiet reflection as well as a welcoming cup of tea or coffee. We also continue to run our slot in the Food Bank rota, providing food packs for those who need that vital support during difficult times. Both these outreach and service projects are well received and could not function without the dedicated groups of volunteers who give their time and energy.

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*Church Notice: At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.*

## Messy Church at Leith St Andrew's

Joanne Baird

If you've never been to Messy Church before you might be wondering what it's all about. Well, it's a family friendly approach to Church welcoming all ages from babies to grannies. It often meets at a time which might be more convenient for those who can't manage the more traditional Sunday morning time. At Leith St Andrew's, we have Messy Church on the last Thursday of every month, except July and December (families are invited instead to the early evening service on Christmas Eve). Messy Church starts at 5pm and lasts till around 7pm but it's always fine to pop in a bit late.

So what happens? There is usually a theme based on a Bible Story or time of year (Easter, Christmas etc) and there will be lots of opportunities for getting Messy through crafts. There is a short time of worship involving stories, prayer and singing. And finally, everyone sits down to enjoy a meal together.

Here are some of the crafts made at Messy Church recently.

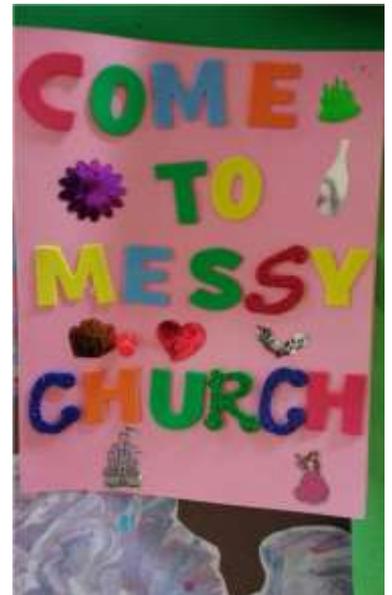


At



Day was

stall. Lots of people picture and decorated biscuits and lots of leaflets about Messy Church were given out.



the  
recent  
Leith



Churches Forum Easter Fun at South Leith Church, there a very popular Messy Church helped to make a huge Easter

The next few dates are 30<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September. So if you know of anyone you think might like to come along – grandchildren, neighbours or friends - why not let them know? 5pm in the Easter Road Hall.

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***Some services & events in the Forum congregations  
to which you are invited to attend.***

**Joint LCF Festival service on 12<sup>th</sup> June at North Leith at 11am.**

**Leith St. Andrew's**

**Messy Church** meets from 5-7pm on the last Thursday of each month. A fun, noisy, messy time for families: 30<sup>th</sup> June, no Messy Church in July, 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Oasis of Peace at Leith St Andrew's:** Our quiet reflective prayer services takes place each Wednesday at 10.15am for about half an hour. A time of peace, worshipping, sharing and praying followed by a cuppa and chat. We meet in the Church. All are welcome. Oasis of Peace usually takes a break over the summer holidays. Check website or Facebook page for details

**South Leith**

**Worship at One** at South Leith church every Thursday at 1pm – prayers for the community and the world.

**Summer services.** Shorter family services at 10.30am in July and August instead of normal services at 11am.

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**Pilrig St. Paul's Open Doorway**

It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Serving tea / coffee and biscuits. All welcome to pop in.



**South Leith Halls  
the Café is open Monday to Friday  
9.30am to 2.30pm. with a warm friendly  
atmosphere. Traditional Home cooked meals  
& light snacks.  
Carry out facilities available.**



### **Leith Festival Gala day: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Hoping for a dry and sunny day on Saturday 11th June when the Gala Day will be held on the Links between 10.30-4.30pm. Lots of Stalls from various Charities and Organisations including South Leith's Stall in our usual pitch. Come along and support the local community.

Leith St Andrew's Leith Festival Stall

Come and visit our stall right next to the tea tent during Leith Festival Day, Saturday 11th June. We will be selling Jars of Joy filled with all kinds of goodies. There will also be lots of bric-a-brac for you to browse.

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### **Presenting the news!**

Ian Bethune

I have enjoyed going on tours of The BBC Studios. This picture was taken last August in a mock-up News Studio at Pacific Quay in Glasgow. The previous year I attended a tour of the London H.Q. near Oxford Circus with 2 friends. In the interactive part of that one I read The News and took part in a short Radio Drama. In May of this year I will visit Media City in Manchester. Details of these tours and of how to attend a show are available



on [bbc.co.uk/showsandtours](http://bbc.co.uk/showsandtours) Unfortunately after a security review The BBC have stopped doing the tour of Broadcasting House in London. I can, however, recommend the one at Pacific Quay in Glasgow. I was there on a

Saturday last August and took the bus to Buchanan Street Bus Station and another one from there to the studios.

## **PORT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

Tim Bell

This was a momentous day. I have known Chief Officer Erwin, from Philippines, for several years. He works for an English company whose small general cargo ships trade round the coasts of Britain and the near continent. They sometimes come to Leith, usually to pick up barley for Port Ellen, Islay, for the many whisky distilleries there. A year ago he was awarded his Master's ticket, and, in accordance with standard practice, he has been shadowing a Master for a few months while also serving as Chief Officer. Then his opportunity came – the Master on mv SHETLAND TRADER, which happened to be in Leith at the time, was signing off, and the company flew Erwin from his ship in Belfast, to take command. It was an opportunity to congratulate him and wish him well, on behalf of us all. He said he and his family will always treasure the Leith Madonna and Child magnet and card I gave him, and he will never forget his first day in Leith. Actually, as usual, in order to familiarise Erwin with the particularities of the vessel, the former Master stayed on board for the short trip to Berwick upon Tweed, where he signed off, then Erwin took the ship round the north to a small port near Londonderry. A week or so later I had an email from him in Teignmouth, Devon, where he had got off the ship for a few hours, for the first time since Leith. Discussing all the hard work he has put in for his promotion, he said he has been lucky to have a



good employer who has given him opportunities, and he is doing it for his family. He has a lot of responsibilities back home, too. He will go back after a total of nine months on board for a break of about three months.

It's been a month of comings and goings. The new young cook on board the ship that comes in weekly from Grimsby with cement needed to unlock his phone. I introduced him to a friendly shop-keeper who is always good to seafarers. The job couldn't be done there and then, so this Leith phoned him with instructions long after he had left. Now this lad has a helpful friend in Leith – an important connection, so far from home.

And now we are getting ready to welcome the hundreds of crew members on the cruise ships. This year we have 32 days with a ship in port, some old friends and some strangers.

And finally, just for fun. Here is the name of a Russian vessel, photographed through the driving mirror of my van: The first correct transliteration received by me wins a Leith magnet.



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## **Ocean Terminal**

Margaret Ann Fraser

Tony Bryer, my line manager in Workplace Chaplaincy is retiring in June. I feel extremely fortunate to have had his support during my first year in Ocean Terminal, and his going will be a huge loss to many of us. He will be a hard act to follow! However I have met Rev. David Hart his successor when we travelled together to a Training day in Perth. He is working with Tony for three months. I feel confident that he has much to offer and will enjoy the work. Another newcomer to WPC is Rev Kristina Ross minister at Port Seton who has just started in Edinburgh West, covering the Airport, Gyle Centre and Edinburgh Park.

I have spoken before about the professional training we all receive, and thought I would share part of a session with you. It may encourage someone to come forward to share in this very rewarding work!

### **BUILDING. RESILIENCE**

"Life is unpredictable! We cannot control our environment no matter how well we plan, the unexpected will at some time happen. Research has demonstrated that self-esteem plays an important role in coping with stress and recovering from difficult events. We can remind ourselves of our strengths and accomplishments. Becoming more confident about our own ability to respond and deal with crisis is a great way to build resilience for the future. Resilient people are aware of the situation, their own emotional reactions and the behaviour of those around them. In order to manage feelings, it is essential to understand what is causing them and why. By remaining AWARE, resilient people can maintain their control of the situation and think of new ways to tackle problems.

The chaplain can support this process by both encouraging the individual to review their skills, talents and experience, and occasionally acting as a reality check challenging negative thought processes. Staying optimistic during dark periods can be difficult but maintaining a hopeful outlook is an important part of resilience."

I have just visited OT and met two remarkable resilient people! Johnnie who is working in Bikecraft is adapting a transit van into a Camper van, preparing to travel around Europe alone for three months... Good luck to him! Stan Eadie, stalwart volunteer in Living Memory is holding the fort in

the small temporary space while other volunteers are in Livingstone for a special Gala Day exhibition. Stan told me about his grandmother who was a midwife in Leith. There is an excellent article in THELMA quarterly magazine about Stan's memories of her...Certainly a resilient family! Again do contact me if you would like to meet me in OT.  
margaretann.fraser@wpcscotland.co.uk. Or tel 07507208314

## **Pilrig St Paul's Church Pastoral Care Team**

Linda Gill

Our year is progressing well so far with lots of activity and energy across our team. This article will give you a flavour of what we are up to in the next few months. We are always happy to welcome new people to our team so please do ask if you are interested in getting more involved with Pastoral Care whether you want to commit to becoming a team member or just helping out with specific activities as they come along.

### **Knitting Mission 2016**

We have recruited 16 people to our Knitting Team including some residents from Jamieson Place Sheltered Housing Development. We have also been delighted with the donations of wool for our project. We held our launch event in April where we had a joint 'cast-on' and shared in fellowship and worship to encourage us on our way. More information about the details of our project will follow in future magazines.

### **Business Cards**

We have arranged for a supply of business cards, kindly made by Catriona in our team, to be available in our Open Doorway for visitors and members travelling and visiting other congregations and churches to take with them. The cards have our Church address, website and facebook details so people are able to keep in touch with us once they return home.

### **Big Lunch – Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

By the time you read this our congregation lunch under the banner of The Big Lunch, will have taken place where we joined together for a lunch after the service and marked the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### **Leith Community Cinema**

Leith Community Cinema is going from strength to strength building on our customer base and more regular screenings taking place, exploring other genres of film. We have also been able to engage with a wider range of organisations and people who are keen to get involved with our screenings. Summary - since launch there have been 10 film screenings; over 400 people have attended a screening; we have over 300 people active on our database;

over 10 different organisations have supported us; over 20 people have volunteered with us, some more than once.

We are also developing our social media presence with a new website and more people following our Facebook page. For more info please visit our website on <http://www.leithcommunitycinema.com>

Pastoral Care Team: Mark Foster - Minister; Catriona Blackwood – Elder, Safeguarding Officer and Magazine Editor; Christine Edington; Ella Gilfillan; Linda Gill – Elder and Pastoral Care Team Leader; Cathy Purdie - Special Needs Officer; Fiona Rankin – Elder; Jeanette Sime – Elder and Roll Keeper. [helpinghands@pilrigstpauls.org.uk](mailto:helpinghands@pilrigstpauls.org.uk)

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### **What God is looking for**

Thank you Lord, for calling someone like Mary to be the mother of Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is something infinitely encouraging in the knowledge that she was a girl of humble stock: betrothed to a carpenter; and cousin to the wife of a priest.

You did not seek her for her social graces, nor for her intellectual power – though for all I know, she may have been well blessed with all – but what You sought in her was the spirit of one who, for love of You, would dare all things and set at risk her marriage, home, respectability, and the future itself.

“Be it unto me even as thou wilt”, she said.

And in the saying of it, showed the spirit of one fit to make a home for Your own Son: the spirit of one who would understand the spirit of her son.

What you sought and found in Mary, Lord, You seek in us, today. A heart to say “Your will be done”. May you find what You are looking for, O God, in Your church, and in me.

*(Godfacts, by Dick Williams)*

### ***Feud in the church – US style!***

*There was a feud between the city slicker pastor and the choir director of the Hickville Souther Baptist Church. It seemed that the first hint of trouble came when the pastor preached on 'dedicating yourself to service' and the choir director chose to sing: “We shall not be moved.” Trying to believe it was a coincidence , the pastor put the incident behind him.*

*The next Sunday he preached on 'giving'. Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn "Jesus paid it all". By this time, the pastor was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on 'the sins of gossiping'. The choir director selected "I love to hear the story".*

*There was no turning back. The following Sunday the pastor told the congregation that unless something changed, he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the choir director led them in "Why not tonight?" No one was surprised when the pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there, and Jesus was leading him away. The choir director could not resist "What a friend we have in Jesus"!*

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**Your Representatives**

**Co-ordinating Team**

**Forum Focus Team**

Rev. Mark Foster (chair)	P St. P	Joanne Baird	L St. A
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