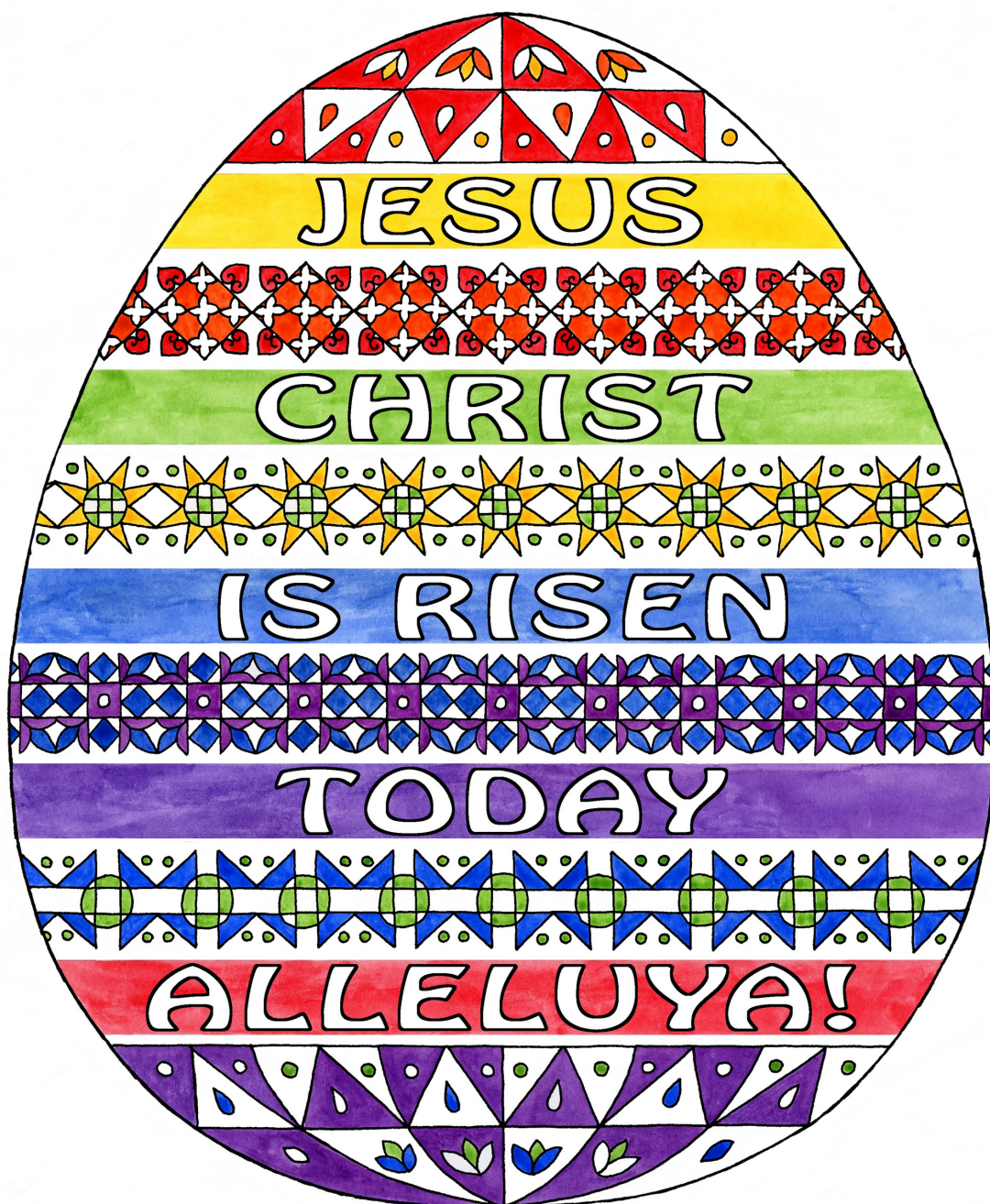


THE  
**epic!**

ELGIN  
PARISH  
CHURCH

MARCH 25



The Church of Scotland



## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear All,

**As we step into February, we find ourselves in a season of transition. Winter's chill still lingers, yet the promise of spring draws ever closer.**

In the same way, our faith in Christ calls us to look beyond present struggles and embrace the hope and renewal He offers. No matter what we face, we are never without the love and guidance of our Lord.

One of the most powerful examples of Jesus' love is found in John 13:1-17, where He humbles Himself to wash the feet of His disciples. This simple yet profound act takes place on the night before His crucifixion - a moment of deep significance. Jesus, fully aware of His divine authority, kneels before His followers and takes on the role of a servant. Peter is shocked by this reversal of roles, but Jesus reassures him, saying, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15).

What does this act of service mean for us today? First, it teaches us that no act of love is beneath us. In a world where status, pride, and self-interest often take priority, Jesus calls us to humility. He reminds us that true greatness is found not in power, but in service to others. Whether it is offering kindness to a neighbour, lending a hand to someone in need, or simply listening with compassion, we are following the example of Christ when we serve.

Secondly, Jesus shows us that love is not just words, but action. He could have simply told His disciples to love one another, yet He demonstrated it in a tangible way. As followers of Christ, we are called to live out our faith in the way we treat others—within our families, our community, and even among strangers.

Finally, Jesus assures us that service brings blessing. "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:17). The world often tells us that happiness comes from seeking our own desires, but Jesus reveals a deeper truth: joy is found in loving and serving others. When we follow His example, we not only bless those around us, but we also experience the peace and fulfilment that come from walking in His footsteps.

This year, may we be inspired by Christ's humility, love, and service. Let us seek opportunities to be His hands and feet, bringing light and hope to those around us.

**Every blessing from the Manse,  
Deon, Marése, and the children**



## ROME BRACES FOR 60 MILLION VISITORS

2025, a Jubilee Year with tens of millions expected worldwide. Pope Francis has described Rome as a "place of hospitality, a melting pot of diversity and dialogue," where the world's colours come together like a mosaic. This year, Rome will host religious and cultural events themed "Pilgrims of Hope," echoing the 1300th Jubilee during the first Church Jubilee. The Jubilee tradition has roots in the Old Testament

The 2025 Jubilee coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and a rare common celebration of Easter by all Churches.

- **Expected Visitors:** Rome is expecting 60 million visitors in 2025.
- **Reason for Visitors:** 2025 is a Jubilee Year for the city, with many religious and cultural events planned.
- **Vision:** Rome as a welcoming and inclusive city, embodying diversity and dialogue.



## THE MODERATOR'S VISIT TO ELGIN

The Rt Revd Shaw Patterson visited Tea and Chat, Johnstons Woollen Mill and Step by Step. He chatted to all and his visit enhanced the work being achieved by Elgin Parish Church

## COP 29: Challenges and Highlights

COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, drew controversy due to criticism of the petrostate hosting the conference. France, Argentina, and small island states walked out in protest. Concerns arose about the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

### Key highlights included:

- Developed nations agreed to channel \$300 billion annually to developing countries by 2035 for climate change support.
- Countries most affected by climate change called for \$1.3 trillion annually in climate finance this decade.
- Technical rules for carbon trading were agreed upon to address carbon market issues.
- Criticism was directed at the host country for alleged blocking tactics and lack of progress on mitigation and just transition.
- The Faith Pavilion promoted interfaith cooperation and action on climate justice, hosting over 50 dialogue sessions with 230 speakers from 97 organisations representing 11 religions and denominations.
- The Women, Faith, and Climate network was launched to highlight climate action led by women.
- An online media conference featured leading faith climate activists.

### Mini Knitted Easter Bunnies

You need 3mm straight needles.

Yarn in white, red, yellow, green and black.

Using Yellow yarn cast on 40 Stitches.

Row 1-2 knit.

Rows 3 to 11 Stocking stitch, purl 9 rows.

Row 12 K2TOG, to end of row (20 stitches)

Row 13 P

#### Change to White Yarn.

Rows 14-21 St St, start with Knit (8 rows)

Row 22 ( K 2TOG) to end of row (10 Stitches)

Row 23 P

#### Shaping the Head.

Row 24: ( K1: M1) to the end of the row (20 stitches)

Row 25 to 33: St St. Start with P : 9 rows.

Row 34: K2TOG to end of the row (10 Stitches)

Row: 35: P

Cut a long end of yarn, close with mattress stitch, Stuff the white part and separate the head using running stitch.

**HAPPY  
EASTER!**



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."

## A TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER FLEMING

**Alexander Fleming**, a Scottish bacteriologist, discovered penicillin at age 53 and shared the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine with Ernst Boris Chain and Howard Walter Florey. Known for his untidiness, Fleming considered his earlier discovery of lysozyme his best work. Though penicillin's practical significance was immense, he struggled to convince other scientists.

- **Penicillin Discovery:** Fleming discovered penicillin, an antibiotic, by accident in 1928.
- **Scientific Recognition:** Fleming, Chain, and Florey won the 1945 Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine for the discovery of penicillin.
- **Impact and Legacy:** Penicillin marked the start of modern antibiotics and Fleming was recognised for his contribution.



No! Not the roof or the organ.  
It's for the minister's post -  
Christmas - pre Easter  
recuperation holiday break.



"It's two t's in Matthew"  
Said Osric

### Guarding the Chocolate

Was there a security tag on your Easter egg this year?

It's that shoplifting has soared to an unprecedented amount.

There were more than 20 million shoplifting incidents in the UK last year. Retailers lost £2.2 billion.

And it seems that shoplifters also like chocolate.

Which is why some WH Smith shops have been tagging the Cadbury Mini Eggs, and why some Tesco stores have put Quality Street chocolates under a wire net.

## THE SALVATION ARMY

When The Salvation Army first began and William Booth realised how many people were sleeping on the streets in London, he asked his son Bramwell, "Did you know that men sleep all night under the bridges?" "Well, yes," said Bramwell, "a lot of poor fellows do that."

Characteristically brusque, General Booth replied, "Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself, to have known it and to have done nothing for them!" As Bramwell began to outline the difficulties and the costs involved, the General dismissed his concerns and said, "Go and do something, we must do something!" And so shortly afterwards, The Salvation Army's first hostel for homeless men was opened in an old tram shed.

As an activist by nature, I love this story. The idea that if we see a need and we can do something to meet it, we should. I'm always drawn to the idea of doing something. Which is why I was grateful, a few years ago, to come across '40acts'. 40acts is a 'generosity challenge' for Lent aimed at 'giving back, doing good, and living generously.'

While different people observe Lent in different ways, traditionally people give something up for Lent - chocolate, coffee, or alcohol often feature, and that's no bad thing, but 40acts encourages people to do something generous during Lent too. Believing that it 'is better to give than receive' and that at the heart of the Easter message is God's lavish generosity, Lent provides a great opportunity to develop the habit of living generously.

Whether you've given anything up for Lent, or if Lent normally passes you by, the invite and the challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to experiment in kindness. Or as William Booth told his son, "Go and do something!"

**Major Nick Hanover.**

The Salvation Army in Elgin. 07896 122179



## MONDAY GUILD 2025

Monday Guild continues to meet monthly, though January's meeting was cancelled due to the bad weather. We have had a variety of interesting speakers and at this time of writing, we are looking forward to talks from Cecil Taylor, Nick Hanover, and Christine Whitton with the AGM being in May. The guild coffee morning, the funds raised will be going to guild projects.

The guild service would have taken place. February has been a very busy, eventful month! Meetings are sociable events when we come together in faith and to express faith in worship, praise, action, and fellowship. New female and male members are welcome.

**Ruth Anderson** Committee member. Monday Guild

- **Meeting Schedule:** Monthly meetings, with the exception of last January due to bad weather.
- **Upcoming Speakers:** Cecil Taylor, Nick Hanover, Christine Whitton, and the AGM in May.
- **Guild Service:** A busy month with sociable events for faith expression and fellowship.

## ELGIN STREET PASTORS

Here are some facts (2023 AGM Street Pastor's Report) about our work in 2023:

- Spent 783 hours on patrol, 250 more than last year.
- Engaged in conversations with 3,344 folk.
- Supported 49 vulnerable people.
- Gave out flip-flops, water, lollipops, and foil blankets.
- Picked up glass bottles and cans.
- Handed out Spikeys/Stoptopps to prevent drink spiking.
- Received spontaneous thanks 573 times.

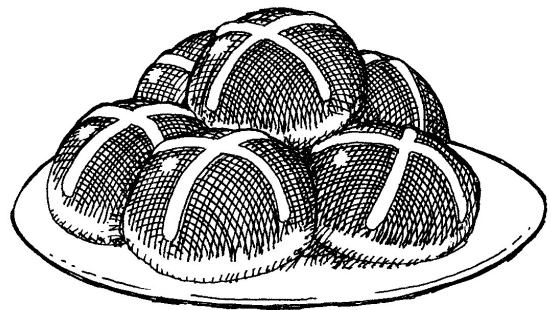
Thank you for your prayer that allowed us to show God's love practically. When I thought about Street Pastors, I found this prayer by Cardinal John Henry Newman:

Dear Jesus, help me spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess me so that I may radiate your light. Let them see only Jesus in me. Stay with me so I can shine as you shine, a light to others. The light will be from you, not me.

Pray that God's light shines through us in our conversations, and they sense His presence and unconditional love. Thank you again for your prayer support. I appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,

**Rev Stuart Duff**



## EASTER AT ELGIN PARISH CHURCH

The morning breaks with golden light,  
A promise shines an end to night.  
The rolling hills of Moray sing,  
As church bells chime and echoes ring.

The stone was moved, the grave stood bare,  
No shadow lurked in silence there.  
For Christ is risen, death undone!  
New hope is born, new life begun.

In Elgin's heart, where prayers arise,  
We lift our voices to the skies.  
The cross once stood in grief and pain,  
Yet love endured, and life remains.

With hands outstretched, we praise and sing,  
Proclaiming Christ, our risen King.  
The empty tomb, the Saviour's grace,  
Fills every heart, in every place.  
So come, rejoice, let faith be stirred,  
In Elgin Parish, share the Word.  
For Easter's light will ever shine,  
A gift of love, forever thine.

**ELGIN PARISH CHURCH DIARY**  
**WHATS ON - WHEN AND WHERE**

**ALL WELCOME**

**MONDAY**

**HIGH JINKS** In the St Giles Building. A space for toddlers to play and engage with other children and an opportunity for parents and carers to mix. 10:00 to 11:30.

**ACORN** Fortnightly in the Williamson Hall, West room. 13:30 -15:15. Join with fellow Christians recognising God working with in you and through you? Or is it just Coincidence. Come along for a cupper and chat. For further information contact Paula or Sonia.

**MONDAY GUILD** First Monday of the month. 19:00 in the Williamson Hall.

**MEN'S GROUP** The 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Williamson Hall. 9:00 - 12:00

**TUESDAY**

**LUNCH CLUB** Every Tuesday in the Williamson Hall, from 11:30 Enjoy a bowl of homemade soup and a delicious Sweet, with good company.

**WEDNESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY GUILD** 1st Wednesday of the month. In the Williamson Hall at 14:00.

**DROP IN TEAS** In the St Giles 10:00 to 11:30 on Wednesdays. Drop in Teas and Coffee. All welcome and enjoy a cup of tea in fellowship.

**VESTRY HOUR** From 14:00 to 15:00. Sonia will be available in the vestry for Prayer, Healing or a listening ear, enter by back door. You can contact Sonia beforehand 07748 700 929.

**BIRNIE KIRK** Ecumenical Services every Wednesday evening at 19:00. A service of prayer and Psalms with friendship over cake after the service.

**CURIOUS CHRISTIANS** Looking at the Bible in a different way. Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday in The Williamson Hall. West Room.

**WOMAN'S GROUP** 1st Wednesday of the month. Williamson Hall. 19:30

**THURSDAY**

**MID-WEEK SERVICE** Every Thursday in St Giles, 13:00. A Mid-Week service. Join us in your lunch break for a half an hour service. Come at 12:30 and join in fellowship over a cup of tea.

**BIBLE STUDY** Traditional Bible study using Bible study tool with a twist! Please join our small group for just an hour at the Williamson Hall, Thursday at 15:30 in the West room.

**FRIDAY**

**KICKS** Every Friday except the first Friday of the month in the Williamson Hall 10:00 - 11:30 for Toddlers, their parents / carers with a Bible message and play.

Contact [stgileskicks@gmail.com](mailto:stgileskicks@gmail.com) All pre-schoolers welcome.

**SATURDAY**

**MESSY PLAY** Second Saturday of the month for P1 to P7 and siblings. A time for children and parents to join in crafts, games, songs and food together. Places must be booked through Kathleen Thompson on 07794 416 708 or Sonia 07748 700 929.

**PRAYER FELLOWSHIP** on the first Saturday of the month. 9:00 in the Williamson Hall.

**SUNDAY**

**OUR SERVICE** is at 10:30 followed by tea/coffee etc in the Williamson Hall.

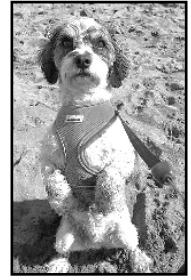
**CAFE CHURCH** on the 1st Sunday of the month in The Williamson Hall at 16:00.

This is a more relaxed form of worship suitable for all ages.

## Pause (PAWS) with Paula

### Access Denied

One day, I turned on my T.V. to a surprising notice, PIN Required! What? What channel was my T.V. on that meant I needed to input a PIN. Once I remembered, or found, the PIN, it was shocking what came up that needed viewer vetting (sorry Bracken, didn't mean to mention a vet). It was, wait for it, the World Indoor Championships for Bowling. I'm now left wondering what some of you get up to at the bowling ????



I'm guessing there was a glitch with my T.V. but often, we find there is Restricted Access. There are clubs you can't attend unless you have paid. Others that are for males OR females. You might have to be of a certain age to get some things, or qualification is by skill or talent. It was no different in Bible times, there was restricted access to information, resources and God on so many levels.

In Mark 2:16 the Pharisees' teachers of religious law, talking with his disciples, asked about Jesus "Why does he eat with such scum?" which indicates to me, that tax collectors, were going to be excluded from the very information that could have changed their lives. Possibly! But in all fairness the disciples also had in their minds who was worthy of the attention of Jesus, and children did not make the cut. However Jesus said "Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." Matthew 19:14 NLT

In Jesus eyes they had worth, they were not insignificant. In fact, throughout the gospels, you see that Jesus reached out to every demographic possible – even the rulers of the day. He taught in the synagogues, the villages, down by the water and up on the mountainside.

In Matthew 11:28 NLT Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Notice that very small, but great word ... ALL.

You don't have to pass a test, be a certain age or demographic. You don't have to be skilled or born to the right race of people. "Come to me ALL ..." if what Jesus said. Yes in this context, he was open to all who were tired, repressed, struggling under their load of daily life, but Jesus was and is accessible to all people.

We don't have to qualify in some way, we can just come to Him as we are.

Perhaps, the ever smarter T.V., recognised that I didn't have the skills or know how to be playing, or even watching, the World Indoor Bowls Championships, but thankfully, Jesus knows me best of all and for Him, there is no opportunity that lacks learning, and most importantly, no Access to Him, is denied.

Love and Prayers Paula



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the *World Day of Prayer* was held in Holy Trinity Church (opposite Aldi) on Friday, 7 March, at 1:30 p.m.

The service was prepared by the WDP committee of the Cook Islands.

- **Event:** *World Day of Prayer*
- **Time and Date:** *Friday, 7 March, at 1:30pm*
- **Location:** *Holy Trinity Church (opposite Aldi)*

### THE EPIC

The next edition of 'The Epic' will be in **JUNE 2025**

Contributions please to

**SONIA**  
by **30 May**



## ANNUAL FESTIVAL of SCOT'S FIDDLE MUSIC ORCHESTRAL COMPETITION & CONCERT

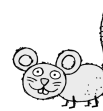
Saturday 26 April 2025 at 7pm  
Elgin Strathspey and Reel Society  
and other orchestras will be competing for



### THE ORCHESTRAL TROPHY

A great evening of Scottish Entertainment  
Compare: Rory Smith. Tickets: £7.50  
Tickets available from: The Church Office  
Cathedral Windows - Society Members - Louise McLean  
Phone Louise at 07825 686 929 or at the door

## BOOK REVIEW



## BOOK REVIEW

### Waking the Women – Faith, Menopause, and the Meaning of Midlife

By Jayne Manfredi, Canterbury Press, £10.39

Women over 40 are the most active demographic in the Church. Despite many experiencing menopause, it remains largely unacknowledged, unspoken, and unaddressed. Taboo in churches, popular blogger Jayne Manfredi uses Biblical Reflection, prophetic storytelling, and prayer to address this issue. Hilarious and moving, “Waking the Women” challenges destigmatizing women’s midlife and aging experiences in the Church.

- **Target Audience:** Women over 40 who are active in the Church.
- **Central Theme:** Addressing the taboo of menopause in the Church through biblical reflection, storytelling, and prayer.
- **Book’s Purpose:** To destigmatize women’s experiences of menopause and aging in Church

## SNORING

A minister consulted his doctor about his wife’s snoring. “It has to STOP,” he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: “Does it really bother you that much?”  
“Well, it’s not just me,” confided the minister. “She is bothering the whole congregation.”



## A Message from the Magazine Committee

Dear Readers, the magazine committee would not be possible if we did not have the articles and our editor for putting the pages together.  
So, in advance apologies for any spelling or grammar mistakes, but this is an amateur magazine run by volunteers. Lie back, and catch up on Elgin Parish news. And, if you have an urge to add something to our next magazine, due out in June, all articles please before the end of May, that is the last day for entry on MAY 30th. Thank you.

- **Magazine Production:** The magazine is run by volunteers and may contain spelling or grammar mistakes.
- **Submission Deadline:** The deadline for article submissions for the **June issue** is May 30 please.

## THE REAL EASTER EGG

There are 80 million Easter Eggs being sold in the UK this year.

**The Real Easter Egg is unique.**

It is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box.

Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box; the stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions. So, buy a 2025 edition Real Easter Egg and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school, or sponsor a food bank donation.

The 2025 Real Easter Egg is not available in any supermarket, but the full range can be ordered at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk), or by calling 01925 877004.

The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company, which was 'crowd-founded' in 2010 by thousands of churches and church schools which pre-paid for the manufacture of

**The Real Easter Egg. Since then, more than two million eggs have been sold, and £420,000 raised for charitable causes.**



## Nutty Nanny's Hoose February 2025

**Dear Fellow Christians**

Christmas seemed to fly by - maybe it's just because we're getting older! Now as we approach Easter and by the time you read this, Easter eggs will be rolling down Maryhill. Lent has always been traditionally a season to give something up, but my ethos, as Nick has put in his article, is to give. Each year I show the children the Lent Food Bank giving calendar. Put something in a box for each day of Lent.

Or perhaps use one of your God-given gifts to help someone else? They say use it or lose it!

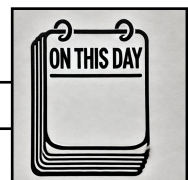
John the Baptist was sent to tell everyone about Jesus's help to prepare the way, help people to prepare for Jesus coming. Now we look for a prophet to tell us when the second coming will be, but if we look in Revelations and then compare it with the problems of the world today, yes, it makes you reflect on the words of John. But God gave us joyful hearts and minds to reflect on the beautiful creation he has provided for us.

So, let's look after Gods creation. He shows us its beauty with every season. What a joy it has been to see the snowdrops, although they were a little early in December, mine popped up to say hello! Spring is God's message of hope. After a long, cold, dark winter, we have lighter nights and flowers popping colour around us. Life is like the seasons. We have our dark times, challenges, sad times, but up pops God with blessings. As you know, my grandchildren give me great joy.

The wee boy saying Nan for the first time, what a joy.

So, the dark days are going. Days are getting lighter, as God, our light, once again performs his magic on his creation around us. Let's turn on our lights and let them shine through Lent but not just for Lent, the whole year ahead.

Blessings to you all, love Sonia (**Rev. Sonia Palmer**)



## ON THIS DAY

**50 years ago**, on 4th April 1975 that Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

**30 years ago**, on 4th April 1995 that Kenny Everett, DJ and TV entertainer passed away.

**25 years ago**, on 22nd April 2000 that the 'The Big Number' change took place in the telephone system. Many area codes were updated or replaced, and new ones created.

**10 years ago**, on 2nd April 2015 that the Gorkha earthquake took place in Nepal. Nearly 9,000 people were killed, 22,000 injured, and 3.5 million made homeless.

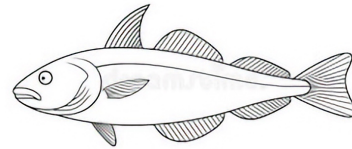
## Hot Smoked Haddock in Ramekins with Mustard Roll-Ups

**Serves 4**

**Preparation Time:** 20mins, plus 1 hour for chilling

**Cooking:** 10min

450g Smoked Haddock, cooked and flaked  
300ml Double Cream  
125g Mature Cheddar, grated  
1tsp Dried mustard powder  
½ lemon Juice  
A few drops of chilli sauce  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



### Mustard Roll-Ups

4 slices White bread, crusts removed  
2 tbsp Wholegrain mustard  
50g Butter

1. To make the Mustard Roll-Ups, spread the bread on both sides with butter and on one side with mustard. Roll up on the diagonal with the mustard on the inside. Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 1 hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas Mark 7
3. Cook the haddock in the microwave on high for 3-4 minutes, until it will flake easily. (Alternatively, place the haddock in a frying pan, cover with hot water from the kettle and cook, covered, for 3-4minutes. Drain.) Cool and remove the skin and any bones.
4. Mix the haddock and cream together in a pan and heat gently. Add half the cheese. Continue to heat until the mixture is hot and bubbling.
5. Remove the clingfilm from the Mustard Roll-Ups. Place on baking sheet and cook in the oven for about 12 minutes.
6. Pour the haddock mixture into individual ramekin dishes and sprinkle the remaining cheese on top. Reheat in the oven for about 10 minutes, until bubbling.
7. Serve with the Mustard Roll-Ups.

## STANDING UP TO TYRANTS

**Standing up to tyrants, no matter the cost.** That courage has been in the headlines since the Ukraine war began, with many brave people defying Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer faced Hitler, not Putin. He didn't back down either.

Born in Breslau, Silesia (now Wrocław) in 1906, Bonhoeffer grew up without considering defying the German leader. His father, was an academic, at Berlin University, the family moved there. Bonhoeffer studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin, and New York before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in 1931.

Though he didn't seek political trouble, it came to him. On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, came to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for dissent, including in the two major churches, Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to comply. He joined the Confessing Church, formed in opposition to the Lutheran Church takeover. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's antisemitism.

Bonhoeffer, in America when war broke out in 1939, returned to Germany. He said, "I can't participate in rebuilding Christian life there without sharing the trials with my people."

His involvement in the July 1944 plot likely sealed his fate. He was transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp. Bonhoeffer was hanged. His final words:

**"This is the end – for me, the beginning of life," echoed his brilliance and courage.**



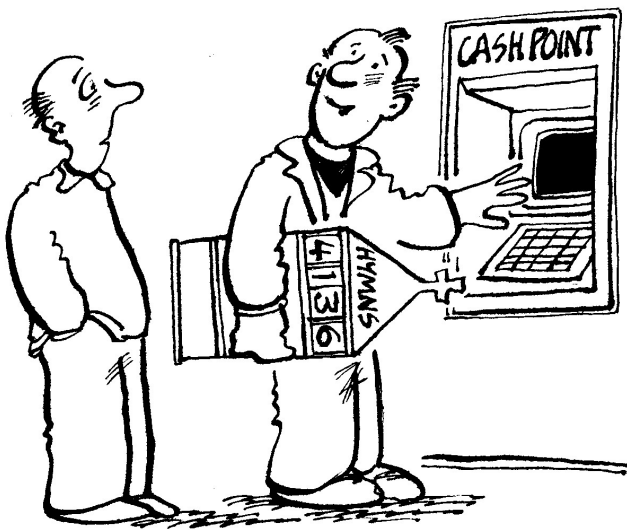
## 'DROP IN' Teas/Coffees

The 'DROP IN' Teas and Coffees morning is settling into the new venue in St. Giles' every Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We all enjoy the fellowship, the chat, and getting to know one another in a more personal way.

**There is no charge as our aim has always been to provide fellowship.**

Donations are welcome but not compulsory. Sincere thanks to everyone for the generous donations that have been received. The money received is split between Christian Aid and Crossreach (our main charities) and a variety of local charities, the last one being Women's Aid. Thank you to everyone for your support, to those who are hostesses for the morning, and especially to everyone who comes along.

- **Event:** 'DROP IN' Teas and Coffees every Wednesday from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** St. Giles'
- **Purpose:** Fellowship and getting to know each other.



*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*

### Sundays of the Month - April

6th April	5th Sunday of Lent
13th April	Palm Sunday
20th April	Easter Sunday
27th April	2nd Sunday of Easter

### VISITING

If you would like a visit or know of anyone in the congregation who would benefit from a visit, please get in touch with the office.

Call: 01343 551 051.

Email: [elginparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:elginparishchurch@gmail.com)

### Let's look at the recent Social Committee Burns Supper!

The Elgin Parish Church held its first social evening, a traditional Burns supper organised by the EP social committee. Despite their concerns, the committee, led by George Duthie and David Small devised a program.

Kathleen, our catering expert, arranged a menu from Elgin Golf Club, and the committee members delighted guests by reaching their taste buds too. A piper piped in the haggis, accompanied by a Lady and a real Lady Hilda Robertson, who brought in the wee beastie. The top table shared Robbie memories, with a memorable address to the ladies and a female minister's cutting reply.



The evening was uplifted by music that enhanced the Robbie Burns memory.

- **Event:** Elgin Parish Church held its first social evening, a traditional Burns supper.
- **Organisation:** Organised by the EP Social Committee and led by George Duthie and David Small.
- **Food and Entertainment:** Catering, arranged by Kathleen, and provided by Elgin Golf Club, a piper, and music.

## THE HOPE OF EASTER

### A Message of Renewal and Resurrection

**As Easter approaches**, we reflect on the greatest story ever told: Jesus Christ's victory over death. It's a time of reflection, renewal, and rejoicing, celebrating the resurrection that changed history and transformed believers.

**Easter, the culmination of God's love and grace**, symbolises hope restored after the darkest moment of Christ's suffering on Good Friday. The empty tomb declared death's defeat.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20)." His resurrection is our faith's foundation, promising eternal life to all who believe.

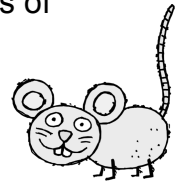
**Spring's blooming flowers and longer days** mirror Easter's new life, fresh beginnings, and transformation. Like the earth awakening from winter, Easter invites us to spiritually renew, leaving behind sin and embracing God's grace.

This season encourages us to reflect on our lives, seeking renewal, forgiveness, and strengthening our faith. Easter reminds us of redemption through Christ.

**Living the Easter message** means sharing His love through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or simply being a light in someone's darkness.

Let us carry the joy of Easter beyond Sunday morning.

May we remember that Christ has overcome, and His victory is ours to share.



### He is risen! He is risen indeed!

- **Easter's Significance:** Celebrates Jesus Christ's victory over death, symbolising hope, renewal, and resurrection.
- **Easter's Message:** Represents God's love and grace, offering eternal life and encouraging spiritual awakening.
- **Living the Easter Message:** Encourages living a life of hope, sharing Christ's love through acts of kindness and encouragement.

## Who is Who? In the Elgin Parish Team!

**Full Time Minister:** Deon Oelofse: **Contact Number:** 07437587520

[deon.oelofse@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:deon.oelofse@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Ordained Local Minister:** Sonia Palmer: **Contact number:** 07748700929.

[Sonia.palmer@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Sonia.palmer@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Ministries Development Staff:** Paula Baker: **Contact Number:** 01542 832662

[pbaker@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:pbaker@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Salvation Army.** Nick Hanover: **Contact Number:** 07896 122179

[nick.hanover@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:nick.hanover@salvationarmy.org.uk)

**Session Clerk:** Hazel Dickson:

[hazelandjohn@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:hazelandjohn@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**Magazine** The EPIC. Sonia Palmer

During the week, from Monday to Friday, 09.30 - 12.30, you can contact our office staff Katherine and Ann the office phone number is: 01343 551501.

[elginparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:elginparishchurch@gmail.com) and [www.elginparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.elginparishchurch.co.uk)

