



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter

June/July 2017, issue 32

**“...we, the members of St Margaret's Chapel Guild,
dedicate ourselves anew
to the service of God's kingdom:”**

Convenor's Report

Dear Margarets,

I would like to start by conveying my very 'Best Wishes' to you all. I hope the first half of the year has gone smoothly for you, and that you have coped with the changeable weather we have had to contend with!

My husband and I had a recent trip to Wiltshire, and we were 'treated' to daytime temperatures of 34 degrees! Much too hot to cope with!.

Saturday, 24th June, saw us celebrating the 75th Anniversary of St Margaret's Chapel Guild – and what a celebration we had!

We had a beautiful, and meaningful, Service in Canongate Kirk led by our President, Rev. Neil Gardner, with our President Emeritus, Rev Charlie Robertson, Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rev Frances Burberry, Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh and Father Matthew from St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Cowgate, all taking part.

Neil's address was very appropriate, and enjoyed by all.

We were also privileged to have the St Margaret Singers take part in the Service. The Choir is a group of ladies all of whom are former pupils of St Margaret's School, Edinburgh. Their Musical Director is John Cranston.

The flowers in Canongate were arranged by Margaret Mackay and Margaret J Tait, and were magnificent.

Fenella James 'piped' the congregation into Church as they arrived – such a talent.

Megan O'Donnell took photographs of the occasion for us, and they are excellent. They will be put on the Guild's website in the near future, for everyone to enjoy.

After the Service we all made our way to the Harry Younger Hall, where we all enjoyed a delicious tea.

We were fortunate to have some guests with us. They were: Major General Riddell-Webster, the GOC of Edinburgh Castle, Jane Scott, Director of Marketing and Communications at Queen Margaret University, Rita Poulter who came to the Guild's rescue to repair and restore our 1993 Altar Cloth in the Chapel.

The tables for tea were beautifully adorned with table flower arrangements which had been made by our Flower Supervisor, Fiona Kidd, and her team of volunteers: Margo Fraser, Margaret Tait and Maggie Semple.

We had a beautiful Birthday Cake, decorated with the Guild Crest and Daisies.

The cake was cut by one of our 'senior' members. Betty Gale who joined the Guild in 1949, and was the first member of the Guild to be married in St Margaret's Chapel in 1954.

I think we all agree that it was a memorable day, and I can't help thinking what Rev Dr Ronnie Selby-Wright would have thought of our celebrations after he put the advertisement in the Evening News in 1942, asking for ladies by the name of Margaret to put flowers in the Chapel – what a vision he had.

Our celebrations, unfortunately, must be tinged with sadness. Two of our members sadly died recently. Lady Bettina Thomson (aged 102) who was an active member during her membership from the 1960's until the early 2000's. Lady Thomson provided a dried flower arrangement for the Chapel every year. Elizabeth Margaret McLeod died last month, she joined the Guild in 2013 and thoroughly enjoyed her short membership with us, and was a very eager February 'flower lady'.

The sympathy and condolences of the Guild are extended to their families and friends.

On 28th June, Joanna Milne and I showed a group of 45 Pilgrims round the Chapel. They were a very interested group, and thoroughly enjoyed their time with us.

On 4th July, Kathy Fairweather and I have been invited to attend the Holyroodhouse Garden Party, to represent the Guild. We are both looking forward to the occasion very much.

On 14th July, four members of the Guild are taking a group of Chernobyl Children round the Castle. This is the first time in 4 years we have had the opportunity to take the children on this visit.

I hope you will all have an enjoyable summer. It will not be long until November is upon us and we will be making preparations for St Margaret's Day, on Thursday, 16th.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then.

Meantime, my very Best Wishes.

Yours in friendship

Margaret Lindsell, Convenor

Flowers for the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

The church flowers were arranged by Margaret J Tait and Margaret Mackay and were much admired, at the end of the week the remaining flowers were placed on the grave of Dr Wright in Canongate churchyard.

The table arrangements, prepared by Margo Fraser, Margaret Tait, Maggie Semple and Fiona Kidd, were distributed after tea to members who were unable to attend the service and were delivered by members of the Guild.



Betty Gale, for cutting the cake
 David Cargill
 Margaret Brooksbank (recent birthday)
 Margaret Rodgers
 Margaret Wright
 Margaret Maguire
 Stephanie Blackden (birthday)
 Margaret Struckmeir
 Margaret Butcher (bereavement)



Princes Street Gardens Tour 17th May

A group of 17 ladies enjoyed an extremely interesting and informative tour with our guide Jean Bareham who has accompanied us on previous garden tours.

We began at the Scott Monument and progressed through the gardens to a beautifully landscaped garden behind the railway line which I think very few in the group knew about. We found a patch of rhubarb and a very handsome redwood tree amidst many other interesting plants and shrubs. This garden is well worth seeking out if you are in the Gardens. Our walk then took us past the cafe and before climbing the steps, Jean pointed out a small herb garden on the left of the steps which has been planted by the restaurant owners. Crossing

over to the West garden, from where there is a fine view of Ramsay Garden and the Ross Bandstand, we learned that the Gardens and the bandstand are protected from changes by an Act of Parliament.

Our tour ended at another place with which we were not familiar: Jean pointed out a very small plaque in memory of Robert Louis Stevenson set in a copse of silver birch trees. The plaque, a very modest one, is in accordance with his wishes that he preferred to be remembered by his written word, and is a marked contrast to the Scott Monument where we began our tour.



A small group then visited St Margaret's Well over the railway bridge and at the base of the Castle Rock.

Fiona M Kidd

Flower Ladies Appeal

The flower supervisors are often short of ladies when they organise the rotas for each month. Are there any members who have recently retired and may now have a little more time to help out once a year by placing flowers in the Chapel? Flower ladies may drive up to the Chapel provided they are out by 9.30am, otherwise you may go on foot during the day at a time that suits you.

Fiona M. Kidd, Flower supervisor

Email: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 0131 445 1867

Holyrood Garden Party

Margaret Lindsell and I had a very enjoyable afternoon at the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood Palace on Tuesday 4th July

Neil very kindly allowed us to park at the Canongate Manse, so all we had to do was stroll down to the Palace. Several entrances, so getting in was quick, and we headed for the tea tent. We met Margaret Hunter and some friends and had tea with them, listening to the bands, The Royal Marines and the Royal Scottish society of pipers.

The royal party emerged on the dot of 4.00pm. The Queen goes down one line meeting guests and the Duke of Edinburgh another. We were beside the Duke's line. The Chief archer came along looking for people to meet him, asked us where we were from and took notes. Then when the Duke came down the line we were invited forward to meet him. (Our convenor's curtsy was very impressive) He asked us if we cleaned the Chapel and we told him no but we put the flowers in. He said it must keep us fit climbing up to the Chapel. We said how much we appreciated our Patron, the Princess Royal. She wasn't there as she is in China. He is amazing for 96 and has certainly earned his retirement.

After some frantic texting eg "I am standing under a tree beside the bandstand in a pale blue jacket" and "We are hemmed in by archers I have a pink hat", we made contact with Sheila M Mactaggart and gave her the photos of her friend Betty Gale cutting the cake at the 75th. Sheila was part of the royal entourage, as was Neil in his frock coat.

The royal party had their tea in the tent with the crown on top and after they had gone back in to the Palace people didn't hang around, as it was quite cold, but at least it didn't rain. As we walked back up to the Manse we lost count of the number of women who had taken off their good shoes and/or were wearing their husbands kilt jackets over their finery. Altogether a very memorable day.



Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

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



The Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret took place on Sunday 11th June in Dunfermline. The Guild was 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 RC Bishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, finishing up in St Margaret's Catholic Church for Mass at 4pm. Unfortunately, at the last minute I had to abandon attending, but thankfully Margaret Tait attended to

represent the Guild, and sent on photos of the crowds taking part. Next year we hope to have a lot more Margarets taking part in the very special day. Check website and Twitter for details next year.

Margaret Lynch

The New “Queensferry Crossing” is scheduled to open on 30th August 2017

We thought it would be appropriate for our Guild members to walk across the “Queensferry 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. The dates for walking are 2nd and 3rd September. The bridge is closing to traffic for this Once in a Lifetime event. We are awaiting hearing the outcome of the ballot applications for those who wish to walk across. 50,000 people are expected to walk the bridge over these two days. The deadline for applying was Wednesday 5th July and we hope at least some of the Guild members who applied will be successful ! You should find out around 13th July. If you are successful and would like to join other Guild members to walk and picnic, please let me know by email on margaret@lynchdudes.net or by tel.01620 82277

Margaret Lynch

Queen Margaret University’s Creative Exhibition & Parade

On the evening of 18th May, Fiona Kidd and I were invited on behalf of the Guild, to the Preview of Platform 4, QMU’s Creative Exhibition and Parade at Summerhall.

At the start of the evening we admired the exhibition of the students’ work, whilst the MSc Music Therapy Students performed. We enjoyed wonderful canapés and drink as we circulated the exhibition.

It was lovely to be able to talk with Professor Petra Wend, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of QMU, and Jane Scott, Director of Marketing and Communications. Jane is known to the Guild as she has represented the university on many occasions on St Margaret’s Day. We also spoke to Polly Lister, a Senior Lecturer at QMU, who was of great help to Lucy Ready when our new altar frontal was being designed and made.

After the exhibition, we went along to the former Dissection Room of the old Dick Vet, to watch the students’ Costume Parade. It was fabulous, and, after the parade, Professor Wend made us aware that the students were being assessed and marked during it! I don’t know how they coped, knowing this!

It is lovely for the Guild to maintain our relationship with QMU, and the evening gave Fiona and me an insight into the wonderful work the students produce.

Margaret Lindsell, Convenor

(Members may be interested to learn that Lucy Deady who designed our new altar frontal has moved to London since graduating from QMU to work on the BBC’s Strictly Come Dancing, making dance costumes!

Transport to the Chapel from the Esplanade on St Margaret's Day

A reminder to members that a dedicated 16 seater minibus has been booked for 16th November to take members from the Esplanade up to Crown Square. The bus will be available from 10.30am and will do return trips after the AGM in the afternoon. Further details will be sent out with the papers for the AGM later in the year.

Margaret Lindsell, Convenor

Our Database Secretary

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 database Secretary : margaretmeiklejohn@gmail.com .

Kathy M Fairweather, Secretary

The Dome Coffee Mornings

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 January 2018! If you have any articles or stories of interest to the Guild, please send them to me at smcjames@me.com 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 Treasurer. You can contact her by email: mac@LyleCrawford.co.uk.

Sarah M.C.James, Newsletter Secretary

The Guild and Social Media

We hope you are enjoying our ventures onto Facebook, Twitter and of course the website, all of which are intended to give up to date information and insights into the life and work of the Guild. Photos of members' flower arrangements are always very welcome. We never identify the Margaret. If you can remember to take a photo on your phone or camera and send it to Margaret Milne at margaretmilne@ymail.com for Facebook and Sarah James at smcjames@me.com for Twitter and the website, we'd be delighted.

Sarah M.C.James