**St Margaret’s Chapel Guild Newsletter**

**January 2020 issue: 37**

Wishing you all a happy New Year, and new decade.

Many thanks to all of you who spoke to me at the AGM and wished me well in my new position.  I am very keen to hear your thoughts about the Guild, where we can make improvements, and how we can utilise all the amazing talents you ladies have. With that in mind we have decided to carry out a survey of the Guild and Fellowship membership, which will be the first in our 77-year history.  I would encourage you all to complete the questionnaire that is included with the newsletter. We will share the results with you in the next newsletter.

The other important document that we are looking for your comments on, is the new Constitution.  This will be sent to you by post if you are a Guild member, and by email if you are a Fellowship member.  You should receive it within a day or so of receiving this newsletter. We will be holding an open meeting on the 6th March to answer any questions members may have.  We will feed back the responses to the membership following the meeting.

We have taken a step forward in terms of promoting the Guild on social media, as we now have an Instagram Account, which will be managed by Gillian Baptie (the November Flower Supervisor).  This provides another opportunity for the flowers that we arrange in the Chapel to be seen by a wider audience.  Can I encourage you please to send your photos that you do in the Chapel. We are trying to grow the Guild Facebook Page and indeed would ask you to follow our page and continue to send photos and anything else that is relevant to St Margaret.

The three new coopted committee members Angela Casey, Claire Heyes, and Margaret Tait, have all found their feet, and are up and running.  Claire will take over the maintenance of the website.  Angela has helped with the survey, and Margaret Tait is looking at possible outings for later in the year. Our email addresses are all on the members' section of the website should you wish to get in touch with us.

Margaret Ann Crawford, our Treasurer, represented the Guild at the Castle Family Carol Service in December.  She read the first lesson, and having got her piece over with early on could enjoy the rest of the event.  A number of Guild members also attended an afternoon concert at the Castle, with music performed by children from Erskine & Stewart’s Melville School. We hope you enjoy this digest of news, and look forward to hearing from you.

Hazel M Dunn

**Survey of Guild Members**

In order to find out more about what members think and as part of an overall review, we have created a short survey for everyone to complete.  The survey includes questions on the AGM and its format, trips and activities, our communications methods and your involvement too.  There are plenty of opportunities on the survey for members to comment - as a membership organisation, it is important that we each receive sufficient information and feel listened to.  The responses will be collated and reviewed will allow us to ensure we all find our membership rewarding.  The findings will be shared in a future newsletter.   The survey will be available in a range of formats, so you will be able to respond in a way that is easiest for you.

This is the link to the online survey form. The easiest way to complete the survey is via this link  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2DJVKZ> which you will complete and return it automatically, and is simple to follow.  Others will receive an email link or letter and will be able to return their survey to Hazel Dunn. I would urge you to use the link as it is the easiest way to complete. Please complete the survey by March 27th. Should you have any difficulties, please contact Angela Casey at Angela.Casey@pagodapr.com

**The New Constitution for SMCG - Final draft**

Guild members will receive a copy of the proposed new Constitution of the Guild in the post. The Scottish Charities Regulator has reviewed it, and deemed it acceptable. Should you have any questions about the new Constitution; which will require to be adopted at the AGM in November, we would invite you to direct them to our secretary Sarah James smcjames@me.com. An open meeting will be held on Friday 6th of March to address any questions raised, and to provide the background to the document.

Should you not receive the document by the 14th February, please contact Sarah.

**Flower Demonstration**

We plan to hold a Flower Demonstration in the Harry Younger Hall on Saturday 21st March.

The morning will begin at 9.30 with coffee and will be followed by a demonstration using the two flower vases from the Chapel, the Margaret Beattie Memorial Bowl and the Copper Commemorative Goblet.

We plan to give helpful hints and suggestions using supermarket flowers which will perhaps give members a few ideas when doing their own arrangements. There is no need to attendees to bring flowers.

The cost for the morning will be £5 pp to cover the hire of the hall and the purchase of flowers.

The Harry Younger Hall is behind the Manse and approached from the High Street.

Should you be interested in coming along please contact fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk.

Tel 0131 4451867

**Invitation to attend a lecture**

The Scotland’s Churches Trust Marion Fraser lecture will be held at 5.30pm on 9th June 2020. The subject is “Signs of Faith – Ecclesiastical Heraldry and the Lyon Court Public Registers”. The lecture will be given by the Lord Lyon, and will be held at New Register House in Edinburgh. Any members that would like to attend should get in touch with Margaret Tait? By the 3rd of April.

**St. Margaret’s Pilgrimage Dunfermline**

The 5th St. Margaret's National Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday 7th June 2020.

This year's Pilgrimage will begin with a joint ecumenical service at 11am at Dunfermline Abbey, led by Rev Mary Ann Rennie, Minister of Dunfermline Abbey and Fr Chris Heenan, Parish Priest of St. Margaret’s Catholic Church. The service, entitled: “Pilgrims Together: Celebrating the Legacy of St Margaret” will pay tribute to such an important historical and religious figure who introduced many aspects of life still known today. If Margarets would like to join me to celebrate this Day, please email me *margaret@lynchdudes.net*and let me know and we can all meet up and travel together.

Margaret Lynch, Newsletter Editor

**The Governor’s Coffee Morning for St Margaret’s Chapel Guild**

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The new Governor of the Castle, General Alistair Bruce of Crionaich invited members of the Guild to have coffee in the Governor’s Garrison House in the Castle. Twenty members of the Guild, made up of Trustees, committee members and monthly flower supervisors attended. The General was very hospitable and seemed very keen to learn more about the Guild’s role in the Castle Chapel, and the history of the Guild itself. Governor’s House staff made us very welcome and after coffee, scones and lots off chat we were given a tour of the house. We had our photo taken with General and staff in the garden behind the house**.**

**The Terrible fires in Australia.**

I wrote an email to Margaret Banks and Margaret Craddock in Melbourne on behalf of the Guild to express our concern about the effect the wild fires were having on them and their families, and to send our good wishes and support. They appreciated our letter of support from the Guild. They are very concerned about the devastation that has occurred in their beautiful country, both to the hundreds of displaced residents and to the thousands of animals who have been lost and endangered. They believe this catastrophe will affect them for many years to come. So many families and bush have been severely affected in the vast Continent of Australia. When she wrote the temp was 42 degrees, but it is significantly higher now and the air quality is being very badly affected, even where there is not fire.

Margaret Lynch, Newsletter Editor

**New Town Gardens Walk**

If there are any members that would like to go on an escorted tour of some of the New Town gardens, could they please get in touch with Fiona M Kidd. If we have sufficient interest we will arrange another outing. Those that attended this walk when we went a year or so ago found it both informative and enjoyable. Email her at Fiona: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk.

**Early Morning Tours in the Castle**

Some 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**

**Greyfriars Graveyard Tour- Thursday 5th September 2019**

Eight ladies enjoyed a walk through Greyfriars Graveyard with Margaret Marr in September. Margaret who is a former voluntary guide, has a fund of information and stories about the many notable Edinburgh residents who are buried or have a plaque in their honour in the Graveyard.

The weather was much kinder than on our previous visit a year ago and we were able to linger longer at the various points of interest including the Covenanters Prison. The Tour ended with a visit to view the “Margaret Window” in the Church.

Margaret always refuses any remuneration for her walks and so £5 was collected from each member and after giving a donation into the Church collection box, Margaret requested that the rest be donated to the Flower fund. We all adjourned to the Grassmarket Community Centre for a plate of soup and a chat afterwards. Many thanks to Margaret for once again taking a group of Margarets” round Greyfriars Graveyard and improving our historical knowledge of Edinburgh.

**Fiona M Kidd, Flower Supervisor**

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

St Margaret’s Chapel Guild makes a donation to the Legacy Scholarship Programme at Queen Margaret University. In 2019 the Programme funded two students from QMU to go to Corvinu University in Budapest. The recipients of the grants, Alexandria Brown and Hannah Bowman, were with us on St Margaret’s Day in November. They attended a service, enjoyed a private tour of the Castle, and then they joined us for lunch. You can read about Alexandria’s time in Hungary on the Guild’s website.

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**SMCG Earrings and Brooches**

Margaret Ann Crawford has a supply of SMCG earrings and brooches designed and made by Dudgeon Designs in North Berwick. If you would like to buy, please contact Margaret Ann by email mac@lylecrawford.co.uk.

**New Members**

Applications for Membership are available from Margaret Gordon margaretgordon52@gogglemail.com.

Please note that the joining fee has increased to £30. If you know of any potential new members, please encourage them to submit their application form before the 31st of July for them to be included in those joining in November 2020. It is worth noting that we have introduced a membership certificate for new members. Existing members can obtain one for themselves by contacting Margaret Gordon. There is a nominal charge of £3 for this to cover our costs and postage.

**Membership Lists**

A number of Margarets have requested an updated Membership List. This document, which we have produced in the past, gave the names, addresses and phone numbers of Guild members. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Executive committee is not permitted to share the contact information we have on members. With this in mind, we will not be reissuing a revised document. Should one individual wish to contact another, they could get in touch with Margaret Gordon (margaretgordon52@gogglemail.com), who would then get in touch with the individual concerned and pass the request on.

**The Guild Website**

Please look at the website from time to time for updated information that you may have missed.

**stmargaretschapel.com**, with the members password: **10daisy93**. We now have more news and articles, and we will soon be suggesting some more changes for the Website. 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’. Gillian Baptie has opened an instagram account for the Guild. She will continue to post the flower photos that you forward to her and will arrange a time to go up to the Castle and take some photos of the chapel/castle/view etc. If members would like to follow the account, or tag us in their personal posts about the chapel/flowers, that would be fab. The Instagram account name is: @stmargaretschapel.com. Gillian’s email is: gillianbaptie@hotmail.co.uk.

**Changes to contact details**

Margaret Gordon is now responsible for the Database and would welcome information about changes of address, telephone numbers or email changes, to enable her to keep it up to date. Her email is margaretgordon52@googlemail.com

**Trip to Hungary for Members of the Guild**

Margaret Milner has done a power of work preparing this Trip for Guild members. She now has 10 Margarets going in May with her this year, and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures, with of course photographs, when they return. We wish them well on their exciting and interesting journey.

Maggie Millar, Artist

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Maggie Miller Artist and member of the Guild had an art exhibition called ‘half-light of a universe” in November 2019, in the Dundas Gallery in Dundas Street, Edinburgh. Her work is impressive and very interesting. She loves to paint ‘large’ and a sample of her work is above! Congratulations to her for this event which many of us enjoyed. She is hoping to exhibit again in 2020 later in the year, so check out the website for details of when and where.

**The Dome Coffee Mornings**

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, so the February get together is on Monday 17th February.

If you have any queries regarding anything in this Newsletter, please contact me on margaret@lynchdudes.net, or Tel. 01620 822770.

Margaret Lynch

Newsletter Editor for St Margaret’s Chapel Guild