



St Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter

January 2016, issue 29

Convenor's Report

Dear Members

At the beginning of a new year I would like to extend my good wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2016. I hope the work of the Guild will continue successfully.

Jenifer Davidson, Secretary at Canongate Kirk, retired from her post at the end of December. Jenifer was always very supportive of the Guild and helped us in many ways. We sent flowers from the Guild as an appreciation of her support and helpfulness. She wrote to say she was very grateful for the gesture. Jenifer's replacement is Imogen Gibson and I'm sure we will get to know her and enjoy working with her in the future.

It is with sadness I have to inform you of the death of Margaret Cavaye in December. Margaret was a long term member of the Guild, having been persuaded to join by Joanna Milne after both their husbands had discussed the Guild on a social outing. Margaret regularly attended the coffee mornings at The Dome where she enjoyed meeting other members. The family were grateful that some members of the Guild were able to attend the funeral service in St Giles Cathedral. It was nice on that occasion to renew acquaintance with Margaret's granddaughter, Emma, who had presented the posy to Princess Anne on one of her visits to the Guild on St Margaret's Day.

I hope that many of you are using the Guild Website. Can I remind you that if you have any items to include in the 'Members News' section we would be delighted to hear of them. Please send them to Margaret Lynch at her NEW email address margaret@lynchdudes.net.

It is planned to hold a Hungarian Mass for St Thomas Becket in Westminster Cathedral on 23rd May. We hope that the Guild will be represented on this occasion. Further details will be available later.

Again my best wishes for 2016

Yours in friendship

Margaret Lindsell

Convenor

Report on the Gala Dinner in London hosted by Hungarian Ambassador

I was very privileged to represent St Margaret's Chapel Guild and attend the Gala Dinner hosted by the Hungarian Ambassador on 16th November 2015 to celebrate the legacy of St Margaret. The dinner was attended by over 200 guests in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra. The guest of honour was Professor Janos Martonyi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. Many other distinguished guests were invited from the academic, business and diplomatic world, members of Parliament, former British Ambassadors to Hungary and our own chaplain the Reverend Neil Gardner. The Embassy of Hungary, in partnership with Queen Margaret University of Edinburgh established a Legacy in 2014 as a practical expression, to bring together British and Hungarian Institutions of higher learning in areas that reflect St Margaret's timeless legacy. Many of the guests who attended are patrons and contributed to the Queen Margaret Legacy.

Numerous short speeches were made including one from our Chaplain, who spoke about St Margaret's Chapel and the work of the Guild. The Ambassador of Hungary also acknowledged that a member of the Guild was represented. I was then asked to stand and identify myself, somewhat to my embarrassment. Photographs were taken during the dinner which I hope we shall have the chance to see.

It was a most memorable, stimulating and enjoyable evening. I had the privilege to speak to Princess Alexandra who is most interested in the Guild and its work, and perhaps will visit the Chapel at some later date. I was also delighted to have the opportunity to meet up with some former colleagues from my Budapest days.

Sheila M MacTaggart,

Edinburgh Castle's Family Carol Service

The Guild was pleased to be invited to send a member to do a reading at the Castle family's Carol service, and as Margaret Lindsell was on holiday at the time I was asked to go along instead.

The service was held in the Great Hall where there was a large Christmas tree and the music was provided by a Quintet from the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The occasion was most enjoyable for my husband and myself, and we were able to join everyone for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in the Great Hall at the end of the service.



Fiona M Kidd, Flower Supervisor

Guild Database

We have been updating the Guild's database. This contains information about members' addresses, phone numbers, email addresses if they have them, when they joined the Guild and any service they have undertaken for the Guild eg. office bearer, member of the committee, flowers etc. It is for the use of the committee and flower supervisors only, and is not for sharing with anyone else, so please don't worry about the security of your data. We are most grateful to Fiona M Jordan who is putting this information on a spreadsheet so that it is easily accessible and she will keep it updated. It would be very helpful if Margarets could inform Fiona by email: fiona_jordan@btinternet.com or by phone: 01506 885330, or the Secretary Kathy M Fairweather by email: kathleenfairweather@btinternet.com, or by phone 01620 890853, if any of their details change, so that we can be sure that the database is as accurate as possible.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

Fellowship Focus

One of the most recent ladies to join the Fellowship is Margaret Wynn, from Somerset. She had known about St Margaret for nearly 64 years, having read about her in the 'Girl Magazine' as a twelve- year -old. Margaret discovered that a mediaeval chapel in a monastic alms house there was named in St Margaret's honour – she is known there as a Princess of Wessex. The chapel has been re-furbished recently, and is still occasionally used. Margaret is a lay reader, and has given a number of talks and sermons about St Margaret. Whilst she has passed through Edinburgh many times, it was in October of last year that she first visited the Chapel, and decided to apply to join the Fellowship. We are delighted to welcome her.

Hazel M Dunn, Fellowship Secretary

Website and Twitter Account for the Guild

We are most grateful to Sarah M James for setting up a Twitter feed linked to the Guild's website, www.stmargaretschapel.com **Members only** can access it by logging in to the website (user name: **margaret** and the password is **10daisy93**). You will find the Twitter feed in the panel on the right hand side to see the Tweets. If you have a photo, especially of flowers you have done in the Chapel, please send it to Sarah at (email

smcjames@me.com and she will put it on Twitter or the Website. She has also offered to help anyone who has problems accessing Twitter. If you would like to Tweet yourself, the Guild name for Twitter is **@stMargaretsCH**. Looking forward to seeing your photos and tweets.

Sarah M James, Twitter Expert

The Guild Brooches and Earrings



Daisy brooches are available for the Guild members only from the Treasurer Maggie Wheeler. Email: maggieandphilw@btinternet.com or phone: 0131 334 4235.



Matching earrings are also available and can be ordered through Margaret Ann Crawford email: mac@lylecrawford.co.uk. Or phone: 01620 893484. The earrings and brooches are for Members of the Guild only.

Our New Altar Frontal

The silk cloth for this beautiful work was designed and stitched by Lucy Deady a post-graduate student of Queen Margaret University. Lots of photographs were taken on St Margaret's Day which you will be able to see on both the website and twitter.

The Altar Frontal was dedicated by Rev. Neil Gardner, at four services, attend by Members of the Guild, in the Chapel on St Margaret's Day. The occasion of the AGM saw over 80 members take part in the services, followed by lunch in the Queen Anne Room before the AGM. We were delighted that Lucy Deady was able attend. It was much admired by everyone. A Big Thank you to Margaret Ann Crawford, who led this project and worked closely with Lucy and University staff. Margaret Ann also had the assistance of two Guild members, Meriel M Tilling and Margaret Studley.



Spring is Coming **Annual Snowdrop Festivals** **30th January to 13th March**

Last year a group of us visited Cambo Estate near St Andrews for the Snowdrop Festival. We enjoyed our Soup and Sandwich lunch, a tour of the gardens to see many varieties of snowdrops and of course bought some plants to take home! We thoroughly recommend it! www.scottishsnowdropfestivals2016 Also check out the website for information

about snowdrops in the Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Scone Palace, Peebles, Melrose, Stirling and more..... and enjoy a beautiful day out.

An Invitation to St Margaret of Scotland Pilgrimage, Sunday 12th June 2016

Father Chris Heenan of St Margaret's Catholic Memorial Church in Dunfermline has once again invited members of the Guild to take part in the Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret, on Sunday 12th June in Dunfermline. The Pilgrims will walk from the entrance of Pittencrieff Park to the Dunfermline Abbey through the streets. This will be followed

by Mass in St Margaret's RC Church in Dunfermline at 4pm. Details of this event will be posted on the Website nearer the time, but we would ask you to pass on the word to other members who do not access the Website.

Margaret Lynch, Newsletter Secretary

Garden Tours

The next garden tour will be in May to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. I have a friend who does the guided tours and she is going to take us round. A date has yet to be fixed but I will contact all the members who came on any of the previous tours nearer the time. Should there be any members who would like to join us let me know. Any other suggestions for garden visits will be welcome. Email: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk or by Tel: 0131 445 1867

Fiona M Kidd, Flower Supervisor

Acheson House

Acheson House was the manse of the Canongate Church from 1930-1947 and the first meeting of St Margaret's Chapel Guild was held there. It is now the headquarters of the Edinburgh Heritage Trust. There is a somewhat neglected garden at the rear of the house laid out in the form of a saltire. The garden is a community garden and we hope to be able to offer assistance to tidy it up. Volunteers will be welcome, but we will obviously be working in conjunction with the Community. Members who did the second walk down the Royal Mile will remember seeing it as part of our walk. A donation, as approved at the AGM, has been given and will hopefully help in restoring the garden, perhaps towards the purchase of new tools and plants.

Any member who is interested in helping with the garden should contact Fiona Kidd on email: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk or by phone: 0131 445 1867

Fiona M Kidd, Flower Supervisor

Guild Archives

A small group of Margarets (Joanne M Milne, Margaret Mackay, Hazel M Dunn and Kathy Fairweather) has been looking through the Guild's extensive collection of archives, which goes back to the restoration of the Chapel in the 1930's. The idea is to bring them into some kind of order, eliminate duplication, decide what should be kept and (eventually) where. It is turning out to be a slow but very worthwhile exercise.

The Minutes show how important the role of the Guild has been in ensuring that the Chapel became and remains not just an historic monument, but a place of worship. As the oldest building in Edinburgh, it has somehow survived intact in the midst of wars and sieges, as a place for quiet prayer and reflection. Those of us who are privileged to do the flowers in the morning before the castle's visitors arrive, often remark on the sense of stillness and peace in the Chapel. As well as caring for the building's furnishings and putting in fresh flowers, the Guild has played a key role in ensuring that services are still held here. These are now mainly baptisms and weddings, and of course our own services on St Margaret's Day. It is good to know that in spite of the growth of mass tourism the chapel is still used at times for the purpose for which it was built in the 12th Century.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

The Dome Coffee Morning

Remember the coffee mornings in The Dome, George Street, Edinburgh are at 10.30 on 16th of each month. Come along and catch up with friends for a coffee and chat. When the 16th of the month lands on a Sunday we meet on Mondays.

The next Newsletter will be in JUNE 2016. If you have any articles or stories of interest to the Guild, please send them to me. Email: margaret@lynchdudes.net