



# St Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter

**June 2019 issue: 36**

## **CONVENORS REPORT**

### **St Margaret's Chapel Guild Convenor's Report for – June Newsletter 2019.**

This year is going past so quickly that it is hard to believe that it is time for our next Newsletter to go out already. I do hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the sunshine we have had, and not been dampened too much by the rain!

It is always lovely to be able to tell you of some “Happy Events” which have happened to our members since our last News Letter. The first “Happy Event” was for Margaret Hope, from Eyemouth, who got married in February, on the high seas of the Caribbean, and has become Mrs Margaret Bush. The best wishes of all the Guild members are sent to Margaret for her future happiness.

The second “Happy Event” was for Holly Gilfether, from Gullane, who gave birth to a Baby Daughter, Ava Margaret Morag Williams, born 6<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm weighing 8lbs 14oz length 54.5cm! We send the Congratulations on behalf of all the Guild members to Holly and Ava Margaret.

The third “Happy Event” was on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, when a Film Crew visited the Castle to make a Film for ITV about what happens in Castles, in the case of Edinburgh Castle not just the one o'clock gun, but St Margaret's Chapel Guild. Four members of the Guild, Gillian Margaret Baptie, Hazel Margaret Dunn, Tia Margaret Millar and myself, met the Film Crew at the Drawbridge at 07.30am. We made our way up to the Chapel and had the privilege of making the Film which is to be shown **on ITV on 16<sup>th</sup> July, at 8.00pm**. Fiona Kidd and Hazel Dunn have a more detailed report in this Newsletter.

The fourth “Happy Event” happened on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, when Caroline Margaret Taylor (Grand-daughter of Margaret Aitken) was married in Dundee. She is now Mrs McAdam and the members of the Guild send Caroline, and James, very best wishes for their future happiness.

Our President, Rev Neil Gardner, will not be able to be with us for the whole day on St Margaret's Day. As Neil is only available in the morning, he will be able to conduct the St Margaret's Day Services, and Chair our AGM, which will also be held in the morning.

The revised timetable for the day is as follows:-

A Minibus, from Timberbush, will commence a shuttle service from the top of the Castle Esplanade at 09.30am to transport members to the side door, between the Café Area and the Queen Anne Room. This service will continue to operate until approximately 11.00am, or until all of our members, requiring transport, have been safely taken up to the side entrance of the Queen Anne Room. A return service will commence from the Queen Anne Room from approximately 2.30pm, to transport members back to the top of the Castle Esplanade.

Again, the service will continue until all members requiring the service have been transported back to the top of the Castle Esplanade.

Registration will take place in the Café Area, beside the Glazed Corridor, commencing at 09.30am. Tea and Coffee will be available to purchase in the Café Area from 09.30am.

There will be three Services in St Margaret's Chapel. Service 1 at 10.00am: Service 2 at 10.30am: and Service 3 at 11.00am. We have not allocated members to a particular Service as it is easier for members to attend the Service which is most convenient for them. After the Services the AGM will be held in the Queen Anne Room commencing at 11.30am. The tables for the AGM will be set out for Lunch, without food! Lunch will be at 1pm, after the AGM.

I would very much appreciate if our Monthly Flower Supervisors would again be a Hostess at each table. I am aware that being a Hostess can make you feel that you do not have the opportunity to mix with some of the other members, but, I hope you will have some time before Lunch, and again after Lunch is finished, to mix with other Guild members.

As you are aware, I served as Guild Secretary for six years, from 2001 to 2007, and I have served for twelve years as Guild Convenor, from 2007 to present. Both positions I have enjoyed immensely, and I hope I have carried out both roles to the satisfaction of the members. I will be standing down as Convenor at this year's AGM, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all most sincerely for the support you have given me during my time as an 'Office Bearer'.

I am saddened to have to inform you that our long standing Member, Audrey Margaret Mellalieu, died in Murrayfield House Nursing Home on 15 May, 2019. In her more active days as a Guild member Audrey served as Monthly Flower Supervisor for March.

Scotland Churches Trust again invited two of our members to attend their "Gathering" in Bothwell Parish Church in March. Lady Marguerite Macfarlane and the Hon Marguerite Riley attended, and Lady Macfarlane has prepared a report for this Newsletter.

Maggie Semple and Margaret Studley attended the Queen Margaret University Costume Showcase 2019 in St Cecilia's Hall, Niddrie Street, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Both thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Visitors to the Chapel have been observed taking Booklets without leaving a donation! I think this may be partially due to the fact that they cannot read our sign. To see if we can improve the situation, I am going to look into the possibility of having a smaller, clearer notice made.

I know, like me, you will be saddened to learn that Allan Somerville, one of the Castle's Senior Stewards, has decided to retire. His last working day will be 17 October 2019. Allan has served us for thirty three years, and I think it would be appropriate for the Guild to recognise the help and service he has given us. It has been decided that Allan will be invited to have Lunch with us on St Margaret's Day and a gift in appreciation for the help he has given the Guild will be made.

We are fast approaching the holiday season, and if you have any holidays planned, I do extend my best wishes for a very enjoyable time. St Margaret's Day will be here before we know it and I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

With Kind Regards  
Yours in Friendship

**Margaret Lindsell, *Convenor***

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## Other Newsletter items

### *St Margaret's Chapel Guild Committee changes*

This has been a busy year for the Executive Committee with several important changes:

Members will have read earlier in the newsletter of the Convenor's decision to step down in November at the AGM. The Committee would like to thank Margaret Lindsell most warmly for her many years of service and dedication to the Guild, and she will leave her post secure in the knowledge that the Guild is thriving. The Committee is delighted to announce that Margaret has accepted the invitation of an honorary position on the Committee for one year from November 2019, as Convenor Emeritus.

The Committee would like to invite nominations from any member wishing to stand as Convenor and would ask that nominations are received by the President, the Rev. Neil Gardner at Canongate Kirk Parish Office, 3 Reid's Court, 95 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BR or at [nng22@btinternet.com](mailto:nng22@btinternet.com) together with a brief personal profile and details of a proposer and seconder from the membership, no later than Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. There will be a meeting with the prospective candidates, conducted by the President and members of the Committee, details of which will be given after the September meeting of the Committee.

The Executive Committee decided this year to revive the position of Vice Convenor of the Guild, to assist in this busy period of transition and beyond. Hazel M Dunn has been appointed Vice Convenor until the AGM in November. The position of Vice Convenor will continue thereafter and nominations are invited from the membership for anyone wishing to stand. Please ensure nominations, including a brief personal profile, proposer and seconder from the membership, are in the hands of the Secretary no later than **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.**

Margaret Ann Crawford, our Treasurer is coming up for re-election in November. Margaret Ann is happy to remain in office for a further three years, but if anyone wishes to stand as treasurer please let the Secretary know.

The Guild is thriving and this means the work of the Committee is growing! If you would like to be involved in any way the Committee would like to hear from you. In addition to Margaret Lindsell stepping down as Convenor, Margaret Meiklejohn who has done a splendid job of keeping the Guild Database updated over the past three years, will also be leaving. And finally, we say farewell on the Committee to Kathy M Fairweather in November who has contributed so much to the life and work of the Guild, as Secretary and author of our wonderful booklet. She will be missed.

Please do get in touch with the Secretary before September, if you are interested in joining the Committee and we would be pleased to hear from anyone in particular who is computer-literate and might be interested in working with our website.

**Sarah M James ([smcjames@me.com](mailto:smcjames@me.com)) Secretary**

***Committee member Margaret Gordon has written a job description to help members to understand the roles within the Executive Committee:***

**Purpose:**

Supplement and support the work of the defined and distinctive roles, i.e. Convenor, Vice-Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, Flower Supervisor, Membership Secretary and the three other members elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild all of whom, with the exception of the President, are Trustees of the Guild.

**Main Duties:**

- Attending Guild Meetings
- Assisting in planning, owning and running events
- Providing suggestions/input in regard to the work/activities of the Guild
- Undertaking allocated tasks: and
- Encouraging participation and enthusiasm within the Guild

**Person Specification:**

- Giving adequate time and energy to the duties of being a Trustee;
- Upholding the values and objectives of the Guild as defined in its Constitution and their role within it;
- Willingness to accept responsibility;
- Listening skills; and
- Acting with integrity, objectivity and accountability

**Terms of Office:**

With the exception of the President, members serve for three years, and are eligible for re-election for a maximum of three terms.

**Additional information:**

Meetings are generally held during the day, around five times a year. Normally they take place at Canongate Kirk Parish Office, 3 Reid's Court, 95 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BR. There is disabled access.

***Margaret Gordon  
Executive Committee Member***

***The New Constitution for SMCG - Final draft for AGM in November 2019***

The Guild Constitution which has served us well for many years is in the process of having an overhaul, to ensure it meets the latest charity law requirements. We are very grateful to Iain Meiklejohn, Margaret Meiklejohn's husband, for his expert ongoing advice here. We hope to have a final Draft ready to go out to members in time for the AGM in November.

***Sarah M James  
Secretary, SMCG***

### ***News from our Treasurer***

When I presented the accounts at the 2018 AGM, I indicated that we had only funds enough to give donations to the charities we support on an annual basis, and this we did. We also paid for the new money box from the Chapel, that was commissioned from the Grassmarket Project.

Over the year through booklet donations in St Margaret's Chapel we have since been able to donate to the other nominated charitable causes. Three different Charities supporting disadvantaged children received in total £1,250. A further £250 was given to both Erskine Hospital and Pregnancy Care Scotland.

The Grassmarket Project is taking students to Zambia to build a school, and we supported that with a £1,000 donation. Currently having paid for a further 50,000 booklets we will have surplus funds to donate to Charity this year and I would welcome members to make suitable nominations for consideration.

***Margaret Anne Crawford, Treasurer***

### ***Early Morning Tours in the Castle***

Flower ladies are finding that there are now many early morning tours arriving while they are arranging the flowers. The Castle Guides have been asked to inform tours that the St Margaret's flower ladies may be in the Chapel on Tuesdays and Fridays and perhaps we could use this as an opportunity to pass on some extra information about the Guild to the visitors.

***Fiona Kidd, Flower Supervisor***

### ***The Guild Website***

We now have more news and articles and, we will be suggesting some more changes soon for the Website, thanks to those of you who sent feedback and also the suggested help from Hazel M Dunn. Can I remind the ladies who are doing the flowers in the Chapel to take a photo and send it to me so that it can be entered into the 'gallery of flowers'.

To access the Website type in **stmargaretschapel.com** into the browser, this will bring you to the main page. To access the Members Section, key in the password **10daisy93** as before. You will see the list of headings on the right hand side of the page under "Members".

We have Paul Fraser our web designer to thank for his continuing work in keeping it up to date.

***Margaret Lynch  
Website Secretary***

### ***Royal Garden Party, Edinburgh - Wednesday 3rd July 2019***

The Guild will be represented at the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood by Janetta M Curlewis and Margaret Butler. We hope they have a lovely time and we look forward to seeing pictures of the visit in all their finery on the website. It is a great day and we hope they have fine weather.

### ***Scotland's Churches Trust Gathering in Bothwell Parish Church - March 2019***

Lady Marguerite MacFarlane and her daughter Hon Mrs Marguerite Riley attended the Scottish Churches Trust 'Gathering' in March representing the Guild, and they had a most interesting day. The meeting was held at Bothwell Parish Church which is the Oldest Collegiate Church in Scotland and is famously known as the Cathedral of Lanarkshire. Stuart Beattie the Director, explained the role of the Trust and the major restoration work on the Quire carried out by Scotland's Churches Trust. The ladies were very impressed by the work done. Sitting in this beautiful church during the service, they enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere as they listened to the music and admired the magnificent stained glass windows. After the service they joined other guests in the Chapterhouse Cafe and met many very interesting people. The highlight of their day was joining a group who were formally presented to our Patron, The Princess Royal, who is also Patron of the Scottish Churches Trust.

### ***Queen Margaret University Showcase 2019 – 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019***

Maggie Semple and Margaret Studley represented the Guild attending the Costume Showcase of students work on 2<sup>nd</sup> May at the QM University. They enjoyed the evening very much and were impressed by the students talent and work. Margaret Studley has asked to be informed about the next year's event because she would like to attend as a paying guest.

### ***Queen Margaret University Legacy Scholarship Programme – 2019***

St Margaret's Chapel Guild supported two students on the Scholarship Programme. Two Hungarian Students, Yeliz Carvvar and her friend Eni came to Edinburgh to take part in the Programme. They came from the Corvinu University in Budapest, Hungary. "It was a big Adventure for both of us". During their time in Scotland the students immersed themselves in the history, geography and culture of Scotland by travelling up and down the country visiting many places and meeting people. They loved 'fish and chips', but found the weather a challenge! The girls were made very welcome by the locals everywhere. They even ventured into England visiting Bamburgh Castle and Alnwick Castle. Last November they were invited to join members to celebrate St Margaret's Day and had lunch with us at the Castle. They seemed fascinated by the fact that all the members were 'Margarets'!! Their experiences have been recorded in a report written by Yeliz Carvvar. It was a memorable experience for the two girls and they enjoyed their experience here including celebrating Yeliz's birthday in Aberdeen where they had a wonderful time. They did not waste a minute at Q M University and Edinburgh!

### ***The Edinburgh Decorative and Fine Arts Society Bound Book on St Margaret's Chapel – March 2019***

Lady Kate Gill, Leader/Organiser of Edinburgh Decorative and Fine Arts Society decided that her Group would compile a Bound Book on St Margaret's Chapel. This beautiful book is now complete and a copy was presented to our President Rev. Neil Gardner in the Chapel in March. A copy will be also held in the National Library of Scotland and the V & A Museum in London. Margaret Lindsell and a small number of the Guild attended the event. The Book will be on view at the AGM for members to see.

### ***Tour of St Margaret's Catholic Church and its relics, and Dunfermline Abbey and Abbey Church –June 2019***

One of our new members Nan Margaret Allan who lives in Dunfermline is an official Tour Guide at the Abbey. She arranged to meet twelve Margarets at the Bus Station in Dunfermline (having travelled free on the 55 Express from Edinburgh, Courtesy of Scotland's Bus Company). We first visited St Margaret's Catholic Church in Dunfermline, built as a Memorial in her honour. Fr Chris Heenan, the Parish Priest, gave us a talk on the significance of St Margaret in Dunfermline and he showed us her relics in their little chapel dedicated to her. Then we walked through the town to the old abbey and Nan gave us a talk on the history of the Old Abbey. We then went to the Library for a soup and sandwich lunch and a good natter. Nan took us back to the Abbey Church to be greeted by Elaine one of the stewards, who explained the magnificent stained glass windows in detail, and we also visited the grave of Robert the Bruce. It was a most enjoyable tour for the Margarets. We were blessed with lovely weather and no rain!

***Fiona M Kidd and Nan Margaret Allan***

### ***Acheson House Garden***

It was agreed at the last Committee meeting that we could no longer sustain helping with maintenance of the garden, and sadly we would have to withdraw from working there.

***Fiona M Kidd, Guild Flower Supervisor***

### ***Greyfriars Graveyard Tour- planned for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019***

Fiona Kidd has organised a tour of Greyfriars Graveyard which is at the Centre of Edinburgh's History and Culture on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am.** Margaret Marr will be conducting the tour, and you are in for a very interesting walk and talk. You may remember this was tried last year but the weather was so unpleasant they had to abandon it. Here's hoping that this year it will be a glorious day.....well at least dry! Please contact Fiona Kidd if you are interested in going on the list. Fiona's telephone 0131 445 1867 or by email at [fionakidd@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:fionakidd@btinternet.co.uk)

***Fiona M Kidd,  
Guild Flower Supervisor***

### ***The ITV Interview in the St Margaret's Chapel - meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019***

Hazel was contacted at short notice by a television production company who are producing a series of programmes for ITV about Britain's favourite landmarks. The Castle was on the list and the producers were keen to film some of the quirker aspects of what goes on there. They thought the ladies arranging the flowers in the Chapel fitted the bill perfectly.

So, on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May myself, Gillian M Baptie, the November flower supervisor and designated flower arranger of the day, Tia M Miller, provided some floristry tips and added an international touch to the group, and Margaret Lindsell, were all present. At 7.30am Margaret Lindsell and the Margarets met the film crew at the drawbridge at the Castle and they filmed all of us as we walked up to the Chapel, as

well as filming us in the Chapel, chatting, having coffee, and of course arranging the flowers. They were keen to hear the history of the Guild, how each of us came to be involved, and what we thought were the traits of the modern-day Margarets. The crew made us all feel very relaxed and I hope that the final sequence they broadcast will show us in a good light! Put it in your diary - **This programme is to be broadcast on ITV at 8pm on 16th July 2019.**

*Hazel (lucky to be a middle Margaret) Dunn  
and Fiona M Kidd Guild Flower Supervisor*

### ***SMCG Earrings and Brooches***

Margaret Ann has ordered from Patricia of Dungeon Designs in North Berwick, more earrings and brooches because our stocks were low. If you would like to buy, please contact Margaret Ann by email: [mac@lylecrawford.co.uk](mailto:mac@lylecrawford.co.uk), or you will be able to buy them at the AGM on St Margaret's Day in November.

*Margaret Ann Crawford, Treasurer*

### ***The Grassmarket Project to Zambia - later in the year 2019***

The Director of the Grassmarket Project, Tommy Steele, who designed and made the money box for the Chapel is taking a group of vulnerable adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to help build a roof on a new girls school, in a remote area of Zambia. This is a much needed secondary school which has the full support of the local community. The girls in this area currently face a future with little or no access to education beyond primary school. There is still a prevalence of early pregnancies and the traditional practice of child marriage. The area is so remote, it is difficult to get 'crafts people' into the area. SMCG agreed to give The Project a donation for their trip to Zambia. Tommy Steele was 'gobsmacked' to receive it, but says it will go a long way to help with the travel costs. Visit their Café in Candlemaker Row, Grassmarket. They serve great soup, coffee and scones. Or, better still if you would like to contribute personally to this worthwhile cause, you will find them on their GoFundMepage which Tommy has set up, or contact him on Tel. 0131 225 3626.

### ***A Proposed Trip to Budapest in Hungary for a weekend***

During The Dome Coffee Mornings, the ladies discussed the possibility of a weekend Tour to Budapest in Hungary, to visit the Hungarian home of Queen Margaret of Scotland. To test the interest among the members we are looking for names of members who would be interested in such a Trip. Also, if anyone of you is experienced in organising trips like this, we would like your expertise!! We think it would be necessary to use a Travel Agent for the event. Let us know your thoughts by email to me at [margaret@lynchdudes.net](mailto:margaret@lynchdudes.net).

### ***The Dome Coffee Mornings, 10.30 am on 16<sup>th</sup> of every month***

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



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