



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter

July 2022 Issue:42

Saint Margaret Declaration

Members may be aware that at the recent General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, an historic agreement was reached between the Church of Scotland and the Catholic Church in Scotland, which has been named the Saint Margaret Declaration.

The declaration of friendship offers 'a decisive and irrevocable statement of our friendship with one another, based on our shared faith in Christ', underlining the shared faith and common ground that unites the Churches.

Sarah James



Pictured in front of St Margaret's Chapel are, left-right:

Rev Sandy Horsburgh, convenor of the Church of Scotland's Ecumenical Relations Committee; Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop and Metropolitan of St Andrews and Edinburgh; Rev Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland; and Rev Dr John McPake, the Church of Scotland's ecumenical officer (image credit: Church of Scotland news)



Margaret's

Little Helpers



Flower Supervisor Report

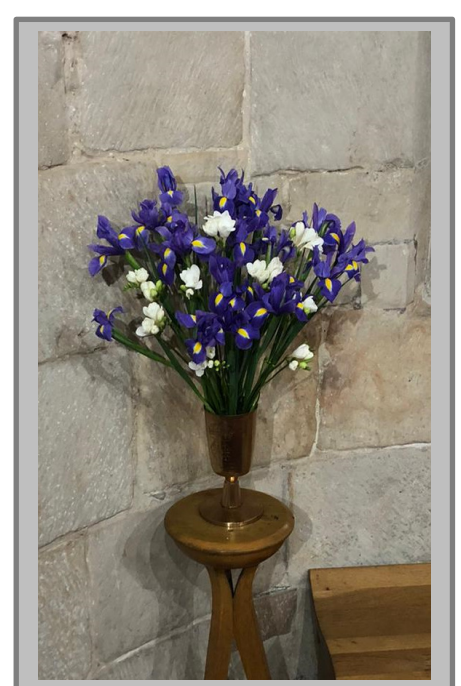
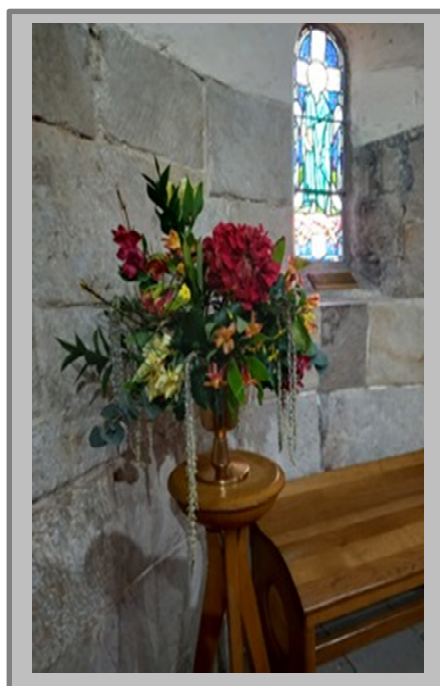
Please continue to send photos of your arrangements to Gillian Frazer email: gillian.frazer@hotmail.com.

They are shared on Instagram and Twitter but are not attributed to an individual, unless of course you would like them to be! We have included a selection in the newsletter for your enjoyment.

In March we were sent some beautiful photos of flowers that were arranged with the assistance of very excitable helpers! I'm sure you will agree that Olivia Begbie's Granddaughter Eve and Holly Gilfether's daughter did a tremendous job, well done girls.

As always, if you are interested in arranging flowers at the Chapel, please get in touch. It is such a privilege to visit the Castle before it opens to the public and to spend a quiet moment in the Chapel. Previous flower arranging experience not required - sometimes the most simple display can have a real impact.

Gillian Frazer





The death of Queen Margaret, who was to become Saint Margaret of Scotland, is commemorated each year on St Margaret's Day, the 16th of November. Born in Hungary nearly a thousand years ago, she was the Anglo-Saxon granddaughter of Edmund Ironside, King of England. Her name Margaret comes from the Greek word for pearl.

Sailing northwards from England to escape the long arm of William the Conqueror post-1066, it is believed she landed near to the present North Queensferry. The 11th century ferry and the 21st century Queensferry Crossing are both named after Queen Margaret, the former having carried pilgrims without charge on their journey to the sacred relics at St Andrews. Initially operated by the Benedictine monks Margaret brought to a new abbey at Dunfermline, the ferry continued in diverse forms until the Forth Road Bridge opened in 1964.

The King of Scots, Malcolm III, better known as Malcolm Canmore, was the son of King Duncan, who had been killed in battle by Macbeth. Malcolm from his palace at Dunfermline met Margaret shortly after she landed in Scotland. In 1070 she became his second wife and they had two daughters and six sons. Three of their sons Edgar, Alexander and David became King of Scots for 56 years in succession.

The longer ferry crossing from North Berwick to Earlsferry could carry up to 10,000 pilgrims in a single year, with the ferry boat adopted as the heraldic symbol when North Berwick became a royal burgh in 1373. The Arms of Elie and Earlsferry, conjoined in 1929, feature four boats, two for each of the former separate burghs. The Arms of the Royal Burgh of Queensferry show Queen

A Pearl of Great Price



Margaret standing on the ferry and clutching her cherished copy of the Gospels bound in purple as befits royalty.

King David built St Margaret's Chapel on the summit of Edinburgh Castle as a tribute to his pious mother. It is the oldest remaining complete building in Edinburgh and the oldest part of the Castle. Robert the Bruce destroyed the remainder in 1314, so the English could not recapture and hold it against him. Edinburgh Castle was attacked more than 25 times in a long and eventful history. Having already been excommunicated by Pope Clement V for his part in killing John Comyn in front of the altar of Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries, Bruce, on his way back to Bannockburn and fame, was not prepared to tempt further retribution by destroying St Margaret's Chapel. So the tiny 20-seater chapel, still used for christenings, weddings and commemoration of St Margaret, survives to this day.

A more recent building named after Margaret, familiar to most readers of *East Lothian Life*, is the East Lothian university campus known as Queen Margaret University or QMU. Incorporating several older colleges dating back to 1875, QMU will shortly celebrate 15 years since it achieved full university status in January 2007. Recently, many of us have been grateful to QMU as the venue for our COVID vaccinations.

A large portrait, by Portuguese artist Paula Rego, of Margaret and her youngest son David hangs in Durham Cathedral. To the left of the picture is a plaque in memory of the 3,500 Scots captured by Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. The battle was fought between Scottish soldiers under David Leslie, loyal to Charles II and Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army. The Scottish survivors were marched over 100 miles to Durham and imprisoned in the Cathedral, where half died from cold, disease, or hunger. Some of the survivors were deported to North America or the Caribbean. Recently, 28 survivors were discovered in two mass burial pits while constructing a new café for Durham University Library. Modern archaeological science techniques helped solve a 350-year-old mystery, and a short study course on the excavations is available online.

King Malcolm Canmore was present at the laying of the foundation stone of Durham Cathedral in 1093, and Queen Margaret, with her strong faith and connections to Durham, would also have been there. Some 150 years after her death, Pope Innocent IV elevated Queen Margaret of Scotland to Saint Margaret for the miracles attributed to her. By her name, she was a pearl. But for her piety, charity and love of the arts, she is still esteemed, in the words of her beloved Gospels, to be a pearl of great price.

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By author **Lyle Crawford**



Treasurers Report

As we recover from the Covid pandemic and the restrictions that were in place, we are now seeing many more visitors to Edinburgh Castle, and St Margaret's Chapel, although I am informed that these numbers are far below pre-covid numbers. However, the visitors to the Chapel are again making donations, either through the donations box if they have cash, or if not, via the other ways of donating using their mobile phone. We are very much indebted to the ladies who collect and bank the donations in the Chapel.

Since the beginning of this year, to 31st May, we have received,

£2,282.91 via booklet donations
£ 300.00 donation from a Chapel Wedding
£ 187.45 other donations
£ 749.41 from gift aid claimed.



As we gather funds again, we have been able to send £1500 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, to aid relief in war -stricken Ukraine. This amount was match funded by the UK Government, thus doubling the impact, and is helping meet the needs of refugees and displaced people by providing water, health assistance and trauma care. Their letter of acknowledgement says *'your gift will make a real difference in helping families fleeing conflict. The need is great and the response needed is likely to run to months and years. On behalf of all those your donation will support we want to say thank you once again'*

Best wishes, for a happy summer.

Margaret Ann Crawford (treasurer)



Coffee Mornings Are Back

At the AGM in November 2009 two members, Margaret Allan and Fiona Kidd, suggested a monthly coffee morning for members to socialise. The venue decided upon was the Dome in George Street, Edinburgh. The first one was held in December 2009 when 9 Margarets attended.

Of course, lockdown happened in 2019 so coffee mornings were cancelled. However, as we eased out of lockdown coffee mornings resumed.



As arrangements within the Dome had changed it was no longer a suitable venue so we had to find another meeting place. The first of the re-established coffee mornings was held at the Portrait Gallery (lovely scones!) in April this year when 10 Margarets attended. We were delighted to be able to meet in person again and welcomed a Margaret from Nottingham who was visiting in the city!

We must however thank Hazel for hosting zoom coffee mornings during lockdown which provided an opportunity for the Margarets living further afield (Australia and America) to join.

Remember the date, 16th monthly, 10.00a.m., unless it falls on a Sunday when we meet on the following Monday - look forward to seeing you there!

Margaret Gordon

Photo curtesy of Claire M. Heyes



Meeting Reverend Steve Beal of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Earlier this year Reverend Steve Beal contacted the Guild to let us know that he has a keen interest in St Margaret and offered to support us in any way possible. The reverend has a strong connection to Scotland; his parents were both born in Scotland, and he's visited the country many times throughout his life.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with Steve in his hometown of San Francisco - it was a real pleasure. Steve was very generous with his time, giving us a tour of the breath-taking Grace Cathedral where until recently he worked as Chaplain. The Labyrinth (pictured with Steve) and the AIDS Chapel were the standout experiences for me.

Although Steve is now retired, each November he returns to the Cathedral to assist with the St Margaret's Day service. For over a quarter of a century Steve has been the Support Services Manager for Episcopal Community Services in the city, their motto and mission statement focusing on "ending homelessness begins by giving someone a home". His work with this worthy cause continues.

Steve has visited St Margaret's Chapel many times and agrees that it's a very special place. I mentioned that this year the Guild celebrates its 80th anniversary and to ensure the good work continues we need to appeal to a new generation of Margarets to join us from around the world. As such, Steve has offered to help spread the word and will include a "Calling all Margarets" article in church community newsletters throughout California.

Margaret Williamson

Queen Margaret University Film & Media Showcase

After a 2-year absence QMU are delighted to announce the return of this event. Our Convenor Hazel Dunn attended and represented the Guild and commented, "*The period costume section of the show was particularly good. The designs were beautifully made and evoked the period they were created for exceptionally well*".



The Reverend Steve Beal

Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Birthday Celebration

This year one Guild member celebrated an extra special Birthday, congratulations Margaret Allan on your her 90th year.



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.

Retirement

Margot Fraser commences her retirement as February Flower Supervisor. To thank her for her many years of service the Guild sent her a Princess Anne rose which she was delighted to receive.

Congratulations to the New Mr & Mrs Briggs

We decided, at our great age, to keep our wedding totally secret, telling friends and family immediately the deed was done! There were only 4 of us, myself, Donald and my niece and her husband as witnesses. We were married in our small village church in which we worship quite frequently, as we felt Dunfermline Abbey was a bit big for such a small affair, plus the fact I was married their first-time round. However, our minister from the Abbey insisted on taking part in the Service, so we were well and truly blessed!

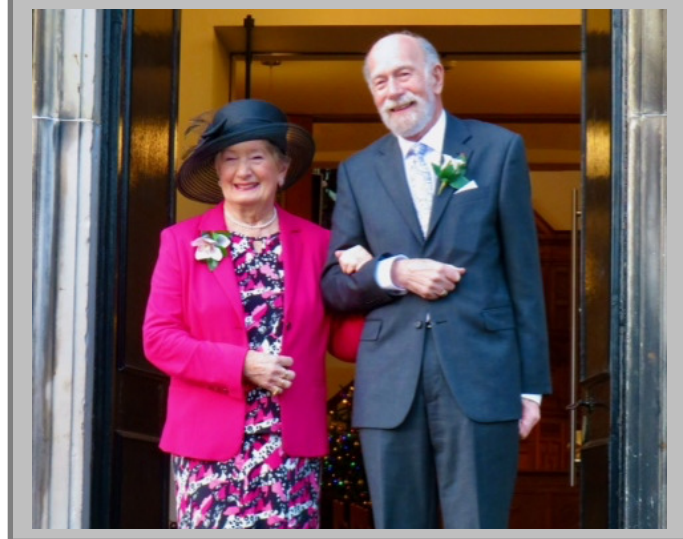
I did do two small table arrangements in the church as the Christmas tree was still there and there were Poinsettias on the windowsills.

Everyone locally is so delighted with the news that our feet haven't touched the ground. We have had more Champagne and smoked salmon in two or three weeks than in the last 10 years!

My husband is Lt Cdr Donald Briggs, MBE, a retired Naval Officer who, following his Naval career, worked with Weirs in Glasgow as Head of Technical Publications, then ran an engineering school for Sea Cadets at HMS Gannet. Busy man, but now well and truly retired and has settled in well to this small community.

With every good wish,

Margaret (Briggs) now I won't be so easily confused with the other Margaret Tait!



SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST

2022 Gathering with HRH The Princess Royal

The Guild were delighted to be invited to the first SCT Gathering since 2019, being represented by Margaret Gordon and Margaret Williamson. The event was held in St Andrew's West Parish Church, Glasgow.

SCT work is integral in the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage represented in its churches and places of worship of all denominations.

SCT is working with Historic Scotland and are actively looking for volunteers to assist with their endeavours, in essence they need help to record the contents of Scotland's churches. If this is something which might be of interest, please email: director@scotlandchurchestrust.org.uk

All were enthralled with the ensemble performed by Women in Chamber Music.

Both Margarets had the opportunity to chat about SMCG with our Patron HRH The Princess Royal.

Margaret Williamson

