

News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

October 2019

DOMESTICS



We had an argument. A friendly one, I should say. It was about a boat. Neither of us knows much about boats, other than that they help people keep above water. Like many of you, we have travelled on various boats to the isles around Scotland. Some of the journeys have been smooth, the majority have been rocky. We were not seasick, but the

thought of what would happen if the boat sank was not one we wanted to entertain. One of us is a very confident swimmer, the other isn't. The discussion centred around the question whether the purchase of a boat was a wise move. Living so near the sea, many members at Wardie are keen and very skilled sailors who already own a boat. They can explain the benefits of sailing much better than I can. They probably even enjoy a stiff breeze which helps to move the boat through the waves at a good speed.

However, the domestic argument between us was not about the purchase of a pretty little sailing boat as we see them down at the pier or Newhaven harbour. It was about a larger vessel which the Council of the Protestant Churches in Germany (EKD) decided to buy following a public vote at a major gathering of its members. It is a boat with a mission, namely to rescue refugees who are so desperate to cross the sea that they risk their lives. Over 1000 people so far have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea this year alone. Statistics show that there are fewer refugees arriving every year. Each of them, those who died and those who are alive, has their own unique story.

So why does the German Church feel the need to buy a boat now? And is it the right thing to do? Does it not encourage more refugees to come to Europe? Would it not be better to invest more of our money and of our political capital so that people do not need to flee their country of origin, their homes? Of course, some have no choice as their homes have been destroyed due to war. Others are persecuted because of their religion, their ethnic identity or their fight against unjust political systems and rulers. There are many arguments for and against the boat. Hopefully in the long term, no boats will be needed. But in the short and medium term, the fact is that people are drowning outside Europe's gates.

One of the arguments for strengthening the borders of Europe and Britain is based on the fear that there are not enough resources to share and accept more refugees. Thankfully, the government has agreed this June to extend the refugee resettlement scheme, although the exact details have yet to be announced. Men, women and children can come to the UK via safe routes rather than the risky journey across the sea. Sponsor Refugees from the Citizens UK Foundation, which supports local community sponsorship groups, speaks of over more than 150 active groups across the UK that help to welcome a family into their

community. Their following observation makes me pause: "Comparatively, it's the less affluent towns and cities such as Coventry, Birmingham, Newcastle, Gateshead and Glasgow that top the charts, all having welcomed over 300 refugees." Whereas Britain's most affluent county has only received four refugees so far, and other wealthy ones have welcomed none. In the end, we couldn't agree on the purchase of the boat, whether it was the right decision or not. We both care for the plight of refugees and so it is OK to disagree as long as we keep the conversation going and look for a way forward. The biblical call to do so is clear: "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 10:19)

Let us continue to do so, *Ute*

◆ ◆ WINDOWS UPDATE ◆ ◆

The renovation of the Netherby Road windows has progressed smoothly and the re-leaded and cleaned panels should all be back in place by early October before the weather becomes cooler. Many thanks for everyone's understanding and patience during this process.

Funds are still required for the Courtyard windows which will be tackled in 2020 and the Appeal to the congregation and friends is still running. Please consider if you can make a donation towards the £15,580 required for the last phase, and remember Gift Aid will enhance this by 25%, if appropriate.

Look out too for the chance to join one or all of our social fundraising efforts coming soon!

Fiona Campbell

WHAT A WEEKEND!

Trinity Community Gala was held on 24th and 25th August, and what an event it was. See page 3 for full credits.



News at Wardie, October 2019

The Newsletter of Wardie Parish Church

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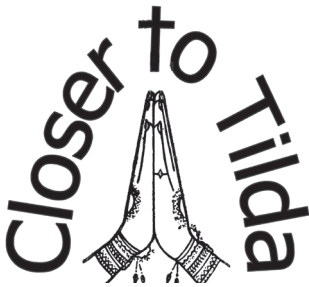
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News at Wardie can be received by post, at a cost of £7.50 a year. Apply to the church office

Pennies for Tilda: Help needed!

With three-quarters of the year elapsed we have a shortfall in our Pennies for Tilda collection so far, which means we are unlikely to achieve the £1000 target for 2019. The young people in Kidz@Wardie continue to "Feed" the Tilda hippos, so the help and continued support of the congregation is needed so we can once again send the target amount the Tilda Mission Hospital

relies on to sustain vital work in its community. We have asked Medical Director Dr Jiwanmail to let us know what the 2018 money was used for and what the needs of the Hospital are for the 2019 contribution, and we will share this information with you in a future edition of News at Wardie.

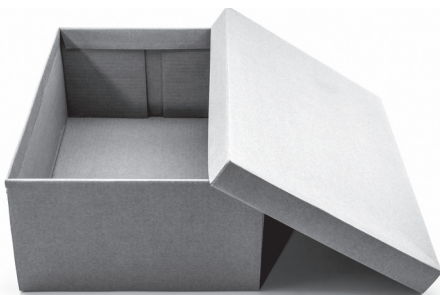


Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Last year, 107,073 shoe boxes were donated and distributed to people in need. Wardie donated the superb total of 111 boxes. James Campbell, the Chief Executive of Blythswood, writes: "So often I have seen tears, tears of joy, when handing over Blythswood shoe boxes. To realise that someone cares for them, someone like you, whom they have never even met, can bring indescribable happiness ... Your gifts have an impact which is both practical and personal. Young and old who receive boxes are helped to keep warm and clean. Their dignity is restored and their awareness renewed of what it is to love and be loved."

Perhaps you would like to fill a shoe box this year and bring joy and happiness to many who have nothing and are unlikely to receive any other gift this Christmas. I have a plentiful supply of leaflets or you can find all the information on the website at www.shooboxappeal.org. The final date for handing in filled boxes is **Sunday 3rd November**.

Kate Clegg



Prayer Corner

Heavenly Father

We give thanks for our talents and the time to use them – please help us do that wisely.

We give thanks at this time especially for the gifts of intelligent thought, honest analysis and wise counsel – and the powers of the spoken and written word.

But too often, fact is displaced by fiction; analysis by confection; and wise counsel by selfishly motivated incitement.

Only you, Lord, can truly be certain what is right, what is best for the world. But we thank you for lighting the path we must find and follow.

Heavenly Father, what a mess we are making of your world.

Nativism and populism are gaining ground. "My enemy's enemy is my friend" has become the guiding principle of international and now local politics.

Free speech is the most fundamental of liberties. Lord Jesus, you were one of the very first champions! But today it is under threat from extreme right-wing politicians and campus radicals.

But while the world's leaders and their followers perpetuate these evils, we pray for those who feel at the bottom of society.

Homeless people, the lonely and the sick; the victims of crime and domestic violence; the poor, the oppressed and everyone with little or no self esteem; those who have become dependent on drugs; people who depend on rain forests for their daily bread.

We also pray for the people of these islands for whom Brexit and Remain – and the manner of getting there – are livelihood-threatening rather than occasions for grandstanding, sloganeering and petty politicking.

And while many of us may now prefer to belong to a different state, our greatest sympathies, Lord, must be for the millions of people who are currently left with no state at all. The Rohingya in Burma; the Uighurs in China; the people of Indian Kashmir; the ethnic minorities in Assam... the list is too long and too horrible.

Lord, you made us all equal. Please help us work together to get back to that happy place.

Amen

This is a shortened version of the prayers of intercession, written by Chris Boston, from the 1st September morning service.

Wardie Guild

On **October 9th** we will be led by our very own Guild committee on the theme of Journeying Together.



Heather McHaffie will be our speaker on **23rd October** when we will hear about Changes at the Botanics. As we live near the Botanics and many of us go there often it will be really interesting to hear what Heather has to say.
Wendy Sodergren

OPEN DOOR at WARDIE PARISH CHURCH

A monthly opportunity for people from the local community to meet and enjoy each other's company, welcome newcomers to the district, or keep in touch with old friends. Meetings are at 7.30pm, usually in the small hall and open to all ages and sexes.

**Monday 28th October: Lynne Liddall
on her work as a street pastor**

Contact person: **Christine Shepherd**

Wardie Walkers

**Wednesday 16th October
River Almond to Airport**

We shall meet at 10.00 am
at the Clark Road cycle path
entrance for car share.

Please bring appropriate shoes
and clothing and a packed
lunch.

Contact Pam Johnston by
email for further details:
pamjohnston@blueyonder.co.uk



Gala, la, la, la, la, la...

And there was every reason to be in the mood for song. What a corker of a weekend – a proper roaster – once again, the sun shone and the people came...

Thank you to everyone who came to the Gala Weekend, whether you came to help, to take part or just to soak up the jolly atmosphere. The event did what we always set out to do – get everyone out, enjoying each other's company and reaffirming our fantastic community. We also like to raise some funds while we're at it and Gala 2019 is proud to announce that we raised a total of £2891.71 which, after Gala expenses have been deducted and a balance kept towards the 2021 Gala, will result in a substantial sum being divided between Wardie Church and Bethany Christian Trust.

Our closing credits for the Saturday 24th August event go to...

Gordon Hay, Margaret Robinson, Lomond Park Trustees, John Brown, Cathy and Grant Ballantine and their junior interviewers, all who helped with teas and coffees, Tom Kelly, Mo Brand, Heather McHaffie and the gardening team, Monica Sutherland, Fiona Campbell and all the taster session participants including Zumba, Trinity Fitspace, Boogie Bounce, Gail Littlejohn and Susan Welsh Pilates, for making the Health & Well-Being themed Saturday event so relaxing and varied.

Sunday 25th happened thanks to...

- Ute who presided over a lovely ecumenical outdoor service
- Great performances by Edinburgh Brass Band, Jazz Band and Pipers
- Stall holders who included: Wardie ladies baking, Edzell nursery face painting, Gail Littlejohn, Crossreach, St Columba's Hospice, Goldenacre Council of Churches, Lomond Park Trustees, Trinity Community Council, Girlguiding, Wardie Brownies, Changeworks, KJ Bell, Claire Arbuthnot, Heiki Campbell, Lorna Kelly and Isla, Traidcraft, Guild-Open Door, Water Babies, Lysette Cook, Audrey Jack, Niamh Boag, Ben Nussey, Jenni Lane, Friends of Starbank Park and Organic vegetables

...and if we were to pick a few out from the crowds, we would like to thank...

- Porto & Fi for providing burgers and other refreshments and donating their profits (£715) to the Gala
- Connell & Connell for their sponsorship and for helping with publicity
- Nordic Outdoors for lending two marquees free of charge
- Trevor Garlick for organising the sound system
- Mike Stewart and his team for their combined muscle power used to transport equipment and construct the platform
- Keir Mitchelmore for running the infamous dog show and Lily's Kitchen for sponsoring it
- Pippa Johnstone for organising the kidz sports
- The Scout Group, in particular Ann Watson, for serving ice cream
- Others who loaned marquees & gazebos: Marjory Burns, Pamela Jack and Ian Mann
- Water Babies for donating baby swimsuit prizes
- Police Scotland for lending us two community officers
- Crewe Toll Fire Station for bringing along a fire engine

Your contribution, no matter how large or small, was invaluable... we all made it happen – thank you. We look forward to seeing you again in 2021... *Trinity Community Gala Committee*

New "House" Group

New Hall, 7pm Thursday 24th October

Open to all. The group will pray and reflect together; a great opportunity to have some peace and stillness in God's presence.

*For more information contact Lynn Mackenzie,
Lynne Liddall or Cathy Ballantine*

Worship at Wardie, October 2019

2nd	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
6th	10.30am	Morning Service
9th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
13th	10.30am	Morning Service with baptisms (Kidz@Wardie on holiday)
16th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion
20th	10.30am	Morning Service "In Loving Memory" (Kidz@Wardie on holiday)

(Remembering those who have died during the course of the last year)

23rd	No Midweek Communion due to Kirk Session Meeting	
27th	10.30am	Morning Service
30th	8.30pm	Midweek Communion

Coffee/Tea after Sunday services

Many people enjoy the chance to socialise over a cup of tea or coffee after the morning service each week. This opportunity for fellowship is made possible by a team of helpers who prepare and serve the tea and coffee and then wash up afterwards. Over the years the number of helpers has gradually



decreased and we need some more people to join the rota. Your turn will only come round twice a year! If you think you might be able to volunteer for this not too arduous but very useful role please

contact **Christine Shepherd** cmshepherd@blueyonder.co.uk or speak to her after church – you'll find her in the Main Hall most Sundays.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

**THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER,
7–9PM, WARDIE CHURCH**

We are very lucky in Wardie to have a huge number of volunteers who work in various capacities within the church. Over 70 of these are members of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme because they do regulated work with children or vulnerable adults. However, of these, nearly 30 people still need to attend the Church of Scotland's safeguarding training which is mandatory for all volunteers.

We have managed to arrange for trainers to come to our own premises to make it easier for people to attend this interesting and enjoyable session so please let us know if you would like to book a place. Training is not available very often and the session may also be opened up to volunteers from other areas, so take your chance to bring yourself up to date now!

Fiona Campbell (fionacampbell28@gmail.com) *Fiona Ward* (fionacward110@me.com)

Say it with flowers

I have a weak spot for flowers, as many people do. They bring a smile to my face. When I trained as a minister at seminary, we were even taught about flowers in church: "The flower arrangement on the Communion Table should consist of freshly cut flowers since we offer through them our thanks to God. They remind us of the beauty of God's Creation and help us to express festive joy." All this is true but there is one more important role flowers can play. On a weekly basis, they are sent to members of our congregation as a sign of appreciation and in the hope that they bring a smile to their face.

For more than seven years, Sheila Mann has made sure that every Sunday throughout the year we had beautiful flowers at church during morning service, and has made sure that they were delivered to homes throughout Trinity and beyond. There is much more to this role than meets the eye and on behalf of the congregation I would like to express our gratitude to Sheila "for saying with flowers" week after week how much Wardie cares. There was no challenge too daunting for Sheila – not the order of 40 single roses, an even greater number of flowers for distribution on Mothering Sunday or lovely posies on special occasions such as baptisms. Not even an Advent wreath with real candles as a favour for the minister was too much to ask for. Sheila decided before the summer that the time has come to pass on the baton.



Elaine Stalker (above, left) has very kindly agreed to take on the role of organising the flower rota with all that it involves.

If you would like to make a donation towards the weekly flowers and/or would be happy to arrange them, please contact Elaine via the church office (churchoffice@wardie.org.uk or 0131 551 3847). Elaine will be in contact with donors and flower arrangers who have generously contributed in the past and equally welcomes new people who would like to sponsor flowers or arrange them.

If you would like to learn how to arrange flowers for church on Sunday, Suzie Standley has kindly offered to run a small class. Please speak to her directly or by mail (susan.standley@btinternet.com).

Ute, minister



ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for contributions for the November edition of News at Wardie: **Sunday 13th October.**

Please send contributions to Cathy Ballantine at news@wardie.org.uk

Printed by Barr Printers Limited, East Old Dock Building, 6 Dock Place, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6LU