
September Newsletter

Drylaw Parish Church

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I am glad to say that there have been many small signs of growth over the last few months in our church community. Our building has welcomed two new regular groups that we are delighted to have in our midst, groups reaching out and supporting vulnerable folk in and around our community.

We have welcomed the Singing Group for people with dementia and their carers, and you can hear more about them as you read on, and photos to show what it is like to join them. We have welcomed back the Drylaw Community Project that supports adults with learning difficulties, mostly from North West Edinburgh. They are in most days during the week and provide life and interest for those of us in the building. They are based in our small hall and this summer they have opened the French windows frequently and had their lunch out on our new patio. We have said to goodbye to the Foodbank, sad to see them go, yet glad for them that they have a new permanent home down the road in the Pennywell All Care Centre.

Just this past week, there has been significant change in our sanctuary. The screens that were on the side walls and so quite difficult to see, have been moved to the front of the sanctuary, and that seems to be a good improvement. A small group that gives a chance for folk to get to know one another, and talk about our faith has recommenced and is going to continue fortnightly. It is called Monday Church because it meets on Mondays! Roughly once a month our young people are helping in leading our worship and I am delighted at their willingness to participate in this way. For those of you who follow social media, our Facebook page continues to show what we are doing and our website is going to have a new look in the very near future.

Like the harvesting of crops, all the above has happened from a combination of inspiration and initiative beyond ourselves, coupled with our own efforts and responsiveness. Life is this kind of growth, and harvest is a time to pause amidst the busy-ness and really appreciate what has been harvested.

I am grateful for all the things I have recounted above and realise that writing this article has made me more aware of what has been achieved. So I do invite you to do likewise and ponder about your own life. What are you harvesting from the past year. What has God planted in your life that is coming to fruition?

Blessings to you all

Jenny



Special Services

October 7th Girl Guiding Service
10.30am

November 11th Remembrance
Sunday 10.30am

Dates for your Diary

McMillan Coffee Afternoon – Lesley Crosbie will be holding her annual coffee afternoon raising funds for McMillan it is on Friday 28th September 2018 in the small hall from 2pm – 4pm, please come along and support this great cause – everyone very welcome.

Congregational Lunch – this will take place at Lauriston Farm after the service on Sunday 23rd September, please let us know should you wish to attend.

Monday Church continues – the next meeting is on Monday 10th September at 1pm and thereafter will be every fortnight - the next one being 24th September – all welcome

Christmas Fair December 8th
11am – 1pm



After many months of planning the new “NW Edinburgh Singing Group for People with Dementia and their Carers” started on Wednesday 16th May, based in the large hall at Drylaw Parish Church. The group is for anyone with Dementia, accompanied by a carer or support worker, who still lives in the community. The emphasis is on bringing folk together to socialise and sing, and to have an enjoyable and relaxed afternoon- it is not a choir.

The first half hour we enjoy a cuppa together then form a circle and do some simple exercises to get ready for a good old “sing-song”. We have a different programme each session, with familiar songs, accompanied by a piano, and the lyrics are projected onto a screen. Often there is a seasonal theme, eg we sang some American folk songs on the 4th July to mark Independence Day, and we always have a section of popular Scottish songs. There is also a “name that tune” quiz and a couple of “walking songs” which folk love, as it is a chance to get up and walk round together, or even dance. By the end of the afternoon, we are all smiling and laughing and the atmosphere is very good spirited. We end with a goodbye song, and always look forward to the next session.

Many families support a family member with Dementia and research demonstrates the beneficial effects of music for both the carer and those affected. In our first few weeks we can attest to this, as all the members and volunteers feel a sense of wellbeing by the end of the afternoon.

The Singing Group are very grateful to Rev Jenny Williams and the Kirk Session for providing a comfortable and welcoming venue, and enabling us to set up a new resource in this community. We would love more people to join us, and benefit from the joy of music and friendship.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please phone Rosemary on Tel: 0131 554 7621 or Linda on Tel: 0131 467-3399.

170th Guide Unit



170th Guides at Abbotsford Airport, Canada heading to Smithers for SOAR 2017.

A year ago 8 girls and 3 leaders came back from SOAR 2017, Smithers, Canada having had a fantastic time out there.

The unit has since last summer had a talk from a lady about Wojtek, War Hero Bear, taken part in the challenge Citizen Girl, which has enabled the girls to have a voice by looking at topics that are close to their hearts. This was a very interesting challenge as they had a lot of good ideas. We have had 3 leaders trained by the SRU in Touch Rugby, which we have started to look at in the unit. We looked at the Votes for Women Challenge badge and the girls found this interesting.

After the Summer Holidays we will be starting on the new programme that was launched in July. New badges, format and from what I have seen so far quite exciting for them.

We currently have 14 girls in the unit with 3 girls moving to our Senior Section Unit after the summer holidays. We have spaces for girls aged 10 - 15 years old and if anyone is interested in the unit's in Drylaw either as a girl to join or an adult to volunteer please go onto our website and register your enquiry. www.girlguiding.org.uk

At the end of September 11 girls and 3 leaders are going to PGL Dalguise, Perthshire for an adventure filled weekend. We are currently awaiting to hear which activities the girls have been successful in getting as they could select these prior to the holidays. We will let you all know how this weekend went in the next Kirk & Folk.

Elizabeth Martin

Drylaw Parish Church's First Pet Service

On 17 June 2018, in the midst of our lovely hot summer it was not only human beings that made their way to church. Some weeks before, as a result of a request from two of the youngest members of the congregation, Reverend Jenny took a very deep breath and announced that we would hold a Pet Service. This may have met with unbridled glee from the youngsters but I suspect I was not the only person to have visions of the episode from "The Vicar of Dibley" where chaos ensued at such a service. Still, this is Drylaw and never let it be said that we won't give everything a fair go.

A lovely notice was produced for the wall outside to advertise the event and the decision made that the small hall would be the best venue as being more forgiving in the event of "accidents" than the carpets in the Church itself! Plans were made to accommodate not only the pet lovers and their charges but also those with allergies and phobias for whom proximity to cats, dogs and wee beasts is not a pleasure. On the day our numbers were swelled by 6 dogs and 2 gerbils, all of whom behaved beautifully. (Hannah and Jessica very wisely keeping their gerbils safely in their carrying cases and out of temptations way for their canine companions.

The theme for the service was the whole of Creation and how we have responsibilities towards all the other species that inhabit our world and also for the planet itself. Reverend Jenny was very ably assisted by Katie, Louise and Hannah, all of whom spoke up very well and we enjoyed some very special music from our organist. We were delighted to welcome some visitors, one of whom had brought their greyhound and another girl who was wearing a lovely sweatshirt decorated with animal photographs, a clever way to join in the theme for the day.

We all agreed that it had been a success and for those of us for whom our pets mean so much, yes, it was special to have them there to share worship. I only hope that Jenny didn't notice when my dog very definitely went to sleep during the sermon.....!

Helen Homewood

Amanda Kane School of Dance

It's been a very busy summer for the dancers in the school and we have been to competitions all across Scotland. Whilst we haven't been to many services during the summer months, Katie Lawson has been working very hard. Pictured here with her overall trophy from the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon.

In November 12 of the dancers will again be heading to Paris to take part in the International Gathering of Scottish Highland Dancers and they are looking forward to that!

Amanda Lawson



