



# St Margaret's Chapel Guild

## Newsletter

January 2022 Issue:41

### St Margaret's Day Celebrations

Presentation to Margaret Lindsell

It was lovely to see so many Guild members at our celebration of St Margaret's day on 16<sup>th</sup> November last year. You will recall that we made the decision to hold the service and AGM at the Canongate Kirk to ensure that there was sufficient room for us to physically meet while maintaining social distancing.

Instead of a number of short services, we were able to have one longer service which everyone attended, and we had the added bonus of having an organist to accompany our singing. Our President, Rev Neil Gardner, had time to present a short reflection, and two of the church representatives that attended gave readings. A number of you have been in touch to say how much you enjoyed the format of the service, and hope that it will be repeated. This is something that the Committee will bear in mind for future St Margaret's Day events. I would like to thank Neil for providing such a warm welcome, and for such an apt and thoughtful service. I would also like to thank those of you who volunteered to help on the day, dispensing beverages and acting as buddies for new members.

Those who could not attend in person had the opportunity to watch on-line a service that Neil recorded in the Chapel. The link to the service is still available <https://youtu.be/ymfkAHw4JBE>

The AGM followed the service, and we were able to make a presentation to Margaret Lindsell in recognition of her time on the Committee. The tapestry that we gave her on the day had originally been worked for Margaret Allan (a long-standing treasurer) by a talented stitcher Margaret Manson. Margaret Allan had given the tapestry back to the Guild, and the Committee felt that Margaret Lindsell would appreciate having a piece of Guild history. With the generous donations that Guild members made, the Committee commissioned a very special daisy brooch made of silver and gold. The brooch was not ready on St Margaret's Day, but I took the finished piece to Margaret just before Christmas. She was very touched by our gifts, and I include an extract from the thank you letter we received from her. *"When I opened the parcel no one can ever imagine how I felt. I have never seen such a beautiful Daisy Brooch before. I was totally overcome by emotion, and it wasn't long before the tears began to flow, to think of the generosity of the Guild members to give me the magnificent Sampler and this exquisite Daisy Brooch. Please be assured I will treasure both of them forever."* Margaret was keen that as many members of the Guild as possible knew of her *"sincere appreciation of the 'Wonderful Gifts' I have had the honour to receive."*

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2022.

Hazel M Dunn  
(Convenor)



### Thanksgiving 2021

This colourful red, white, and blue arrangement created by our Convenor Hazel Dunn and placed in the chapel celebrates our link between St Margaret's Chapel Guild and an organisation called the National Guild of Saint Margaret of Scotland. Based in America, this group make regular generous donations to the Guild.





## Flower Supervisors Report

Despite changing restrictions over the past few months, visits to the Castle to arrange flowers have continued. My day is brightened when I receive photos of your arrangements and hope those on social media enjoy seeing the updates. We have included photos of recent arrangements in the newsletter for everyone's enjoyment.

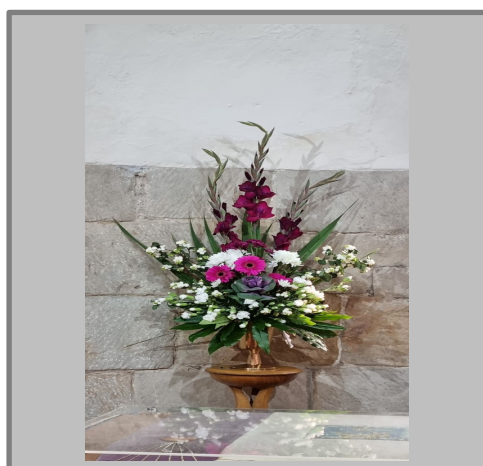
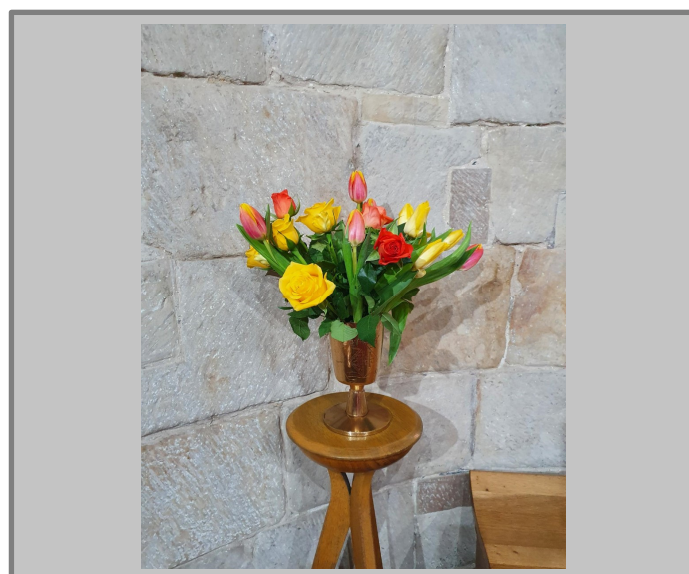
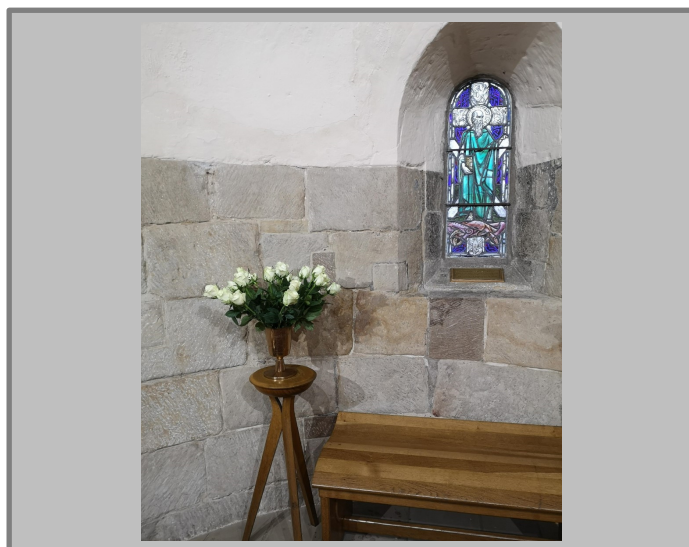
We were notified of two weddings in the Chapel last year and have been contacted about one so far this year. The couples last year were both delighted with the arrangements in the Chapel on their wedding day and also interested to learn about the Guild. I hope to be able to share some photos later this year!

There are vacancies for the monthly supervisor role so if you would like to know more or put your name forward, please get in touch.

If you are interested in arranging flowers in the Chapel, adding your name to the reserve/emergency arrangers willing to help out at short notice or your circumstances have changed and you are no longer able to arrange flowers, please let me know ([gillian.frazer@hotmail.com](mailto:gillian.frazer@hotmail.com)).

Personal circumstances change and we understand that commitments made one year may need to be rearranged another. If the last two years have taught us anything it's that we must be flexible, understanding and kind to one another.

Gillian Frazer (nee Baptie)





## ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL, EDINBURGH CASTLE

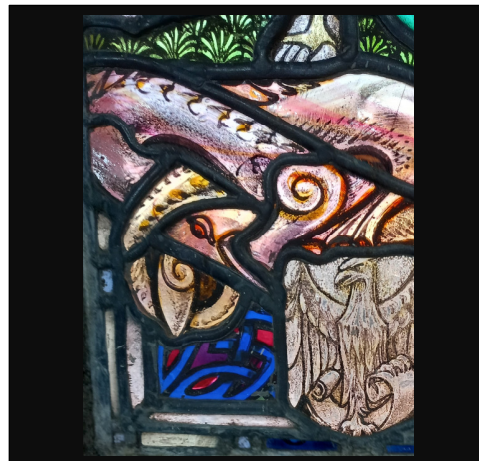
### FIVE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS by DR DOUGLAS STRACHAN 1922

Fittingly, 2022 marks the Centenary of these stained-glass windows, designed, and made by Douglas Strachan (1875-1950). An Aberdonian lithographer and painter, he became Britain's foremost stained-glass artist in succession to Christopher Whall a pioneer in English Arts & Crafts-stained glass. Through time, Strachan created vast, spectacular windows in the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle and in The Peace Palace in The Hague. In contrast, his dainty, shoulder-height windows in St Margaret's Chapel, each in distinctively coloured glass, with clear, thick slab glass pieces to make the light 'dance' through, shine like jewels. Lead-lines define objects: faces, folds and shadows are finely painted or stippled on.

St Andrew Patron Saint of Scotland at the east end, and William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland, at the west end flank three other famous Scottish saints: Ninian, Columba, and Margaret on the south wall.

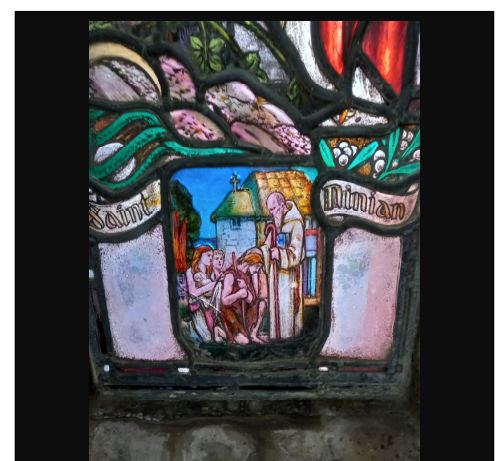
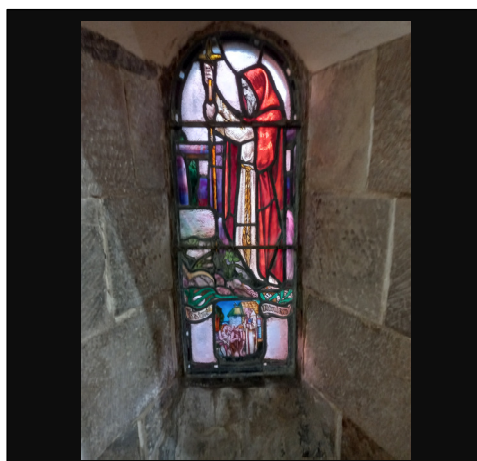
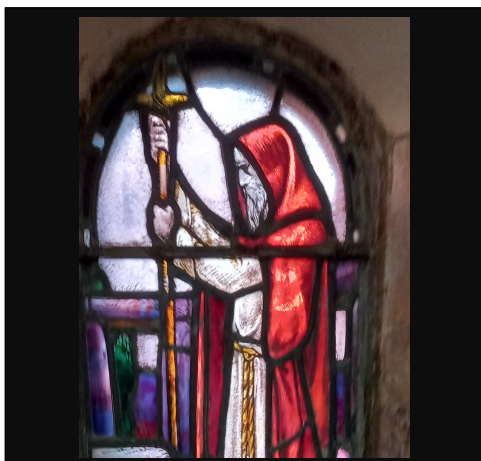
#### 1. St Andrew

Called by Jesus from his fishing nets, Andrew carries a Gospel book written by one of his friends, and is identified by his martyr's halo, diagonal cross and sea food (lobster?). The four gospel writers are depicted on a Celtic Cross: Matthew (Angel), Mark (Lion), Luke (Ox) and John (Eagle). Andrew's delicate sea-green robe presages the coming flow of colours through the spectrum.



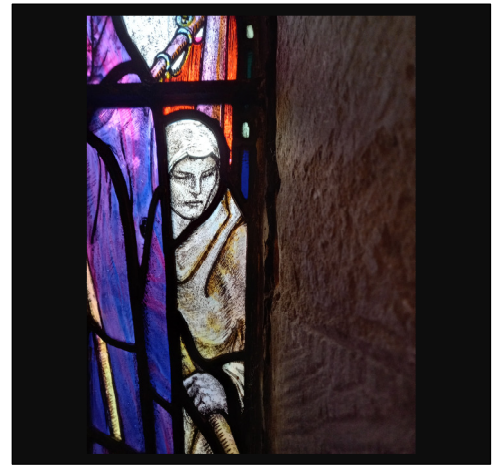
#### 2. St Ninian (360 - 432)

Possibly the son of a Christian Briton Chief, Ninian travelled as a pilgrim to Rome, becoming a bishop there. Visiting St Martin of Tours in France *en route*, he travelled on as a Christian missionary to Celts and Southern Picts in S.W. Scotland. His White House gave the name Whithorn. Clad in a red cloak, he arrives in a small boat, one of his oarsmen behind him. In the *predella* (base) of the window, we see pilgrims kneeling before Ninian, seeking healing and blessing.



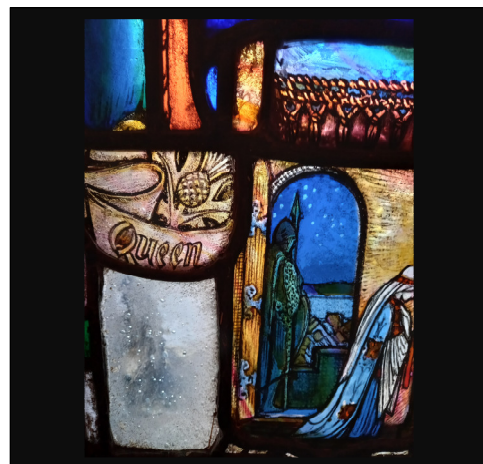
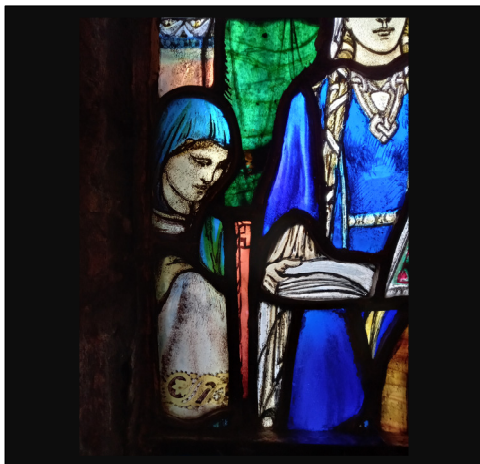
### 3. St Columba

A 6<sup>th</sup> century Irish Abbot and missionary, Columba came with a group of his followers to the Scottish island of Iona. The detail photograph shows the characteristically Scottish purple-pink heathery colour of Columba's robe, a colour much used by Strachan, derived from 'new' glass chemistry discoveries in the Industrial Revolution. The head and torso of the oarsman are painted on two pieces of 'white' glass; the orange-red sail is in striking colour-contrast to the purple cloak.



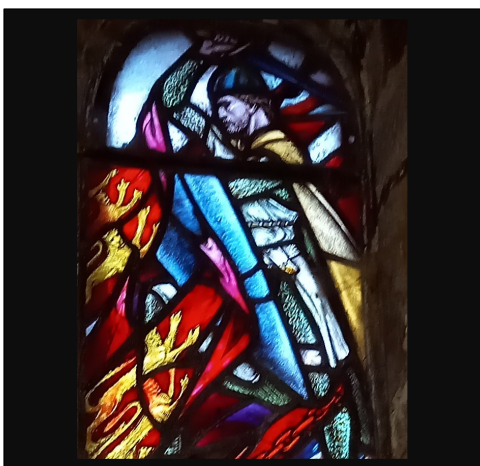
### 4. Queen Margaret

Her dress, in many glass pieces of a primary-blue colour, deepens in tone from shoulder to hem. Margaret is portrayed full-face - open, welcoming. Her embroidery class is around her. Below, in the *predella*, we sense the depth of her prayer. The Firth of Forth lies outside. Is that a guard? Or is it her devoted husband King Malcolm III standing by, supporting her prayers? The square slabs of glass in this window echo the square mediaeval stones of the Chapel.



### 5. Sir William Wallace

Hero of the Battle of Stirling Bridge and Guardian of Scotland, (his statue stands in a niche by the drawbridge of Edinburgh Castle), Wallace wears chain-mail body armour in a dull grey colour, sword in his right hand upraised to strike in battle. Strachan's teacher, Christopher Whall and pupils made *papier mâché* chainmail pasted on to a man and worn when dry, to learn how to draw it. Contrastingly, the left side of the window carries Wallace's blazing banner of four gold lions, *couchant*, on red.



*Arts and Crafts-Stained Glass* Peter Cormack Pub. Yale University Press 2015  
*St Margaret Queen of Scotland and her Chapel* Pub. St Margaret's Chapel Guild, 2016  
Alison Margaret Robertson January 2022



## Flower Demonstrations Online

When you take time to plant a garden, you are given back much more than you have invested.....Byron Pulsifer.

Variegated holly, twigs from an acer tree, rosemary, ruckus, eucalyptus, pampas grass, griselinia – all materials grown in the gardens of Margaret and Hazel graced the arrangements we had the pleasure of watching on a dark December evening. Adding roses, double chrysanthemums, alstroemeria, lisianthus, gerberas, stocks, statice, freesias made an array of wonderful arrangements which we were privileged to see.

From a traditional arrangement that could be used in the Chapel, but also at home for Christmas by adding cones, baubles and lights (!) to different ways of making wreaths, either for the door or the table. How to make a wreath with pussy willows and adding some flowers. (It now graces my door, thank you!)

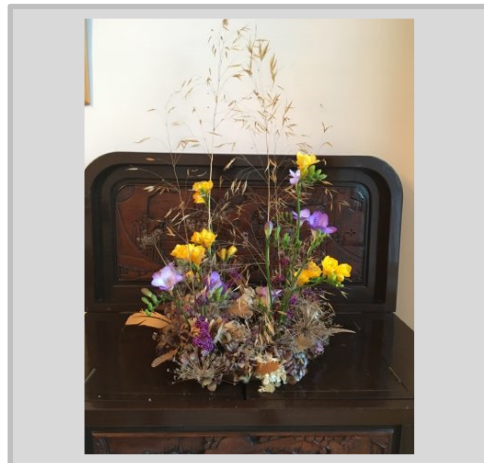
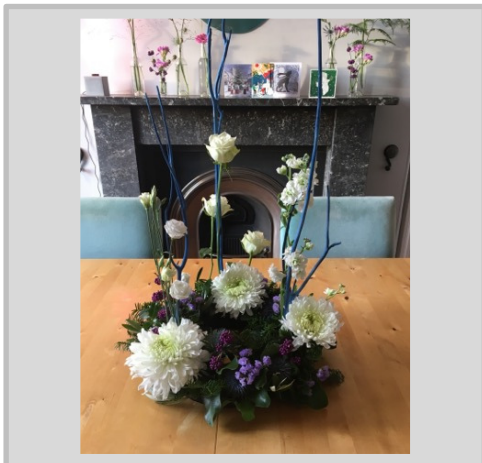
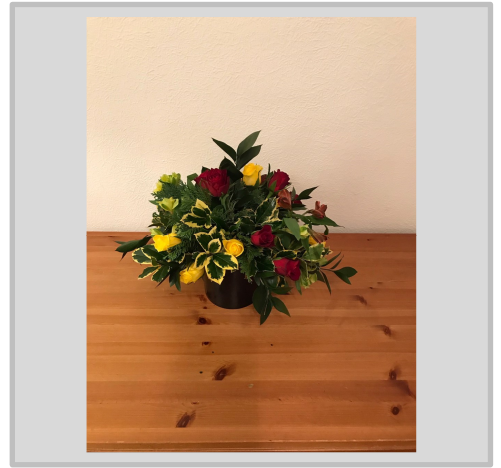
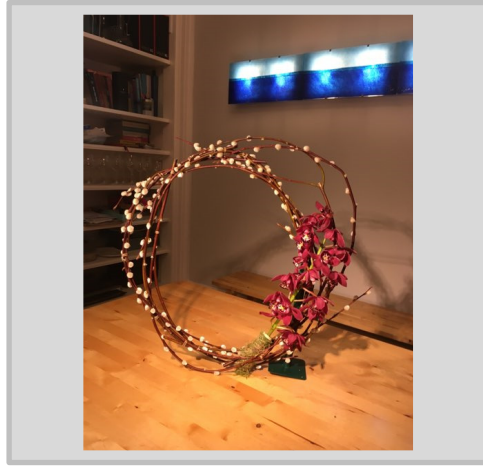
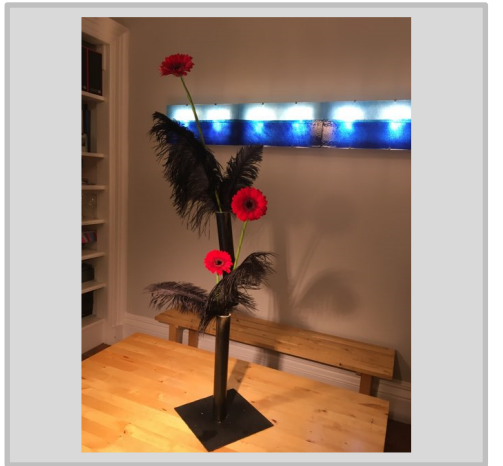
One beautiful idea that was given was to put a sprig of rosemary into an arrangement – rosemary for remembrance. What a lovely idea for our arrangements at the Chapel.

Thank you so much once again Hazel and Margaret, such an enjoyable evening with ideas for the Chapel but also for our own Christmas arrangements.

The demonstration can be viewed on line at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VlgOFyB6NRsvkk9asbXS4yTbbs96UgoUBlobEogVcbmDxbENTMOm7Pwn5q3Zful.BOOLliw-22j8ID62>

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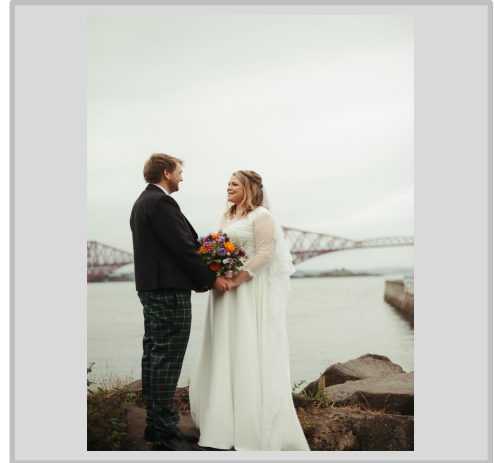
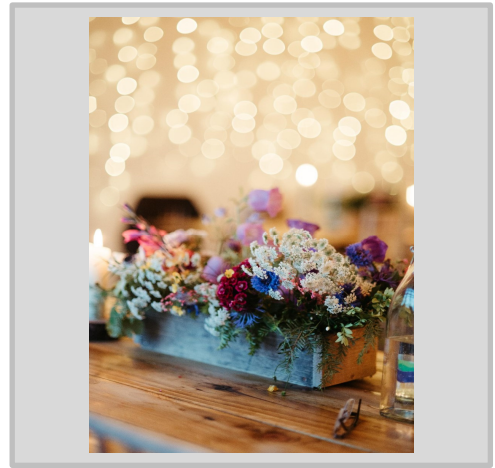
## Wedding

Congratulation to the new Mr & Mrs Frazer

After announcing our Flower Supervisor Gillian's engagement to James last January, we're delighted to give you an update of their wedding in June.

The newlyweds were very aptly (last minute change of venue due to covid restrictions) married on the little beach next to the Binks in South Queensferry, the very location Queen Margaret endowed ships to take pilgrims over the river on route to St Andrews.

The reception was held at Pratis Barns (in Fife). The flowers were locally grown (at the venue) and in a moment of madness Gillian arranged them herself, with a little help from family! The bouquet and the buttonholes came from Narcissus Flowers – saving the seeds to see if they grow this year!



## St Margaret's Recital

Guild members the St Margaret's Singers gave a very welcome recital at the Evensong service in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, marking St Margaret's Day, in November. It was the first time the choir had sung together in public in almost two years. It was a beautiful service, made all the more special, as Cecile Redmond from the choir writes, *because so many people with connections to St Margaret's School came along to the service*. Guild members were also well-represented in the audience. One of the pieces performed was 'O God of Bethel', arranged by choir member Debbie Wyndham-McCoy. It was glorious to hear.

Some of the choir sing regularly in the Craigmillar Park church choir, and plans are in the pipeline for a summer concert in the Canongate Kirk. We will let you know of the date for this when it is arranged. In the meantime, you can find a recording of the St Margaret's Day Evensong service and recital [here](http://www.fortitervivamus.co.uk/st-margarets-day-service-nov-19-2021/)

<http://www.fortitervivamus.co.uk/st-margarets-day-service-nov-19-2021/>

and here is a photograph of the choir conducted by John Cranston, from the night. (Sarah James)

## Treasurer's Report



As treasurer, I received your returned forms for the November AGM.

Thank you for the very generous donations that were enclosed. These amounted to £3,087 for Guild funds, with another £420 towards the presentation for our past Convenor, Margaret Lindsell. Many members have signed gift aid declaration forms for me, so I shall reclaim the tax on the relevant Guild donations, which will add 25% to them. This is hugely appreciated.

Thank you also to members who offered / volunteered to assist with certain Guild tasks. This has been noted, and in due course you will be approached. I'm sure there are many other skills among our members that are untapped, so if you have knowledge of website development, do be in touch as your help would be hugely appreciated. The Guild website does need to be revamped.

With the Castle being open again, and visitor numbers returning we are receiving more booklet donations, (£2,950 since 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021). I am ever grateful to the small team of ladies who collect and bank this money.

SMCG was formed in 1922, and over the past 80 years we have supported many needy charitable organisations, giving tens of thousands of pounds from donations we have received. Long may we be able so to do.

Margaret Ann

## Saint Margaret- Missionary, Queen and Icon for the Ages

On the day after St Margaret's Day, Queen Margaret University held an online conversation on the life and legacy of Saint Margaret, exploring what she stands for from a contemporary perspective. Chaired by former MP and MSP Margaret Curran, the speakers were medieval historian Dr Michael Penman of Stirling University, Rev Mary Ann Rennie, Minister of Dunfermline Abbey and Dr Paul Gilfillan of QMU. The talk was wide-ranging and thought provoking, as well as informative. Thanks to QMU for organising the talk and we hope it will be repeated. If you missed the talk and would like to watch it, the link is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BnvQCNSH0>

Sarah James

## Celebrating Princess Anne's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Patron

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Princess Anne's patronage to Saint Margaret's Chapel Guild. We thank her for dedication and continued support. During her tenure we've been fortunate to welcome Princess Anne to three St Margaret's Day celebrations.

Fittingly Princess Anne's blood line can be traced back to Saint Margaret, Queen of Scotland.

## 80 years of Saint Margaret's Chapel Guild

Plans to mark this Guild milestone are being discussed by the Committee and will be shared with members in due course.

## New Member

We'd like to welcome Margaret Ann Grosvenor who joined us in October.

Should you know of any other Margarets who would like to join our fellowship, we ask they be in touch before the end of July, when they will be welcomed formally at the November AGM.

## Coffee Chats



Our next Zoom Guild Coffee Chat is scheduled for 10am on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Anyone who'd like to attend should contact Hazel at [hazel@poststreet.net](mailto:hazel@poststreet.net)

The situation is under review and we're hoping we can meet again in person for Guild Coffee Chats in the not-too-distant future.



## Deaths

Sadly we have to report the death of Margaret Callendar on Christmas Day 2021.

