



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter

January 2023 Issue:43

www.stmargaretschapel.com

St Margaret's Celebrations and AGM 2022

I think we'll all agree it was great to be back in the Castle to celebrate St Margaret's day and hold our AGM, and what a joyous occasion it turned out to be. There was a wonderful turn-out from so many of our members, as we were honoured to welcome our Patron HRH the Princess Royal.

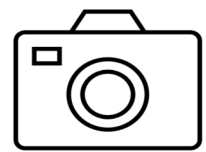
As always, our day started with a service of celebration from our President, Rev Neil Gardener, in St-Margaret's Chapel, followed by our AGM and lunch. For those of you who could not attend, the link to the service is still available within the members section of our website. We were delighted to be joined by two of the Guild's Honorary Vice Presidents, and representatives of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the President of the Bishops' Conference and the Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, as well as guests from Edinburgh Castle, Historic Environment Scotland and Scotland's Churches' Trust. Two students with connections to the Hungarian Exchange programme run by Queen Margaret University were also able to be with us, along with the Consul General for Hungary, Dr Lazlo Kalman and the Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh, Robert Aldridge.

Six new members were welcomed into The Guild last year, with three members (Margaret Allan, Margaret Grievell and Lucy Margaret Nicholson) being received by HRH. We were delighted to have Maggie Anderson join the Executive Committee. Hazel Dunn was re-elected as Convenor. There was a presentation to thank Margaret Ann Crawford as she retires after six years as our Treasurer. Our Convenor Hazel Dunn presented HRH with a pair of SMCg daisy and pearl earrings (she already has our brooch, which she wore on the day) to thank her for her twenty years' service as our Patron. As promised the Princess wore her earrings to her next engagement, at Dunfermline Abbey for the signing of the St Margaret's Declaration of Friendship.

As the AGM was drawn to a close HRH spoke about the good a group like ours can do and encouraged us not to forget that it only takes one person to create goodness and change within themselves and for others. It was a very poignant end to a very special day and in essence reminding us of all the good one woman did in her time: St Margaret Queen of Scotland.

Margaret Williamson





Members photographs of the day are available for download from the members home page on our website. Only Palace approved photographs of HRH are approved for sharing on social media.



THE 950th ANNIVERSARY OF DUNFERMLINE ABBEY

On the Feast Day of Saint Margaret of Scotland, Wednesday 16th November 2022, a Service of Worship was held in Dunfermline Abbey Church to celebrate the 950th Anniversary of the founding of a priory on the site by Queen Margaret.

The occasion was also significant in that St Margaret Declaration of Friendship between the Roman Catholic Church of Scotland and the Church of Scotland being signed.

Attending the Service were Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, The Most Revd Leo Cushley, Archbishop and Metropolitan of St Andrews and Edinburgh plus leaders and clergy from all denominations of the Christian Church.

Perfection, Light, Life and Love were highlighted by pupils of Dunfermline High School as the 4 miracles pertaining to St. Margaret.

A new anthem, written for the occasion by Lisa McMaster entitled 'Thou Lord and God of Power' was sung by the Dunfermline Abbey Choristers who were joined by members of Kilgraston School Chamber Choir which was a grand, beautiful, slightly haunting piece of music very suitable for the occasion.

In his sermon, Archbishop Cushley said that Margaret was very real to us, not an aura of a Celtic myth, even at this distance in time. We can honour her goodness, strength of character, patience, mercy, determination, sense of justice and her holiness. We can learn from her to pledge ourselves to work as she did for the peace and prosperity of our land. He delivered a very meaningful sermon on Christian unity which befitted the occasion.



The Signing of the St Margaret Declaration of Friendship by Most Revd Cushley and The Right Revd Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Following the signing of the Declaration, Princess Anne spoke in a relaxed, occasionally humorous, way about St Margaret's message of unity and friendship and that she was honoured to be present for the signing of the Declaration of Friendship. She promised the assembled congregation that it had been signed as she had witnessed it! She referred to her presence that morning at the St Margaret Chapel Guild service in the Castle chapel. She emphasised the royal service given by Margaret to the community which should be maintained by the church and her commitment to education.

It was altogether a very historic, enjoyable and memorable Service, which I felt privileged, as a lifelong member of the Abbey, to attend, and also to act as the official representative of the St Margaret Guild. I did miss not being able to attend the Guild service, lunch and meeting, but I could not be at both occasions unless the Princess Royal had given me a lift over to Dunfermline!

Margaret Briggs, Dunfermline



A Day in the Life of....

Every day in Edinburgh Castle for its Governor is as different as the weather. The role is now done by me, as a Major General in the Army Reserve, which means that I fulfil my military duties in tandem with the commitments of my civilian career.

In my case, I fit the duties as Governor of Edinburgh Castle into a portfolio career as a broadcaster (for Sky News and ABC News in America); as an historical advisor for film and TV drama (currently shaping a new ITV series); a documentary maker and author. The thread that runs through all this work is a deep interest in what shapes a nation, its history and the meanings behind its traditions and protocol. As a result of this, I feel there is a strong synergy between my non-military work and the privilege of being Governor and, therefore, the guardian of such a treasure in Scotland's story.

The year has four immovable events that the Governor is expected to support. These are The King's Royal Week in Holyrood House, in the summer; the Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's term of office, in May; the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, in August, and November's Acts of Remembrance.

The Governor's role in the first two, stems from a time when the Castle provided security to the monarch and his representatives, when in Edinburgh. The Tattoo is just over 70 years old. Remembrance events emerged from the 1918 Armistice and is poignantly part of the Castle's fabric in the Scottish National War Memorial, of which the Governor is a Trustee, and in which are commemorated four of the Scots Guardsmen I went to war with in 1982 but did not bring home.

In addition, the Governor represents The King in his principal Scottish fortress; supports the Army in Scotland and embodies the tradition of Scotland's Armed Forces, past, present and future, in Edinburgh Castle, which is the 'foundation stone of the Scottish martial tradition'.

Each year there are also a calendar of Gun Salutes, which are ordered by The King, to mark days like His Majesty's birthday (actual and official), accession and coronation (which will be fired first this year). All of this requires planning. Much of this is done by the Army Staff and I am supported by my Aide de Camp and Linda Lyness, my Personal Assistant, who has served thirteen governors in this role!

From my office in the Castle, looking across the Pentlands, or from a quiet corner of the set of Downton Abbey, via Zoom, I keep across the planning for events and my relationship with Edinburgh generally.

Ultimately, I serve to meet all official visitors, like Nancy Pelosi, then Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. But I also thrive among the tourists that are the life blood of the fortress. I feel a strong bond with the Historic Environment Scotland staff and I love seeing the Guild of St Margaret's, in any of their visits.

But perhaps the most memorable day so far was last June, when I had the privilege of surrendering the Key of Edinburgh Castle to Queen Elizabeth II. I had presented it privately to Her Majesty the year before, when she dined with us in the Governor's Quarter but the Act of Loyalty at Holyrood House, where the key had been presented to George IV two hundred years before, in 1822, was a profound privilege. She gave it back!

It was her last public duty with the Armed Forces. I shall stand ready to surrender the key to The King and fulfil any duties I am called to do, until I demit this huge privilege in September 2024. I know my successor will love the role and working with the Guild as much as I have.

Major General Alistair Bruce of Crionaich OBE VR
Governor of Edinburgh Castle



MAILING ALERT!

For mailing purposes, both email and postal, it is important for record purposes we have up to date email and postal addresses. We would be grateful if you would keep us informed of any changes to your email or postal addresses.

Please notify Margaret Gordon, Membership Secretary,
92 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh EH14 5LA
or margaretgordon52@gmail.com

Website Updates

This really is a work in progress and will be ongoing for some time. Expect changes to the style and layout throughout 2023. We'll strive to keep news and events up-to-date and relevant.

www.stmargaretschapel.com



Flower Supervisor Role

Gillian Frazer, the Guild Flower Supervisor, has stepped down from the role after the AGM. Gillian is expecting a baby very shortly, and I am sure all Guild members join the Executive Committee in thanking Gillian for all her hard work, great kindness and support to the team of monthly flower supervisors. We wish Gillian all good health and happiness as she and her husband James await the birth of their baby. Gillian remains in charge of the Guild's Instagram page which is gaining new followers all the time. It is full of beautiful photographs of Chapel flower arrangements by members - well worth signing up to Instagram if you haven't already.

Maggie Anderson (margaretanderson.artist@yahoo.com), the January supervisor, joined the Executive Committee in November and has kindly agreed to take on the role of Acting Guild Flower Supervisor, until this year's AGM. She is working her way through the lists of monthly supervisors and members and will be in touch with the monthly supervisors very soon.

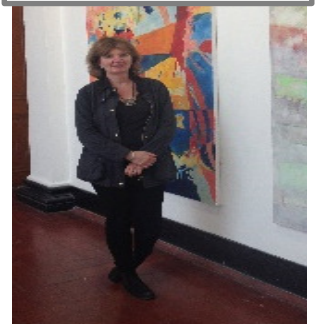
The whole process of handing over lists and contacts shines a light on the importance of keeping in touch and helping us keep your details up to date. If for any reason you do not have a slot for doing flowers, and think you should have, please contact us. There have been quite a lot of changes to the monthly rotas as new members join and others retire from doing flowers. We are keen to ensure each month has a good complement of members allocated to do flowers and will be keeping an eye on this going forward, also checking there is a fair distribution of new members among the months.

It was suggested after the AGM that we might consider creating a flower slot for our Patron. The Executive Committee is discussing this idea and how it might work, given the logistics and demanding schedule of HRH. It could be that flowers are arranged in August to mark the Patron's birthday. We will keep you all posted as a plan evolves.

Sarah M James - *Secretary*

smcjames@me.com

Acting Flower Supervisor



A Love of Flowers

Margaret Betts will be the first artist exhibiting in the studio at Dawyck Botanic Garden when it reopens on February 1st. The exhibition, which lasts until May 5th, consists of flower paintings in watercolour, and is entitled 'A Love of Flowers'. Early Spring is a good time to visit Dawyck which has wonderful displays of snowdrops and special snowdrop tours every Sunday until mid-March.



Flower Girls

Ariana Phin was the lucky girl that was tasked with presenting a posy to the Princess Royal on the 16th November. Ariana is the granddaughter of our former Treasurer, Margaret Ann Crawford.

Margaret Hunter produced the beautiful bunch, comprising white roses, freesia, eryngium and eucalyptus. There was also a small sprig of rosemary in the posy, in remembrance of the late queen. On being presented to HRH, Margaret was asked if she had prior knowledge of what the Princess would be wearing, as the posy complemented her outfit perfectly (the answer was no!).

We calculated that there have been four other Guild members that have presented a posy during the twenty years the Princess Royal has been our Patron. We were fortunate that three of the four former flower girls were at the St Margaret's Day celebrations. They are Holly M Gilfether, Fenella M James and Chloe M Lindsell. Ariana joins a very select club.



St Margaret's Pilgrimage Event

St Margaret's Memorial Church Dunfermline have been in touch, they are in the process of developing a programme of events for weekend 17th/18th June.

The pilgrimage is to be held on Sunday 18th June 2023 with the programme, still being developed. The following has been confirmed for the day:

12.30pm - Ecumenical service to be held at the tomb of St Margaret led by Archbishop Cushley.

There will then be free time until the start of the celebration mass at St Margaret's Memorial Church at 2.30pm again lead by Archbishop Cushley.

The weekend of 17th/18th June Historic Scotland who have responsibility for the tomb and Abbey will be holding a historic Dunfermline weekend with various events, yet to be confirmed, held at the Abbey in relation to St Margaret.

There is also a QR code trail commencing at the Tomb and ending at St Margaret's Memorial church which take visitors around various site relating to St Margaret in Dunfermline.

Invitations are to be sent to Knights of St Columba, Knights of Malta and Provost of Fife to attend on the day. All up-to-date information will be posted under events on our members website page.

The Guild has been represented at this event in the past by Margaret Lynch.

Margaret Williamson

St Margaret's Members Brooch and Earrings

Most members will be aware of our brooch and earrings. They are a lovely keepsake with a link to St Margaret's Chapel Guild. The daisy design reflects St Margaret's flower the Marguerite Daisy, whilst the pearl being a nod to St Margaret as 'The Pearl of Scotland'.

For those wishing to purchase; the brooches are £42 and the earrings £35, please email Yvonne at yvonne.mcaulay16@gmail.com for further details.



A Thank You

St Margaret's Day celebrations are always very special occasions, and last year certainly was an especially memorable one for me.

My granddaughter Ariana, had the immense honour of presenting our Patron, HRH Princess Anne with the beautiful posy, made by Margaret Hunter. The posy was of white rosebuds, with white lisianthus, and blue eryngium, complimented by eucalyptus and ruscus foliage, into which Margaret had added in a sprig of rosemary for remembrance, which was a lovely thoughtful touch. As I had served six years as treasurer for the Guild, I presented my final set of accounts to the AGM. (Interestingly our Patron was also present when I presented my first set of accounts.)

I was then quite overwhelmed when HRH presented me with a retiral gift and stunning flowers. The handsome garden gift token, I will enjoy spending in due course, on something which will have lasting memories of the very special day.

Thank you one and all for your generosity, support and friendship. I have enjoyed my time on committee, and it has been an honour to serve the guild in this way.

Margaret Ann Crawford

Scottish Tapestry

Earlier this month I made a visit to Galashiels to see (again) the Scottish Tapestry. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to go. The Borders train stops at Galashiels, and it is a short walk from there to the lovely new accessible building which has become home to the tapestry.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland, celebrates Scottish achievement and history. It depicts the history of Scotland through the skilful, colourful, and textural stitching by over 1,000 men women and children from Shetland to the Borders of Scotland, using 300 miles of wool.

Even if you are not a 'stitcher' one cannot help but admire the skills used to portray the 160 panels depicting the history of Scotland. There are several references to Queen Margaret, and indeed she has a panel all to herself, beautifully stitched by the St Margaret Stitches, entitled St Margaret at Dunfermline 1080.

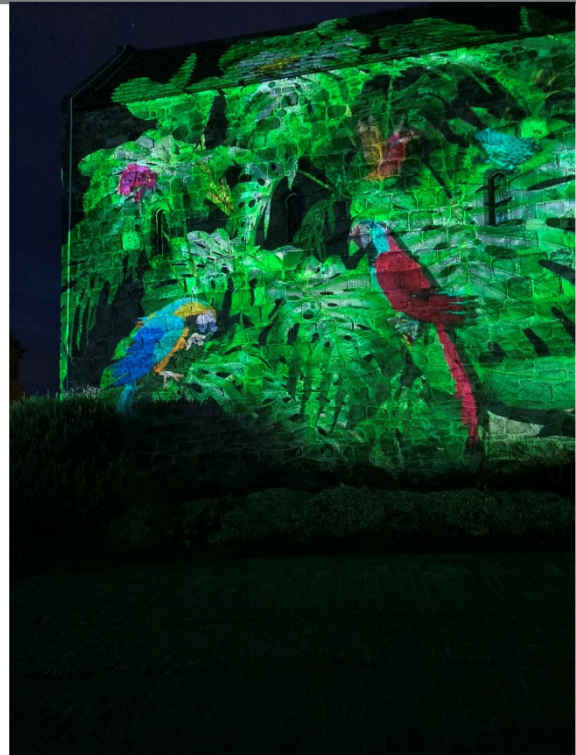
Alongside each panel there is a brief history depicted in the panel, and credit to those who stitched it.

Margaret Ann Crawford



Festival of Light

A slightly different perspective of St Margaret's Chapel lit up during Edinburgh Castles Festival of Light show!



Acknowledgement and Thanks

We'd like to thank Claire M Heyes for all her work throughout the year and especially on St Margaret's Day. Claire stepped up to the challenge and offered her service to take so many amazing photographs of all things SMCG which we're lucky to be able to use on our Newsletter, Website and social media.

Thank you Claire.

Introduction to our new Treasurer, Yvonne Margaret McAulay



Yvonne was introduced to the Guild by the late Betty Gale, who she got to know in London, along with her husband George, at St Columba's Church in Pont Street.

When she moved back to Scotland in 2007, Yvonne arranged a dinner for those with a St Columba's connection and called it the Double Ex-Pat gathering. The name stuck and she still does this dinner each year, during the week of the General Assembly, in Edinburgh. The last time Yvonne saw Betty was the dinner in May 2019, where they shared a taxi to the venue Otro. Covid then sadly stopped it for two years.

Yvonne comes from a long line of Margarets but is not sure how many. She thinks there are four but possibly more!



St Margaret's Chapel Guild AGM 2022

Charitable Giving Approved by AGM 2022

We propose that this year's charitable donations made by the Guild will comprise:-

QMU Hungarian Student Exchange **£500**

Edinburgh City Mission **£1000**

ABF The Soldiers' Charity **£500**

Canongate Kirk **£1000**

The Princess Anne Charities' Trust **£1000**

Leuchie House **£500**

Mary's Meals **£500**

Trussell Trust **£500**

"Refuweege"/Supporting Ukrainian Refugees in Scotland **£500**

Oxford University Research Study, Investigating Eating Disorders **TBC**

Births

Congratulations to Guild member Edwina Margaret de Klee and her husband Kyle, on the birth in October of their little boy, Roland Rupert William, a brother for Eliza.



St Margaret's Chapel Guild AGM and Lunch:

Amongst the many highlights of what was a very special day, was the Grace before lunch given by Very Revd Dr Derek Browning. Dr Browning was kind enough to give us the words of the Grace, which are repeated below:-

A Thanksgiving *by W.D. Howells*
Lord, for the erring thought
Not into evil wrought:
Lord, for the wicked will
Betrayed and baffled still:
For the heart from itself kept,
Our thanksgiving accept.

