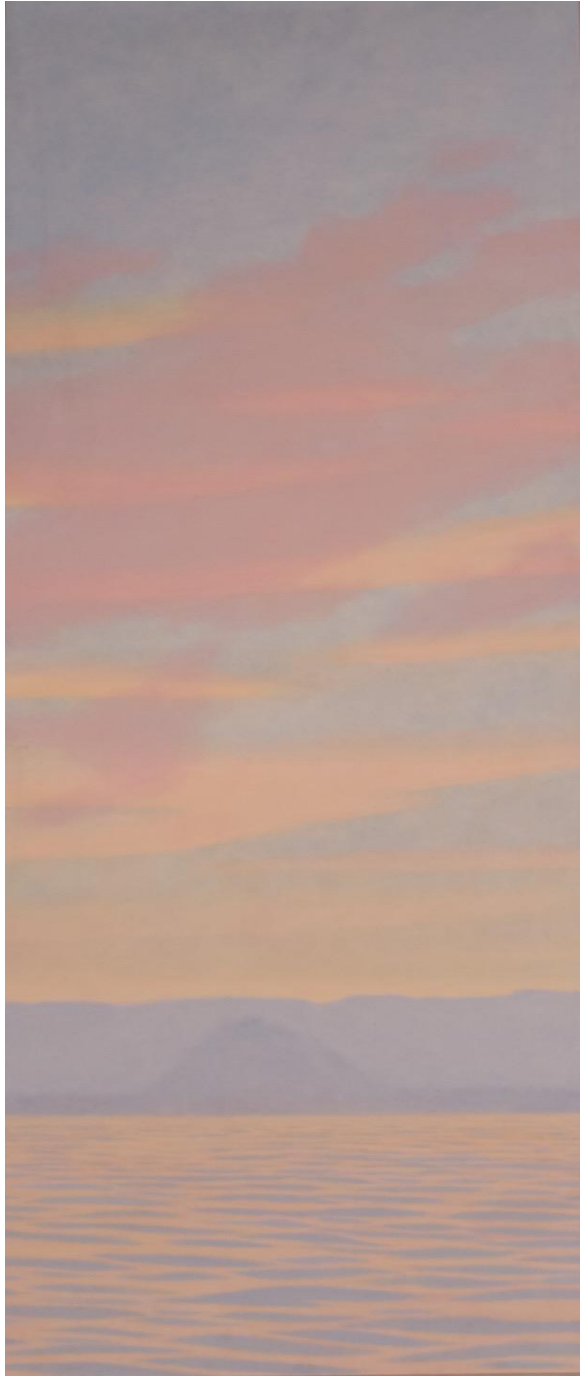


Stockbridge Church

bridging
the gap



The Bridge

Stockbridge
Parish Church
Newsletter

Saxe Coburg Street,
Edinburgh

www.stockbridgechurch.org.uk

January 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

Being aware of the love of God in our lives, we, the congregation of Stockbridge Parish Church, as part of the world church seek to meet together in worship; to demonstrate faith in God in our everyday lives; to reach out to others, showing God's love and compassion; and to raise awareness of matters of justice locally and globally.

CONTACT US

Locum Minister	Rev John Munro, 0131 446 9363 revjohnmunro@hotmail.com
Session Clerk (Joint)	Ben Bond, 07910 770572 sessionclerk@stockbridgechurch.org.uk
Session Clerk (Joint)	Kerr McLaren, 0131 226 2338
Treasurer	Kerr McLaren, 0131 226 2338 treasurer@stockbridgechurch.org.uk
Bridge Editor	Shona Cameron, 0131 336 3050 bridge@stockbridgechurch.org.uk
Church Administrator	Laura Field, 0131 332 0122 admin@stockbridgechurch.org.uk
Church Officer	Colin Clark, 07856 485384

The church office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9.30am to 5pm, and by email on Thursdays.



The Future

From our joint Session Clerk, **Ben Bond**:

As you will be aware, the Mission Plan of our Presbytery (the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian) passed in late 2022 placed our church in a new grouping of churches to the north of our Parish, known as Mission District North.

We objected to this for a number of reasons, and submitted a Request for Review of the decision in June this year. A Review Panel was appointed in September and has reviewed our request over recent months.

We have now learned that our Request for Review has been rejected and so the Presbytery's decision is upheld.

Notwithstanding the Review Panel's decision, as your Kirk Session we remain committed to retaining Stockbridge Parish Church in Saxe-Coburg Street as a centre for congregational Worship and Community Service, and the Kirk Session will engage with the Congregation as early as possible in the New Year to discuss how to achieve this.

Ben Bond, 19.12.23

At the time of going to press we are about to hold further congregational meetings on this matter.



Congregational News

On 26th November, we celebrated with Matt and Heather the baptism of Grace.

We also welcomed Heather MacKenzie, Audrey MacKenzie and Alison Freshwater to our congregation.



And we celebrated with Gilbert on his 80th birthday

Obituary Rev Jim (James Lindsay) Wilkie, 1934 - 2024

Jim read Classics at Aberdeen University, 1952-1956. He was a committed Christian and an active member of the University's Student Christian Movement (SCM) where he met Dr Irene Wilkie (née Watson). Jim graduated in 1956 with a First and commenced a Divinity Course at Christ College, Aberdeen. After graduating from Christ College in 1959, he was ordained as a minister of the Church of Scotland. He and Irene were now married, and they spent the next 16 years (1960 - 1976) in Zambia in a variety of church based and medical roles, in Jim's case latterly as Protestant Chaplain for the University of Zambia. In 1976 Jim and family returned to the UK where he spent 8 years working for the British Council of Churches in London, latterly as the Secretary of Conference for World Mission. He and Irene returned to Scotland in 1984 to the role of Overseas African Secretary for the Church of Scotland, based in Edinburgh. Jim retired in 1994 though continued to be active in a variety of capacities and organisations including Stockbridge Parish Church, the Iona Community and Fresh Start, an Edinburgh rehousing charity.

Jim is survived by his wife, Dr Irene Wilkie, and his four children, James, Anne, Margaret and Catherine.

From Anne Wilkie

Dear Friends

Please join us as we celebrate the life of our father Jim Wilkie at 12pm on Friday 16th February, 2024. The Thanksgiving Service will be held in Stockbridge Parish Church and will be followed by a buffet lunch in the Young Room. (There will be tea, coffee and a buffet lunch served after the service. The buffet will include options suitable for vegetarians and vegans.) The service will be live streamed for anyone who cannot attend in person.

We ask that no flowers be sent, rather if you so wish, you make a donation to one of the organisations in which Jim and Irene took a special interest- Fresh Start, Christian Aid and Amnesty International.

We have also set up an online tribute page for Jim and it would wonderful if you can share your memories, photos, and stories of Jim.

There is no specific dress code, please wear whatever feels appropriate and comfortable.

Finally, our thanks to you all for the love and support you have given us over the past few weeks. We've received so many wonderful messages about dad, every one of which has been shared between us and shared by Cathy with Irene.

Irene Wilkie, James Wilkie, Anne Wilkie, Maggie Davenport and Cathy Wilkie-Thompson

Bicentenary Celebrations

On November 19th, we celebrated 200 years of worship in Stockbridge, with a service with the "Two Johns", Revs John Cowie and John Munro.



All who were there on the day (with thanks to our photographer, Bill W)



A week later, we enjoyed the visit of the current moderator, Rev Sally Foster-Fulton to our church:



S:

Craft group

The Craft Fair on Nov 25th was a great success, raising over £1000 for Scottish Women's Aid and The Yard, a youth charity (see below for update).

Betty and two helpers show us the range of wonderful craft goods on offer.





Crafters at Christmas

The craft group held an amazingly successful Christmas Sale in November. Thanks to a lot of hard work by our members, friends, families and supporters we raised the staggering sum of **£1514**, which will be donated to our two chosen charities, The Yard and Edinburgh Women's Aid. The event was well attended, and we're grateful to Islay from Girls' Brigade who looked after the teas for us.

Even the few things that didn't sell on the day all found good homes as we supported the Christmas sales at St Stephen's Comely Bank and our own Girls' Brigade Company, we donated to care homes and refugees and gave craft materials to the Border Scrapstore.

At our December meeting we had a Christmas craft session enjoying making pomanders and tree decorations.

We resume our regular meetings in January at Number 7 (7 Raeburn Place). We meet from 2-4pm on the last Tuesday of the month and all crafters are welcome.

Judith W.

Royal Edinburgh Hospital Appeal

Many patients are admitted to the REH as emergencies and have few possessions to take with them. There is a constant need for basic toiletries such as toothbrushes and paste, deodorant, shampoo, soap etc. and these need to be for men and women. The only restrictions are – products must be new and unopened, nothing packed in glass and no razors. This is an ideal time to look at your Christmas gifts and donate anything that you know you'll never use, as well as picking up a few things at the shops.

If you'd like to support this worthy cause there will be a collection point at the back of the Church and Anna Reid will organise delivery to the hospital.

Judith W.

Celebrating Age Project (CAP)

CAP continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is on Wed 7th February when Liz McLaren will be continuing 'More Memories of her growing up Years'. Liz's first talk on her earlier years had us all enthralled and we are really looking forward to hearing the next instalment.

Other Dates are :-

6th March: Lilian Bell on 'Wigs and Things'

3rd April: 4 people talking for 5-10 minutes on a subject of their choosing.

Summer meetings 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August and 4th September are more informal.

We try to arrange outings. If no outing is arranged we meet up anyway and just have a chat (we are pretty good at that) tea and cake.

Please feel free to come and join us at any time. We are a friendly group and you would get a warm welcome.

Violet H.

Life Care Centre

Over the past few weeks and months, I have been popping into the former Stockbridge House in Cheyne Street now known as the Life Care Centre. This was a brilliant change of name because in days gone by shortly after Stockbridge House was opened, I used to ask our elderly members if they had considered going to Stockbridge House for the Elderly only to be told in no uncertain terms that it was a place for old folk, 'which is no us'!

So now the Life Care Centre cares for everyone and tries to meet all our needs but there is still plenty going on that might appeal to those 'of a certain age.'

In conversation with Claire Montgomery the Fundraising and Communications manager and the CEO Sarah Van Putten, I re-discovered a place I knew well but which had been further improved. It also boasts a great lunch club where I was treated to a baked potato with Scott and Margaret Bennet for company.

Claire tells me that there are four things I can pass on to you as members of Stockbridge Church.

1. Places are available currently within the Dean Club for 50+ who are frail and elderly.
2. There are free activities on offer for 'unpaid' carers.
3. The 'Chatty Café' is open on Mondays between 11am and 1pm for anyone who would like a chat.
4. On Saturdays there is the Saturday Social Club which offers free food, warmth and companionship.

And, of course volunteers are always welcome.

See you there!

John

Rev John Munro

Stockbridge Music Hub

The second Connection Through Music event will be on February 24th at 6pm and promises to be very special.

There will be a live link to Ukraine where we will speak to musicians working there and hear some of their music as well as play some of their compositions live in the Hub.

Opportunities will be available to ask questions about how music is helping them navigate the terrible situation they find themselves in.

Professor Nigel Osborne will be there in Ukraine and psychologist Dr Angela Kennedy will be at the Hub. Artisan will perform the new Ukrainian pieces alongside some Mozart.



Clea Friend

Stockbridge Music Hub
in collaboration with Stockbridge Church

Connection Through Music
How music changes our bodies, minds and lives

**Live link with
musicians in Ukraine**

World premières of works by
Lena Prygunkova
and Danylo Lazariev
performed by ARTISAN
Solo performances by
Veronika Ivonina, Tigran Sagatelian
and Oleksiy Synelnyk-Shcherbak

and an open conversation with
Professor Nigel Osborne and Dr Angela Kennedy

**Friday 24th February
6pm**

Stockbridge Church, 7b Saxe Coburg St, EH3 5BN

Book tickets: www.musichub.uk

Amati
Global Investors

Good news stories:

At the start of a new year, you may, like me, have felt a gloom at the never-ending stories of wars, natural disasters, and many crises brought about by humankind. To counter these feelings of trepidation, I offer you some hopeful facts:-

- For a new born child at the start of the 20th century life expectancy globally was 32 years. Today, it has more than doubled to over 70 years.
- Child mortality rates are dropping sharply. Globally, in a single generation, the number of children dying under the age of 5 has fallen by 59%.
- Maternal deaths dropped by more than a third world-wide during the first two decades of the 21st century.
- In 1950, half the global population had no formal education. In 2020, that figure had been reduced to 13.7%. Globally, there are 50 million more girls in school today than there were in 2015.
- The global Covid-19 vaccination programme is the fastest the world has ever seen.
- Unicef has signed a long-term agreement with the world's biggest vaccine manufacturer to supply the new malaria vaccine through to 2028.
- Deforestation across the 9 Amazonian countries is down over 58% on the same period a year ago.
- China's time as the world's biggest polluter may soon be over, as 2023 has been a record-breaking year for installing low-carbon energy infrastructure.
- The hole in the ozone layer is on track to be healed over most of the world by 2040.
- The demilitarised zone between North and South Korea is now an unlikely wildlife sanctuary. It is now home to 6200 species, including 38% of the endangered birds and animals on the Korean Peninsula, such as golden eagles.

So, let us look forward with hope and faith

Shona C.

(source – Sunday Times, 31.12.23)

News from the Kirk

The Life and Death of Eric Liddell and the Rebirth of Chinese Christianity.



Eric Liddell is best-known for his athletic achievements, particularly his gold medal in the 400 metres at the Paris Olympics in 1924. In association with the Eric Liddell Community's celebration of the centenary of that victory, this event will focus on the other aspect of his life, which was perhaps even more important to him, namely his life and work as a Christian missionary and teacher in China.

In this half-day programme, three scholars of the University of Edinburgh will focus on Liddell's life and work in China, his legacy there, and the subsequent history of Chinese Christianity, worldwide and in China itself.

In the centenary of Eric Liddell's Olympic gold medal, this free event will focus on his religious life and work in China and its legacy. Saturday, 3 February 2024 10:00–12:30 The Playfair Library, Old College, University of Edinburgh. Register for a place through Eventbrite.

Malawi Coffee Morning is now meeting in person, at 10.30 – 12 midday on the first Friday of the month. All welcome!

Bottle tops

Please save your plastic milk bottle tops. Washed bottle tops can be left inside the cabinet at the back left of the Church, and will be taken for recycling.

Your contributions for The Bridge are very welcome

Just email bridge@stockbridgechurch.org.uk, or leave in Bridge pigeonhole, or speak to Shona Cameron in church.

All contributions for the next issue should be e-mailed to Shona at above email address. If you do not have access to email, please phone her.

The deadline for the next Bridge, the Easter edition, is **Sunday 10th March, 2024.**

Our worship continues online, as well as in person, on Sunday at 11am. Watch live, or on demand, by visiting our website, Facebook, or YouTube channel (Stockbridge Parish Church).

Stockbridge Church

STOCKBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH

7b Saxe Coburg Street Edinburgh EH3 5BN

0131 332 0122

www.stockbridgechurch.org.uk

admin@stockbridgechurch.org.uk



Stockbridge Parish Church of Scotland, Edinburgh
Registered Scottish Charity, Charity No – SC002499

Enquiries about use of the church and halls are welcome, contact the church office, or see our website.