



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter

January 2017, issue 31

Convenor's Report

Dear Margarets

Even though the Festive Season is well over, I would still like to extend my Best Wishes to you all for 2017.

Judging by the positive feedback we have had from many members, on receipt of the new Booklet, I think it is appropriate to ask you to join me in extending an enormous 'thank you' to our Secretary, Kathy Fairweather, for the amount of work she put in to the production of the Booklet. Kathy worked tirelessly on this task. We owe her an immense debt of gratitude for this. I am sure visitors to St Margaret's Chapel will enjoy this souvenir to take away with them for many years to come.

Sadly, I have to tell you of the death of one of our members, Margaret Shillinglaw, who died on 16th December 2016. Margaret joined the Guild, with her Granddaughter Robyn Margaret Strachan, in 2013. She was very proud to be a member of the Guild, and I had the privilege of going with her to the Chapel when she arranged her flowers last September. I am sure you will join with me in sending the condolences of the Guild to her family, and especially Robyn, who is now sixteen. I do hope Robyn can be encouraged to continue her membership of the Guild.

On 15th December, my husband and I attended the Castle Family Carol Service, in the Great Hall in the Castle. The Service was of Lessons and Carols and was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. I was invited to read a Lesson, representing the Guild, and I felt very proud to do this. The Address was given by Rev Stephen A Blakey, Deputy Assistant Chaplain General 51 Inf and HQ Scotland. Mulled wine and mince pies were served afterwards, when everyone had the opportunity to mingle. This is the second year the Guild has been invited to participate and I hope we will be invited in the years to come.

This year, **2017** is the **75th Anniversary of the Guild**, and to celebrate this, in addition to St Margaret's Day, we are planning to hold an **Anniversary Service on Saturday, 24th June, in Canongate Kirk at 3pm, followed by refreshments in the Harry Younger Hall afterwards**. You may remember that we held a similar event for the 70th Anniversary, which was very successful. The purpose of telling you about this now is to give you the opportunity to put the date in your diary. Further details will be issued nearer the time, but you may like to think of any family members, or friends, whom you would like to accompany you. There will be no charge for this event for members of the Guild, but it would be appreciated if family members, or guests, make a donation.

Members of the Guild would like to extend congratulations and sincere best wishes to Betty Gale who joined the Guild in 1949 and who celebrated her 92nd Birthday on 31st January, 2017.

I am aware that we have had problems with transport from the top of the Esplanade to the Queen Anne Room, over the past few years. In an attempt to overcome this problem, The Guild is going to organise a mini bus to transport our members from the top of the Castle Esplanade to the Queen Anne Room this year on St Margaret's Day. The bus will return in the afternoon to do 'runs' from the Queen Anne Room to the Esplanade. I do hope this will assist with the problems we have had in the past few years and encourage as many members as possible to attend this year.

I do hope you will enjoy the events planned for the Guild's 75th Anniversary. Please remember to put the date of the **Anniversary Service, Saturday 24th June at 3pm, in Canongate Kirk** in your diary.

Yours in friendship

Margaret Lindsell
Convenor.

Are you a Descendant of St Margaret?

Two members of the Guild, Dr Stephanie Margaret Blackden and her daughter Mrs Clare H Margaret White can trace their family tree back through 31 generations (Stephanie and 32 Clare) to Saint Margaret through Edith/Matilda, elder daughter of St Margaret, who was married to King Henry 1st of England. Our Patron, the Princess Royal and all members of the British Royal Family are also descendants.

In the USA all members of the National Guild of St Margaret of Scotland, a heritage society which is a corporate member of the Guild or the Fellowship, have also researched their ancestry and found a link to St Margaret.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

The Guild Archives

A small group of Guild Members, Joanna M Milne, Hazel M Dunn, Margaret MacKay and Kathy M Fairweather have been going through the Guild's very extensive archive collection. They will put together a small pamphlet to give to members at the 2017 AGM. This will include important events in the Guild's History and anecdotes of its early days. If you have anything interesting to add, please get in touch with any member of this group.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

Thanks for Presentation

I am delighted to have received so many letters, cards and emails of appreciation for the new booklet from members of the Guild. It has also encouraged members to share information with us, such as Margaret Taylor's information about her grandfather who designed the stained glass windows in the Chapel, and Stephanie Blackden who is a descendant of St Margaret.

I was not expecting the beautiful bouquet of flowers and the very generous gift voucher, that I received at the AGM. I have spent the voucher on a new camera. I can of course take photos on my phone or ipad, but have found that I really prefer looking through a viewfinder. So I have indulged myself and bought a very neat Canon camera which is ideal. I will use it to take photos of flowers in the Chapel. Very many thanks to you all.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

Stained Glass windows in the Chapel

A member of the Guild Mrs Margaret Taylor from Brechin is a grand-daughter of Dr Douglas Strachan (1875-1950) who designed the 5 beautiful stained glass windows in the Chapel in the 1930's. He had designed some of the windows in the National War Memorial at the Castle in 1927, and many others in Scotland, England and world-wide. She has sent a booklet compiled by her father, which lists all the windows he designed and gives their location. Margaret's father was a cousin of Sir David Russell, whose wife was convenor of the Guild in the early days and whose sister was Margaret Beattie, who was also a member of the Guild. We will include more details about this in the archive pamphlet which we are preparing for members at the 2017 AGM.

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

Princes Street Gardens Tour

This walk will take place on **Wednesday 17th May 2017**. The Tour is organised by Jean Bareham who has taken us on previous garden tours. The Tour will last one hour and thirty minutes and meets at the **Scott Monument at 10.30am** and finishes at the West End Steps. The cost as before is £5 per person (*with a minimum charge of £50*). Maximum number for the tour is 20. Please let me know if you would be interested in coming along. Fiona M Kidd: telephone 0131 445 1867 or email: fiona@hotmail.co.uk.

Fiona M Kidd, Flower Supervisor

The Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret of Scotland Sunday 11th June 2017

The Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret will take place on Sunday 11th June in Dunfermline. Plans are underway and we are been invited to join pilgrims walking in procession from the Gates of Pittencrieff Park at 2.15pm through the streets of Dunfermline, led by Archbishop Leo Cushley, the Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, finishing up in St Margaret's Catholic Church for Mass at 4pm. Further details will be put on the website as soon as they become available. A large crowd will attend and the overspill for the Mass will be video-linked to the Carnegie Hall. Please let us know if you would like to take part and we can arrange to meet and perhaps have a picnic after, weather permitting.



Margaret Lynch, Newsletter Secretary

The New “Queen’s Crossing” is scheduled to open on June 12th 2017

We thought it would be appropriate for our Guild members to walk across the “Queen’s Crossing”, the new bridge over the Firth of Forth, to mark the opening. We plan to have a picnic on the other side and then walk back. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Margaret Lynch margaret@lynchdudes.net or by tel. 01620 822770. More details about the proposed walk will be on the website nearer the time. In the meantime, we need to know if you are interested in joining us.

Twitter and Website

Our 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 of flowers you have done in the Chapel or any news of interest to members, please send it to me, (email smcjames@me.com, or margaret@lynchdudes.net for the Website or Margaret Milne for our ‘new’ Facebook page. margaretmilne@ymail.com. I am willing 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 and Facebook messages.

Sarah M James, Twitter Expert and Webpage Secretary

Don’t forget to keep us up-to-date for our Guild Database

It would be very helpful if Margarets could inform our Secretary Kathy M Fairweather by email: kathleenfairweather@btinternet.com, or by phone 01620 890853, if any of your details change, so that we can be sure that the database is as accurate as possible. Margaret Meiklejohn is our new database Secretary : margaretmeiklejohn@gmail.com .

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 2017! If you have any articles or stories of interest to the Guild, please send them to me. Email: margaret@lynchdudes.net. Check out the Members section of the website each month for information of forthcoming events and news items. Brooches and earrings are available from Margaret Ann Crawford, our new Treasurer. You can contact her by email: mac@LyleCrawford.co.uk.

Margaret Lynch, Newsletter Secretary