

# News at Wardie



www.wardie.org.uk

November 2019

## MATTERS ETERNAL



When the earthquake shook Lisbon, around 9.40am on 1st November 1755, the shockwaves were felt throughout Europe and as far as Finland. The lives of up to 70,000 people in Portugal, Spain and Morocco were claimed by the earthquake along with the fires and several tsunami waves that followed. 85% of buildings were destroyed and among them were many churches. The earthquake tragically struck during Morning Mass on the Feast of All Saints, when churches were filled with people and candles burned brightly. In ruins, too, lay the newly built opera house, the royal library, the Ribeira Palace, and the Baixa – the Old Quarters. The earthquake challenged what people until then had believed to be certainties.

It had a profound effect on Europe's thinkers, philosophers and theologians alike. Voltaire, in his poem "On the Lisbon Disaster", questioned an overly optimistic view of the world the way it is: "Come, ye philosophers, who cry, 'All's well,' and contemplate this ruin of a world." The then prime minister of Portugal dealt with the catastrophe swiftly. When asked that same day what should now be done, he simply replied: "Bury the dead and heal the living."

A disaster of a different kind, entirely humanmade, struck Europe 80 years ago. In his poem "September 1, 1939", W.H. Auden reflected from America, where he lived at the time, on its beginning:

I sit in one of the dives  
On Fifty-second Street  
Uncertain and afraid  
As the clever hopes expire  
Of a low dishonest decade:  
Waves of anger and fear  
Circulate over the bright  
And darkened lands of the earth,  
Obsessing our private lives;  
The unmentionable odour of death  
Offends the September night.

There is nothing optimistic about his analysis of the situation. Sensing the enormity of the dark times that lay ahead, Auden concluded, "We must love one another or die". During this year's Remembrance Service, we will honour those who have died in the two World Wars by reflecting on the effects wars past and present have had on the lives of ordinary people, and how ordinary people, like you and me, have our part to play in cultivating peace.

1st November 2019 will be the day after the Halloween deadline that is Exit Day. "Deal or no deal. Do or die," according to the current prime minister (at the time of writing!). Yet far from creating certainties, the referendum decision has brought with it many questions about the future.

Times of great uncertainty can be destabilising. They make us wonder what we should believe in, what are the foundations and values we build our lives on. What and in whom can we trust with our future?

November can provide us with some answers to these questions, which have been asked by saints down the ages in challenging times. Focusing on matters eternal enabled them to show courage in times of crisis, to break with convention when necessary, and come up with radical answers. There is no shortage of saints in Scotland and abroad, ancient and contemporary, who are worth discovering for yourself. Starting on All Saints Day, on 1st November, and finishing with St Andrew's Day, on the 30th, why not go in search of answers provided by saintly people. One of them, St Teresa of Avila, wrote these words that seem appropriate for our times:

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you;  
for the one who has God,  
nothing is lacking.  
Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you;  
God alone is enough.

May all the saints inspire and challenge you to go about your daily round focused on what is of lasting value – matters eternal, *Ute*

## Christmas Gifts for Children

Please help continue our long tradition of generously supporting the children of families affected by imprisonment by providing gifts for distribution at Christmas. These will be gratefully received at the morning service on **Sunday 1st December**. Gifts for children of any age are welcome, wrapped in Christmas paper and marked or with a detachable label to show the gender and age of the child for whom the gift is intended.

The Edinburgh Prison Christmas gift collection has been running for over 30 years, and thousands of children have been able to open a present on Christmas morning thanks to your kindness and generosity.

Thank you for your support, *Church and World Team*



# News at Wardie, November 2019

## The Newsletter of Wardie Parish Church

Minister Ute Jaeger-Fleming  
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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*

## To Absent Friends Week, 1st–7th November 2019

### “20 Takes on Death and Dying”

Viewing of a short video followed by discussion

Friday 1st November 2019

7.30pm at Wardie Parish Church, New Hall

Two out of three people in our country say that we do not talk enough about death and dying, according to research undertaken by Macmillan Cancer Support. To start breaking the taboo, the organisation Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief is promoting a short video, “20 Takes on Death and Dying”. People from the streets of Paisley, Elgin and Inverness are sharing their thoughts on something that concerns us all. Instead of opening the sanctuary for quiet reflection during To Absent Friends Week as we have since 2016, this year we would like to invite you for a viewing of this short video (around 10 minutes). This will be followed by a discussion led by our minister, Ute. Entrance at the red Netherby Rd Door.

*Please note the Sanctuary will not be open during To Absent Friends week as it has been over the past few years.*

**For more information about To Absent Friends Week see:**

[www.toabsentfriends.org.uk/content/festival/](http://www.toabsentfriends.org.uk/content/festival/)  
[www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/online\\_resources/](http://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/online_resources/)

**Some local events:**

**Concert for absent friends:** Edinburgh Brass Band, **Friday 1st November, 5pm**, St John’s Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

**Unforgettable: Poetry Circus cabaret:** Admission is free by ticket. **Thursday 7th November, 7.30–10.15pm** (last entry 8pm), The Outhouse, Broughton Street Lane, EH1 3LY

**Love, loss and cake:** cabaret with songs and stories about love, and loss of love, interspersed with cake. **Saturday 9th November 6.30–7.25pm** Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43–45 High Street, EH1 1SR

*Christine Shepherd, Pastoral Care Convener*



## Prayer Corner

In this month’s prayer corner we include an acrostic poem about the Wardie Guild, to give thanks for the fellowship offered by the group.

**F** is for the friendship we have with one another  
**E** is for the entertainment and music we enjoy  
**L** is for the laughter, and  
**L** is for the lovely people who make our tea  
**O** is for our offerings given for others in need  
**W** is for the welcome that we hope to extend  
**S** is for the speakers and the stories they tell  
**H** is for the happy times we share together  
**I** is for all the interesting facts we learn  
**P** is for the prayers we pray and the projects we support.

All of these add up to the **Fellowship** of Wardie Guild.

## Wardie Guild

On **November 6th** we will have a PowerPoint presentation about Mary Slessor from Rebecca McGonigle (not Carol Findlay). I remember hearing about Mary Slessor when I was at school and she was an amazing woman. Born in Aberdeen in 1848, she was inspired by David Livingstone to go as a missionary to Nigeria. She is known for her Christian missionary work, women’s rights and rescuing children from infanticide. I am sure it will be an interesting morning.

**Open meeting in aid of Guild Projects:** on 20th November we will have our own Tom Kelly with **Mersey Beat to Glam Rock** where he will recreate some of the excitement of the 1960s. This **evening** meeting starts at **7.30pm** with wine and nibbles available from 7pm. Tickets cost £7 in aid of **A Chaplain for our Ports – Sailors’ Society** and **Growing the Future – Malawi Fruits**. We hope you will come and bring along friends... the more the merrier! To tempt folk along there will even be opportunities to sing along with the groups!

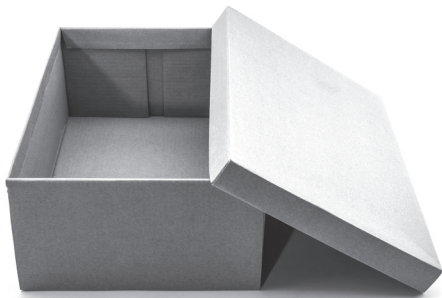
A wee reminder... **Christmas Lunch is on 11th December** in the New Hall. Orders will be taken quite soon.

*Wendy Sodegren*

## Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal

The last day for handing in filled shoe boxes is **Sunday 3rd November**. Thank you to all those who have already filled a shoe box.

*Kate Clegg*



## 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 25th November: Jane Scott on her visit to the Holy Land**

Contact person: **Christine Shepherd**

## Wardie Walkers

**Wednesday 30th October**

**Aberlady and the Gosford Estate**

Meet at 10am at the Clark Road cycle path entrance for car share.

**Wednesday 20th November**

**Walk along the Union Canal**

Meet at 10am at the Clark Road cycle path entrance for a 23 bus.

**Please bring appropriate shoes and clothing and a packed lunch for both outings.**



## New "House" Group

**New Hall, 7pm Thursday 28th November**

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*

## Drop-in Advent

**Saturday 30th November 2019**

**3–5pm Wardie Parish Church**

**Getting Christmas off to a good start!**



*Photograph: Norman Tsui on Unsplash*

**Treat yourself to an afternoon filled with fun, seasonal delicacies and good company:**

- Discover your green fingers making Advent logs
- Engage in Advent and Christmas crafts
- Take away Christmas presents you made
- Find a book to buy for a loved one
- Catch some peaceful moments in the candlelit church
- Listen to Advent music
- Enjoy a chat in our Advent café
- Taste freshly made waffles

**Entrance free, donations and people of all ages welcome.**

*Entry by the red door, Netherby Rd*

## 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 provide a session on 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)*



## Worship at Wardie, November 2019

3rd 10.30am Morning service for the Whole Church Family: Something to Boast About

*With the Wardie Junior Choir (starting with family breakfast at 9.30am)*

6th 8.30pm Midweek Communion in the New Hall. All welcome!

10th 10.30am Remembrance Service: Remembering War – Striving for Peace

*With observance of two minutes of silence at 11am*

13th 8.30pm Midweek Communion in the New Hall. All welcome!

17th 10.30am Morning Service

20th 8.30pm Midweek Communion in the New Hall. All welcome!

24th 10.30am Morning Service with Fresh Start: Helping People Make a Home for Themselves

27th 8.30pm No Midweek Communion due to Kirk Session



*On 13th October we said goodbye and thank you to five of our retiring elders. From left to right: Heather McHaffie (Session Clerk), Ian Mann, Harvey Macmillan, Sheila Mann, Archie Gray, Barbara Purdie and Paul Mitchell (Session Clerk).*

## Come and join the Living Advent Calendar!



**What is it?** A chance for folks to gather every weekday evening at a different door. There will be seasonal singing (song sheets provided) and a 'surprise'; maybe a poem or a display or a story or a joke or some music. The surprises are as varied as the hosts. Some are simple and some more elaborate, all preparing us for Christmas. Food and drink may be offered.

**When?** Monday–Friday from 2nd to 20th December.

**What time?** 6pm for approx. 15 minutes.

**Where?** Various doors, mainly people's homes, around the local area.

**How do I know where to go?** The timetable will be produced and published in the December newsletter and on the website as well as printed ones being available from the church.

*It's not about chocolate but about people. It's about the opportunity to take a moment each day to look forward to Christmas and to meet for a short time together with others who are doing the same.*

**Would you like to host a 'door'? If so then please contact the church office (churchoffice@wardie.org.uk or 0131 551 3847) for more information.**

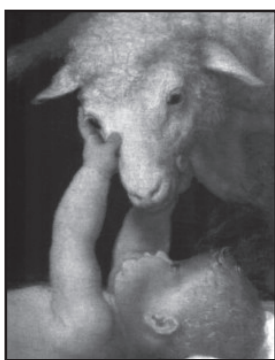
*Sarah Matthews, Fellowship Team*

## Advent Service for Seniors 2019

### "A Beastly Christmas"

Come and join us for

A short service on the 2nd of Advent  
at Wardie Parish Church



**Sunday 8th December at 3pm**

**followed by seasonal refreshments in the Hall.**

All Seniors, with family members and friends, are welcome!

For further information, if you need transport or know someone who would like to come, please contact Catriona at the church office.

*This service aims to be dementia friendly.*

**0131 551 3847 or churchoffice@wardie.org.uk**

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for contributions for the December edition of News at Wardie: **Sunday 10th November.**

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

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