



# St Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter

January/February 2018, issue 33

## *Convenor's Report*

Dear Margarets

I know 2018 is a few weeks old, but I would still like to extend my Best Wishes to you all for a Happy and Healthy New Year. I do hope you all had an enjoyable Festive Season, and were not too inconvenienced by the recent snow we incurred.

Judging by the positive feedback I received from many members after our St Margaret's Day celebrations in November, I think I can safely say that it was an enjoyable and successful day! It was lovely to have Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal with us, and I received a letter from her Lady-in-Waiting, Harriet Bowes-Lyon, on behalf of The Princess, saying how much she had enjoyed her time with us and that she is proud to be our Patron.

Following the success of the minibus the Guild provided, it is planned to continue to provide a 16 seater minibus, to transport our members from the top of Castle Esplanade to the Queen Anne Room, and a return service after our AGM.

Sadly, two of our long serving members have died. Margaret Manson died on 31 December, and Margaret Cargill died on 8 January. The condolences of the Guild members have been sent to both families, and tributes to them both are on our website.

Some of you may not be aware that in 2003, the then GOC, Major General N R Parker CBE, agreed that members of the Guild, in recognition of that the work that they do, should be permitted to have the use of St Margaret's Chapel, for Weddings and Baptisms, up to six times per year.

If you are planning a Wedding or the Baptism of a Child or Grandchild, and would like this to take place in the Chapel, please get in touch with me in the first instance, and I will tell you how to go about this. I should emphasise that any requests should be made at least three months in advance.

Every year at our AGM we propose Charities to whom donations, from our funds, be made for the members approval.

Throughout the year we receive requests from Charities for donations.

Currently we have sufficient funds to make donations to three worthwhile Charities. They are:

- 1) – The Moira Anderson Trust. A request was made last year but was too late for 2017.
- 2) – The Dunbar Branch of UNICEF who are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 3) – Bethany Trust, Edinburgh. 2018 is the year of homelessness, and this Charity was thought to be appropriate.

The Executive Committee have decided to make these donations now, rather than wait until after our AGM.

I would also encourage members of the Guild to make nominations of Charities they would like to be considered for a donation.



Again my Best Wishes for 2018

Yours in friendship

**Margaret  
Lindsell.**

Convenor



### **REPORT ON ST MARGARET'S DAY, 2017**

I know I have mentioned in my Convenor's Report that St Margaret's Day, 2017, was very successful, but so much happened on the day and so many people were involved in making the day the success it was, I feel it might be appropriate to give you a more detailed report, which also, might give a feeling of the day to everyone, whether they were present or not.

It was just so special, in our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, to have our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, with us for the celebrations we enjoyed.

This was the fifth time The Princess has joined us on St Margaret's Day since she became our Patron in 2003. She takes such a keen interest in the Guild and is always well informed about the activities of the Guild.

As well as The Princess we had a number of Guests join us for the day. I thought I should let you know who they were, and why they were invited! They were:-

Major General M Riddell-Webster CBE DSO, - G.O.C. who is also an Honorary Vice President and Trustee of the Guild.

Lieut. Col Rev Cole Maynard – Assistant Chaplain General for Scotland, and also an Honorary Vice President and Trustee of the Guild.

Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and also an Honorary President of the Guild.

The Rt Rev Mark Strange, Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, and also an Honorary President of the Guild.

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, President of the Bishop's Conference of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, and also an Honorary President of the Guild.

(A little secret is that the committee members refer to our three Honorary Presidents as the 'Three Wise Men'!!)

Stuart Beattie, Director, Scottish Churches Trust.

Nick Finnigan, Executive Manager, Edinburgh Castle.

Jane Scott, Director of Marketing and Communication, Queen Margaret University.

Anna Patziger and Petra Kata, both of whom were Hungarian Exchange Students at Queen Margaret University. The Guild provides an annual donation to assist with the funding of this project.

Allan Somerville, Senior Guide, Historic Environment Scotland. Allan is well known to the Guild and is always willing to help and assist us in many ways.

It is usual to have the Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh to greet The Princess when she arrives at the Argyll Steps. He presents our President, Rev Neil Gardner, who in turn presents our Convenor and the Convenor then presents the Guild member who is going to present a Posy to The Princess. After these introductions, Neil escorts The Princess into the Chapel, for our St Margaret's Day Service.

I only heard a week or so beforehand that the Lord Lieutenant would not be coming on St Margaret's Day, as he was going to be out of the country. When I enquired which Deputy Lieutenant would be coming on St Margaret's Day? I was told it was going to be the author Ian Rankin!

All these presentations go on away from our Guild members, who are waiting for the Queen Anne Room to be re-arranged for our AGM, and those who are attending the Service with The Princess have been long since seated in the Chapel.



Ian Rankin was a great success, he circulated and mixed with the members. He was very obliging in allowing those members, who wished, have a photograph taken with him.

He did tell us that although he has been a Deputy Lieutenant for the past ten years, this was the first time he had been asked to 'officiate' and he had thoroughly enjoyed his time with us.

I know many of us would be happy to have him again, but unfortunately, we don't have any say in the matter.

This year we were fortunate to have our member, Fenella James, play her Bagpipes outside the Chapel to greet The Princess on her arrival. Fenella is a very accomplished Bagpipe player, whom you may have heard when we entered Canongate Kirk for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service in June.

We know that The Princess is very fond of Bagpipe music, and she appreciated this gesture.

Fenella has been a member of the Guild since 1998, and on the visit of The Princess in 2010, she presented the Posy to her. When The Princess met Fenella after our AGM she was able to thank her for her Bagpipe playing.



We always try to find a 'younger' member of the Guild to present a Posy to The Princess. This year it was Chloe Margaret Lindsell (age 6), who just happens to be my Granddaughter. Chloe Margaret joined the Guild in 2011, and takes a great interest in what is happening. She was delighted to be asked to present the Posy.



After presenting the Posy she, quite unprompted, told The Princess that she had been Baptised in the Chapel. The Princess responded saying that she was sure Chloe didn't remember that day, but it was a very, very special place to be Baptised.



An important group of members we should give special thanks to, for the extremely important part they played this year, are the Monthly Flower Supervisors. Not only did they provide the beautiful table flowers which adorned the Queen Anne Room, but each one of them acted as a Group Leader. They took on the role of 'host' at the Lunch for the members at their table. They also had a Guest at their table. (There was one exception to this where the Guest was to be our President Emeritus, Charlie Robertson, who unfortunately was unable to attend due to a family funeral).



After our AGM the Group Leaders assembled their Groups, in the Glazed Corridor, and introduced them to The Princess. The Princess was 'marvellous' she shook hand with, and spoke to every single member. This was undoubtedly the highlight of the day for many of our members.

Unfortunately, three of our Monthly Flower Supervisors were unable to be with us, but three members of the committee, willingly, offered to stand in for them and for this we were very grateful.

Megan has taken several photographs of the Groups when The Princess was circulating them and I am sure you will agree they are super.

It would be wrong of me not to thank the Castle Caterers. The Lunch they provided was excellent, even the 'thank you' letter from HRH's Lady in Waiting asked that we thank the Chef for the delicious Luncheon.

Before the beginning of our AGM when The Princess sat down beside me, I asked her if she had enjoyed her Lunch? Her response was that it had been delicious, especially the soup, which was unusual for the Castle!



I know some of the photographs taken on the day, are in this Newsletter, and the entire collection of photographs, taken on the day, will be on the Guild's website soon.

We are grateful to our member, Megan O'Donnell, for being our Photographer for the day. Megan, who is Margaret Lynch's granddaughter, is currently doing her PhD at Edinburgh University. I am sure you will agree that her work is 'exceptional' when you see the photographs for yourself.

I think all of us who attended St Margaret's Day, 2017, agree that it was a memorable day, and I hope those of you who were unable to be there will get some of the feeling of the day from these notes.

Yours in friendship.

**Margaret Lindsell**  
Convenor







### ***Edinburgh Castle Christmas Service 2017***

Thursday 14th December saw me nervously walking up towards the Chapel. It was not flowers I was clutching in my hand, but the reading I was to give at the Castle Family Christmas Service. I had printed it out in VERY large print, and had practised it many times at home- who knew that Qurinius was governor of Syria? The Great Hall looked lovely with a huge, beautifully decorated tree. The woodwind quintet of the Band of the Royal Regiment provided suitable accompaniment to our singing, and all too soon it was over. I had said my piece- a little too quickly, but with much feeling, according to my daughter who came with me- and it was time to mingle with the other guests and have a welcome glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. It was a lovely way to get the festive season underway, and really interesting to meet people from other organisations associated with the Castle.

**Hazel M Dunn**

### **Talk on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Caledonian Club in Halkin Street, Belgravia was founded in 1891 as a club for Scotsmen in London, and these days includes Scotswomen among its members. In 2017 the Guild was invited to send someone to give a talk to its Alba lunch club, run by Glen McNeill, an aunt of Sarah M James, a member of our committee. As I was overdue a visit to a nephew and his family in London I volunteered.

I got the number 37 bus from Clapham, counted the 12 stops to Hyde Park Gate, found the grand mansion and met up with members of the club, including Sheila M Mactaggart, one of our members and also a brother of Fiona Wilson, another of our members whose mother Lady Grant was a very early member of the Guild.



I also met the Hungarian Ambassador and his depute, who just happened to be in the club at the time. He was very interested that Sheila had worked in the British Embassy in Hungary and also in the Guild's links with Queen Margaret University and its Hungarian exchange programme set up by the Hungarian embassy and supported by the Guild.

The members were interested in the illustrated talk and asked a lot of questions. Many of them took copies of the chapel booklet and gave me donations. One lady commented on the

photo of St Margaret's Stone in Dunfermline, where you are meant to sit if you want to get pregnant. She had been brought up in Dunfermline and remembered sitting on the stone with her friends while waiting for the bus home from Dunfermline High School. She was pleased to report that none of them became pregnant.

After the talk we had a very splendid lunch with some fine wines from the Club's cellar. I was glad this was after the talk and all I had to do afterwards was find my way back to the number 37 bus stop, and return to Clapham in time for the children's gymnastics and dance classes. Altogether quite a memorable day.

**Kathy M Fairweather**

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR GUILD MEMBERS IN 2018**

### **PATRICK GEDDES GARDEN TOUR MONDAY 21st MAY 2018**

We will learn about Patrick Geddes' ideas about the environment and Old Town regeneration, visit gardens created over a century ago in the Old Town, including a visit to the Johnston Terrace Wildlife Garden and a thriving community garden in the West Port

Tour starts at the Hub, Castlehill and finishes in Greyfriars Kirkyard and lasts 1hr and 40min

The tour will be taken by Jean Bareham, who has taken us on some of our previous walks.

Cost £6pp, minimum charge £60

Maximum number per tour 20.

Pay on the day, but please book in advance with Fiona Kidd if you are interested.

PLEASE NOTE there are steps and slopes involved

**Fiona Kidd**

Tel: 0131 445 1867 Email: [fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk)

### **The Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret of Scotland Sunday 3rd June 2018**

The Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret of Scotland will take place on a Sunday in June. The guild have been invited to join the Pilgrimage again this year, walking in procession with our banner, from the Gates of Pittencrieff Park at 2.30pm through the streets of Dunfermline led by Archbishop Leo Cushley, RC Bishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, finishing up in St Margaret's Catholic Church for Mass at 4pm. We hope to have more Margarets take part this year. Please look at the Guild website nearer the time for more details, or contact Margaret Lynch. Bring a picnic! [margaret@lynchdudes.net](mailto:margaret@lynchdudes.net) or 01620 822770

**Margaret Lynch**



## **FELLOWSHIP FLOWERS**

The flowers placed in the Chapel by Margaret Marr on 2<sup>nd</sup> February were in loving memory of the mother of one of our Fellowship members. The Centenary of the birth of Mrs M. H. MacDonald occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Mrs MacDonald was of Robertson descent and very proud of her Scottish heritage. A donation was given to the flower fund from her daughters, Margaret Wynn and Julie Birchill.



**Fiona Kidd**

## **Queen Margaret University Scholarships and Awards Reception on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Margaret Lindsell, Sarah James, Fiona Kidd and their husbands were able to attend this event in the Dovecot Studios and spent a most interesting evening meeting the students and learning about their work and the placements involved in their studies

We were fortunate to be introduced to Anna Patziger who was one of the first two Hungarian students studying for three months at QMU as part of a new ongoing scholarship exchange programme with the University of Budapest

This meeting resulted in an invitation to the two Hungarian students, Anna and Petra to come to the AGM in November and we were very pleased that they were able to join us on the day for a service in the chapel, lunch and also to be introduced to our Patron, the Princess Royal .



**Fiona Kidd**



### **Edinburgh City Mission Supporters' Event, 11th November 2017**

The Guild donates each year to this local charity which works in the most needy areas of Edinburgh with the homeless and those experiencing food poverty. As a supporter, the Guild was invited along to the Salt Yard Cafe on Dalry Road to hear more about the City Mission's work, and their vision for the future. Margaret Ann Crawford and Lyle, her husband went along together with Sarah M James, on behalf of the Guild. We were warmly welcomed, enjoyed delicious tea and cake, and it is clear the Guild's support over the years is much appreciated.

**Sarah M James**

### ***Queensferry Crossing Walk***

We were disappointed not to get any places in the ballot to walk on the new Queensferry Crossing, when it was opened in September 2017. As a result a few of us decided to do an alternative walk on the Road Bridge instead. So, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October nine of us took a train from Edinburgh Waverley to North Queensferry. From there we enjoyed the walk back over the Road Bridge to South Queensferry. We had an amazing view of the beautiful Queensferry Crossing on a very bright day, with not many people about. Then we had a lovely lunch in the Rail Bridge Bistro with a great view of all three bridges. We may do it again in the Spring, so keep an eye on the website for further details soon, if you are interested in joining us.

**Margaret Lynch**



### ***Choral Evensong in honour of St Margaret, St Mary's Cathedral, 17th November 2017***

Sarah M James attended this beautiful service which is to be an annual event, held on or as near to St Margaret's Day as possible. It was a pleasure to sing the hymn 'Lord of our history's days' which is about St Margaret, the words written by Bishop Michael Duke. The service also welcomed the former pupils of St Margaret's School, and the St Margaret's Singers, now corporate members of

the Guild, gave a short recital at the end of the service. This year, the service will take place on St Margaret's Day, Friday 16th November at 5.30pm, and Guild members are warmly invited to attend. More details to follow on the website later in the year.

**Sarah M James**

### ***HMHS St. Margaret of Scotland***

During WW1, the Royal Mail Line contributed 9 of the 90 merchant ships converted into hospital ships as a war-time emergency measure and designated HMHS (His Majesty's Hospital Ship). In 1915, the Scottish Branch of the Red Cross had one of these ships, the s.s.Balantia, converted into a hospital ship using funds raised by public appeal . She was equipped to deal with approximately 250 wounded personnel and was re-named ***St. Margaret of Scotland***. She served as a naval hospital ship from December 1915 until 1918.

**Mrs Margaret Dean LVO (a Trustee of St Margaret's Chapel Guild**

### ***75th Anniversary Booklet***

The ladies working on the Guild's archives produced a booklet to commemorate the 75th Anniversary. Paper copies were given to those attending the AGM and an electronic version was sent out to the members of the Fellowship. Those members who receive the newsletter by post, and who have not yet received a booklet, should find it enclosed with this newsletter. The electronic version will be available on the revamped website, where members can read about the Guild's history and see photographs of some of the individuals who are part of that history. We would be delighted to hear your thoughts on the booklet , and these should be sent to [hazel@poststreet.net](mailto:hazel@poststreet.net) or you can call on 0131 667 4790

**Hazel M Dunn**

### **The Guild's Website and Social Media**

A subgroup of the Committee work with Steve Douglas on our website. Steve has designed the existing website for the Guild and is just about finished working on our new one which will be more secure and altogether easier for us to use and update. And it is going to look even more beautiful with lots of new photos taken by Megan O'Donnell ! The website address will be the same, [www.stmargaretschapel.com](http://www.stmargaretschapel.com) and you can access it by logging in on the column on the right hand side of the members section (user name: **margaret** and the password is still **10daisy93** ) The new website has both the Facebook and Twitter posts for you to see and interact with if you would like.

Photographs are our main source of news and comment, especially those of your flower arrangements in the Chapel, so please do keep sending these in and we will put them up. If you could send them at the same time to me at [smcjames@me.com](mailto:smcjames@me.com) and to Margaret Milne who looks after our Facebook page at [margaretmilne@ymail.com](mailto:margaretmilne@ymail.com) we will do the necessary!

**Sarah M James**

### **Database details**

We rely very much on the accuracy of the database which is maintained by Margaret Meiklejohn [margaretmeiklejohn@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmeiklejohn@gmail.com) If you think any of your details we hold have changed, please let Kathy M Fairweather our secretary know by email at [kathleenfairweather@btinternet.com](mailto:kathleenfairweather@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01620 890853 The more information we have which is up to date, the easier it is for us to keep you in touch with what is going on in the Guild.

**Kathy M Fairweather**

And finally ....!

### **The Dome Coffee Mornings**

Remember the coffee mornings in the Dome on George Street, Edinburgh on the 16th of each month at 10.30am. Do come along and catch up with other Margarets over coffee and a chat. When the 16th lands on a Sunday, we meet on the Monday.

The next newsletter will be out in June/July this year. It will be here before we know it. All articles or stories of interest to the Guild warmly welcomed, please send them to me at [smcjames@me.com](mailto:smcjames@me.com) Please keep an eye on the website for news in the members section of forthcoming events and news items. Brooches and earrings are available from Margaret Ann Crawford our Treasurer at [mac@lylecrawford.co.uk](mailto:mac@lylecrawford.co.uk)

**Sarah M James, Newsletter Secretary [smcjames@me.com](mailto:smcjames@me.com) tel: 01680 812421 or 0788 4314643**

