

# April 2018 Newsletter



## THE PASTOR'S PEN *by Graeme Shanks*

### The ultimate game changer!

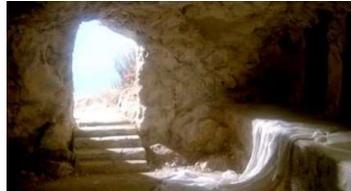
You'll often hear sports commentators talking about game changing moments. An inspired substitution. A stroke of tactical genius. A piece of improvised skill. A poor refereeing decision. A moment of madness. When the outcome looked certain, all of a sudden a game changing moment sees fortunes reversed and futures heading in the opposite direction.

I can imagine that for the disciples that first Easter morning, the news the angels brought them that 'He has risen' was the ultimate game changing moment! Whereas previously, as they watched Jesus die, life seemed empty, now, all of a sudden, it seems full of joy and purpose! Jesus really was the real deal Saviour of the world! Indeed, 2000 years on, the news of this risen and reigning Jesus continues to be the ultimate game changing moment in life.

Here's 3 reasons why, for me, the empty tomb is a game changing moment...

#### 1. Because of what's now behind me...

Previously, I was dead in my transgressions and sins. I was separated from God. Jesus said that He paid my debt of sin as He died in my place on the cross. But how do I know it worked? Well, picture that moment at a restaurant after you've entered your PIN on the machine. There is that short delay. Everyone wonders, did the payment really go through? Then relief sets in as the machine begins to print my receipt. In the same way, as God exalts Jesus by raising Him from the dead, it is the receipt to the world that the payment has gone through! I no longer need to pay the penalty for sin because Jesus paid it for me. I am declared right before God because of what Jesus has done for me. What a pardon!



#### 2. Because of what's now in front of me...

I was interested to learn recently that the Queen is on Twitter. In theory, I can message her at any time of day. However, in reality, I doubt she'll ever check. Realistically, I doubt if she's even on Twitter. However, the good news of the Gospel is not that I get theoretical access to a distant monarch but that I can have direct access to the Lord of the Universe. As Jesus died the curtain in the Temple was torn in two. Because of what Jesus has done, here was God inviting the world to trust in Him and come and know Him! Further, because of the forgiveness and newness of life I received in Christ, whereas previously I was a spiritual orphan, now I am declared to be a spiritual Son of God with full access to my heavenly Father! What a privilege!

#### 3. Because of what's now ahead of me...

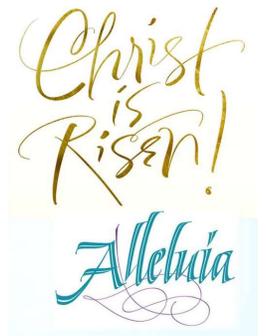
It was Benjamin Franklin that said that the only two certain things in life are death and taxes. There is some truth to that. Life is really hard at times. Injustice happens. Tears flow. Pain is real. Bodies are frail. Death is real. However, the power of death died when Jesus rose. Jesus, God's exalted King, promises me that one day he will return to take his people home. Heaven, life with God, will be a place like no other because sin will be but a distant memory. Instead, sorrow will be replaced by joy and we will spend eternity worshipping God forever. Indeed, that is the very reason we were created in the first place. What a party!

As the hymn writer says...

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, just because He lives!*

**Truly, the empty tomb is a game changing moment!**



## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL?

### Sunday 1 April – Resurrection 2018 – 7:30pm – Usher Hall

### Sunday 15 April – BEC@Costa – 6pm – Costa Bruntsfield

Instead of an evening service at the Church, from 15 April we'll be having five weeks at Costa with speakers talking on "Why I believe...." Cards about the series are available at the Church, and it's designed to be suitable for those who don't normally attend church.

### Friday 20 April – Afternoon Tea – 2-3:30pm

Everyone who's free during the day is invited to afternoon tea in the upstairs hall on 20 April, and why not bring a friend?

There will also be afternoon events in May and June – more details later. We then expect to start a regular coffee morning from September, with an activity or short talk each time. For more information, or if you need transport, please speak to ask Alice, Bridget or Hazel Foster.

### Sunday 29 April – Church Lunch

### Monday 30 April – Marriage Matters – 7:30pm

Couples who came to the first Marriage Matters session found it really helpful. The next one is called Connect, and is about understanding each other and the art of communication. You can come on Monday 30 April or Friday 11 May, or borrow the DVD to do it at home if you prefer. As well as watching the videos, you'll have the opportunity for discussion with your husband or wife. There are no group discussions. For more information, see David & Ruth Aird or Al & Gill Mackintosh.

## AND IN MAY...

### Monday 21 May – Life Explored – 7:30pm – Room 1

Life Explored is a seven-week evangelistic course using video, Bible reading and discussion to explore the question "What's the best gift God could give you?" We'll be starting it when the Costa sessions finish.

### SMALL GROUPS AND PRAYER

Evening prayer: Wednesday 4 April at 7:45pm in the upstairs hall

Lunchtime prayer: Wednesday 18 April at 1pm in Room 1

Grove 92: Every Monday at 2pm from 16 April

Small groups: Weeks of 8 and 22 April, various days and venues

*Please see Alistair Chalmers if you're interested in joining a small group*

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Please pray for our regular midweek activities:

**Baby & Toddler Group** – Wednesday 10am-noon (see Peter Ervine)

**Basics Bank** – Friday 10am-1pm (see Fiona Watson if you would like to be involved, or Ian Naismith if you can give food / money)

**Friday Funzone** – Friday 6-7pm (see Peter Ervine)

We are also responsible for the **Care Van** on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> (see Alastair Mackintosh).

### CELEBRATION OF HOPE

Celebration of Hope, with Will Graham (grandson of Billy Graham) is a major outreach at the Falkirk Stadium from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. Before that, the Christian Life and Witness course is at various venues during April. Even if you don't plan to be involved in the Celebration itself, the course (which runs over three evenings) is a great help in understanding and being able to share your faith. See [www.celebrationofhope.uk](http://www.celebrationofhope.uk) for details of the Celebration. Course venues are shown under Events.

	Flower	Crèche	Roots
Apr 1	Audrey	Pete & Laura B, Alex	As for crèche
Apr 8	Lilias	Christy & Zoe	Esther, Susan & TBC
Apr 15	Bridget	Simona & Emma	Corrie, Ali W & TBC
Apr 22	Doreen	Molly & Margaret	Robert, Becky & Bridget
Apr 29	Nan M	Joanna & Peter Macg	Simona, Margo & TBC

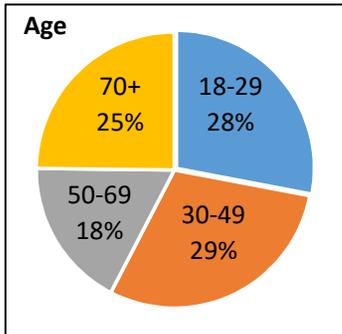
## WHO ARE WE? *by Ian Naismith*

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent Church Census. We had a really good response rate with 125 adults submitting forms, and will be producing a paper directory and giving access to an online one in the next month or so. We will, of course, respect people's wishes on the personal information (if any) they want included in the directories. The Elders are also grateful for all the suggestions of "one thing I would like to see happening", and will take these into account when setting future priorities.

The Census also provided valuable information about the demographics of our church, and in particular the age distribution and where we all live.

### Our age and gender

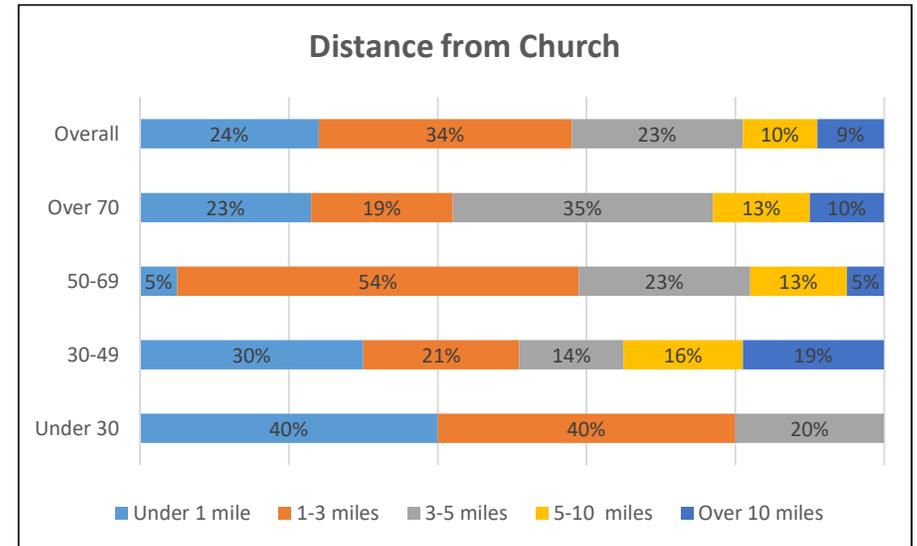
Our Church is blessed with a very wide range of ages, as the chart shows. More than half of us are under 50, and that increases to two-thirds if we include children and teenagers.



There are about four women in the church for every three men, but with wide variations across ages. There are over twice as many women over 70 as men. Between 30 and 49 there are three men for every two women, a proportion that is exactly reversed in the 50 to 69 age range. In the under-thirties there are five women for every three men, reflecting a good group of female students.

### Where we live

Bruntsfield has always been a gathered church, with most people living some distance away from where we worship. That remains the case, but again with wide variations across age ranges. The average distance we travel to Church is 3.9 miles, with the closest just across the road and the furthest 28 miles. Around half the church lives within or adjacent to a corridor bounded by the A702 (through Morningside and Fairmilehead towards Biggar) and the A70 (through Dalry and Slateford towards Balerno).



The closest age group is the under-30s, with none living over 5 miles away, whereas one in three of the 30-49 age group lives over 5 miles away. Over-70s are the most likely to live over 3 miles away and the 50-69 group is least likely to live within a mile.

### Our Priorities

We received a great variety of suggestions, which we've divided into different themes. The most common was that there should be more focus on evangelism and personal witness. There will be opportunities for this over the next three months as Easter is followed by our Sunday evenings at Costa and Life Explored. We're also planning a group to identify other opportunities and coordinate the outreach of the Church.

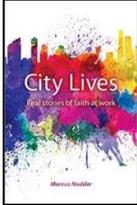
Other common suggestions focused on discipleship/training, fellowship, pastoral care, prayer and working with other churches. We will consider all the suggestions made over the coming months.

*The Census is now complete, but we are developing forms for new people who join us, and you could use them if you missed out on the Census.*

## THIS MONTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS

**Marcus Nodder, City Lives** (review by Alistair Chalmers)

Available in the Church foyer for £1



Have you ever wondered if you are the only Christian in your office? Or have you ever heard that Christianity is only for those who are weak and need a crutch through life? Or are you wondering how to respond to some difficult questions that people might have about Christianity?

If so, here is a good book for you to read. Marcus Nodder has drawn together the testimonies of people from all areas of city life and put together City Lives. This book is a great way of dealing with difficult apologetics questions, whilst listening to someone's story along the way. Unlike other apologetics book it is not full of facts and statistics, but is instead full of the impact that the message of Christianity has had on people lives. You'll read of sports professionals, medical professionals, law professionals and a contestant from the Bake Off. This book contains 14 accounts of how the good news of Jesus has changed people's lives. If you're looking to be encouraged in your faith, or if you're searching for answers to difficult questions, or even if you want to have an easy give a way book City Lives would be a good start on all fronts.

**Kings Kaleidoscope, Becoming Who We Are** (review by Tim Foster)

CD £9.99 Amazon, Download £7.99 Amazon or iTunes



As Christians, we need music that is fit for purpose – that is rich in theology, that yearns for something beyond the present, that drives us to devotion and worship, that challenges us to meditate deeply on the Word, and that reminds us of the love of our Father.

And that's why I'm recommending 'Becoming Who We Are'. Kings Kaleidoscope are eclectic in their style, and they go from (at times) a very acoustic sound to a full complement of brass, strings and screaming

guitars. But it works, because they're knitting together nearly an hour of incredible content - whether you're looking for original lyrics, instrumental moments, or a new setting of "All Creatures" and "How Deep the Father's Love".

The words are memorable and striking, capturing the realities that we struggle to remember in the busy day-to-day. 'I know I will run through heaven's brilliant streets of gold, shouting, "Hallelujah, Christ!" alone.'

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## HEART OF THE MATTER by David Aird

The 'Heart of the Matter' website has been re launched and we would love to invite you to check it out for yourself, at [www.heartofthematter.biz](http://www.heartofthematter.biz).

Have a quick look at a few of the changes we are most excited about.

- Meet the team – see "About" section.
- Ability to listen to either full programmes or just the interviews (current and archived).
- News features.
- Contact Section – drop us a line for any comments and feedback.

We hope you will find the changes helpful, and if you have any feedback please email us using the link on the webpage.

### HEART OF THE MATTER SCHEDULE

- 1 Apr: Karen Ross, Midlothian
- 8 Apr: Rev. David Randall, Angus
- 15 Apr: Richard Gordon, Falkirk
- 22 Apr: HotM Gold 7
- 29 Apr: Mwandida Nkhoma, Malawi

*Black Diamond 107.8 FM: Sunday 9 am. repeat 8 am. following week. FM and online.*  
*Crystal 107.4 FM: Sunday 11 am. /Midnight and Tuesday 11 am. FM and online. Alive FM 107.3 FM: Sunday 10 am. FM and online. TD 1 106.5 FM: Sunday 8 am. FM and online.*  
*Heartsong live: Various times Edinburgh's first and only online Christian radio station.*



## MISSIONS NEWS *by Sheila MacLeod*

**Jim Burnett in Argentina** returned to Scotland in March and will be here until mid-June. He has recently been preparing articles for the Argentine Assemblies' magazine. Pray that these materials will be a help to the churches and believers. Since the death of his wife, Betty, Jim has found that he requires new legal documents. Therefore, during his time here, to comply with Argentinian bureaucracy, he will have to visit the National Registrar's office in Scotland and the Argentinian Consulate in London. He has asked us to pray for a good and swift outcome for this process.

**Richard and Elaine Leakey with YWAM in Switzerland** - Richard and his daughter Emma have recently been in Southern Kenya where he again gave teaching on 'farming God's way'. More than 20 farmers who have implemented this teaching in the past have had encouraging results. Another 20-30 are willing to follow the training this year, provided they can afford the cost of fertiliser. Both Richard and Elaine have been involved in Discipleship Training Schools during March.

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## WOMEN BRINGING THE WORD *by Hazel Foster*



<sup>3</sup>Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. <sup>4</sup>Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.' *Titus 2:3-5*

When the Word of God is at work there is life and vitality. The Word of God is not abstract and distant, but rather it connects with real life and with individual situations. It challenges us to align our ways with the ways of God,

but this does not come naturally. Often there is battle to be done, and understanding to be obtained regarding what this looks like, the motives and reasoning behind it, and how to continue doing what is right in these areas of our lives. This is why in the teaching in our church we are exhorted to be godly in the way we live, but it is also why Paul exhorts older women to teach what is good and urge the younger women who look to them as examples to live in a godly way. As women, we will find that we go through situations, circumstances, and struggles that are similar to one another, and it is particularly in these areas where we can be a great help to one another.

At Bruntsfield, we are blessed with women who have lived faithfully and reverently in their years as followers of Jesus, not in perfection but in wrestling with the word of God and allowing his Spirit to bring them under conviction of sin and transform the way they live. No matter what stage each one of us is at, there are younger women walking the same path after us, and as sisters in a church family we have a responsibility to teach and to be active and intentional, so that we each will have a life that witnesses to the faith we have in Jesus Christ, rather than lives that cause others to malign the word of God.

Knowing that women teaching women is an exhortation in scripture, how do we do it? There are many ways, and many of us are already involved in this in some way or another, whether that is through meeting up for a coffee to chat through life and pray, seeing each other on a Sunday and discussing the challenges of the week, attending the social events that the women's ministry team have put on throughout the year, or deliberate bible studies such as Grove 92 or 1-to-1. Perhaps now is a good opportunity for each one of us to evaluate how we have been discipling one another up until this point and whether you can get involved in any of these areas of our church life to bring life and vitality to one another through the word of God.

<sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' *Colossians 3:16-17*

## FINANCE UPDATE

February was the end of the first half of our 2017/18 financial year. Over the period from September to February, income to the General Fund totalled £85,558 and expenditure £89,644 - a deficit of £4,086. In the second quarter, when there were fewer exceptional items than in the first quarter, the deficit was £1,187. This means we are not currently paying our way, and are eating into reserves which are themselves relatively low.

We ask everyone to consider your giving to the church, particularly if you don't already give regularly. The easiest method is generally Standing Order. You can find more information about this, and a form to increase donations through Gift Aid, at [www.bruntsfield.org.uk/resources/giving](http://www.bruntsfield.org.uk/resources/giving), or speak to Ian Wilson or Ian Naismith. Other methods of giving are detailed on the cards at the end of each pew.

## STAFF AND INTERNS UPDATE

In recent weeks the staff team has been preparing for Easter, including organizing publicity and the devotions booklet, as well as participation in the services and planning the sessions at Costa and Life Explored which will follow them.

Several of the team were involved in the students and young adults day away at Musselburgh Baptist which went very well, and everyone is involved in one-to-one meetings and leading small groups. Other regular activities include preaching & service leading, work with young people, church communications and building maintenance.

The Church Census has been completed, and we managed to negotiate a significant saving on our insurance costs and a smaller one on electricity.

The Interns are considering next steps when they finish in August. Please pray for wisdom and guidance in this. During April we will be interviewing possible new Interns.

1 April 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Michael
11am	Coffee Team: Hannah D, Sylvia & Zoe Welcome Team: Luca, Alastair, Simona, Sabine	
11.30am	All Age Easter Celebration Leader: Paul Johnston	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Journey to the Cross</b> - Luke 24:1-35
Resurrection 2018 @ Usher Hall – no evening service at BEC		
8 April 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Donald <i>Missionary Offering for Derek &amp; Heidi Malcolm</i>
11am	Coffee Team: Alasdair, Tim & Violet Welcome Team: Pete U, Alice, Jonathan & Terri	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Alistair Chalmers	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Journey to the Cross</b> - Luke 24:36-53
6:30pm	Evening Service Leader: Ian Naismith Welcome: Neil & Laurence	Speaker: Bruce Pass <i>No set subject</i>
15 April 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Donald
11am	Coffee Team: Alice, Gill & Peter Macg Welcome Team: Alastair, Gina, Sylvia & Hazel	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: Jim Crooks <i>No set subject</i>
6:00pm	Costa	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Why I believe in the Bible</b>
22 April 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Charles <i>Second bag offering for Heber &amp; Fiona Gallitto</i>
11am	Coffee Team: Margo, Sylvia & Violet Welcome Team: Bobby, Joanna, Charles & Esther	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Fraser McLaren	Speaker: Graeme Shanks <b>Pray then like this...</b> Your glory (Matthew 6:9-10)
6:00pm	Costa	Speaker: Bob Ackroyd <b>Why I believe in a Creator</b>
29 April 2018		
10am	Communion Service	Chairing: Charles
11am	Coffee Team: Pete U, Terri & Zoe Welcome Team: Sabine, Neil, Andrew & Emma	
11.30am	All Age Service Leader: Graeme Shanks	Speaker: Paul Johnston <b>Pray then like this...</b> Your will (Matthew 6:11)
Church lunch – no evening service		