



# St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter July 2023 Issue:44

[www.stmargaretschapel.com](http://www.stmargaretschapel.com)

## Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla

The Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place at Westminster Abbey on 6 May. I am sure like me many of you were glued to the television watching the Coronation ceremony and celebrations. It was wonderful also to see our Patron HRH The Princess Royal carrying out her key role as the monarch's personal bodyguard, Gold Stick in Waiting in the procession from the Abbey to Buckingham Palace.

We hope you enjoy reading about how some of the Guild family marked this unique and historical occasion.

### Anointing Screen and Thrones, Westminster Abbey

Shortly after the coronation I was delighted to be able to visit Westminster Abbey to view the coronation chair with the Stone of Destiny in situ and the Anointing Screen. The embroidery on the Screen was beautiful up close and I feel very privileged to have seen in person artefacts so integral to an historic day. I thought it was particularly special to see each of the Commonwealth countries represented on each leaf of the central tree. The Abbey was busy, but many visitors took a moment to quietly reflect on what they were viewing.

**Fenella James**



### Canongate Kirk

At Canongate Kirk, the Kirk of Holyrood house and Edinburgh Castle, the Coronation was marked with a special concert the day before, given by wonderfully talented youngsters from the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey. At the Sunday morning service, the organist was joined by a trumpeter in the gallery to give the music a bit of a royal flourish, and afterwards the congregation toasted the newly crowned King and Queen with a glass of prosecco in the courtyard. Finally, on the Monday the craft club spent the day in the King David Aisle close to the St Margaret banner, busily knitting blankets for the local neo-natal unit as part of the Big Help Out. They felt sure that King David and Queen Margaret would have approved, just as much as King Charles and Queen Camilla.

**Neil Gardner President SMCG**



### Chapel Coronation Flowers

A very regal arrangement thanks to Fiona Kidd, former Flower Supervisor



## Passion of Jesus Trafalgar Square Good Friday 2023

It is always with anxious anticipation that Good Friday arrives as we leave Wintershall at 4am with horses, donkey and stage to set up in Trafalgar Square. Will people come? Is it going to rain? Will the volunteers turn up and the actors (also volunteers) get the coaches on time? It is the first time Pete Bergen, a secondary school teacher has played Jesus and is super nervous. We are all praying for him, for it all. This is a free performance, and it tells the story of Jesus final days, crucifixion and resurrection from the gospels of John and Matthew.

As it transpired it was extraordinary. The weather was glorious. The audience ran into the square to find places to sit. SO many people wanting to see and hear Jesus. To learn who He was and is. What is the history? We had to shut the Square at about 12.30pm as the maximum of 10,000 people had been reached. This was the first time in the 11 years we had had to do this. We had the RC Cardinal and the Bishop of London who prayed the Our Father with the audience at the finish of the 2 performances. The wonderful thing is that Sadiq Khan the Mayor of London encouraged all to come and see it on his Twitter feed. The London Eye, very much a secular organisation approached us with a request to put in lights the Cross on the London wheel.

We seem to live in strange times. Those who know about Jesus and the story perhaps not valuing it and those who do not know but are desperate to hear and learn.

**SMCG Member, Charlotte (de Klee / Producer)**





## Flower Supervisor update

Maggie Anderson stepped down from her roles as January supervisor and Acting Guild Flower supervisor. We are grateful to her for her time and effort she has given to these roles recently and wish her well.

Margaret Studley has very kindly agreed to take over as Acting Guild Flower supervisor and we welcome her warmly. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. Anne Croft has very kindly taken over the January supervisor post and again brings a good deal of knowledge with her. We wish both Margaret and Anne well in their endeavours.

**Sarah James – Secretary**

A selection of arrangements displayed in the Chapel from January through June. We would like to thank everyone involved who made the floral arrangements and those who sent in their photographs. As always, the photos are posted without identification.





## Remembering 1993, a year to commemorate the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of

### Margaret, Queen & Saint

I am so happy to see that once again Dunfermline has been given a prominent and important part in the story of St Margaret. Taking part in the Pilgrimage on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 has brought back many happy memories of the Margaret 900 year which took place in 1993 with its emphasis on the historical, spiritual, and ecumenical aspect of Margaret's life, now endorsed by the 2022 St Margaret Declaration signed in Dunfermline Abbey.

Thanks to St Margaret, Dunfermline became a great medieval place of Pilgrimage together with St Andrews, bringing people from all over Europe to Scotland. She made significant changes in the social history of Scotland through her use of "soft power" and through her role in bringing Scotland into Europe and the Roman Catholic Church – all at a time when women were considered of little importance.



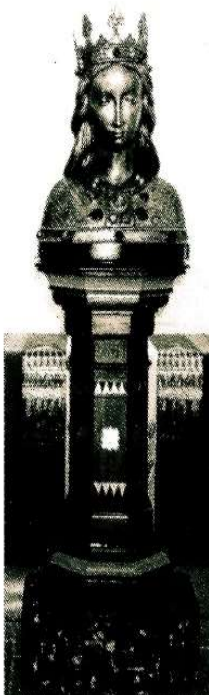
*She was an amazing lady!*

**Margaret Dean CVO**

**SMCG Vice President**



Margaret Dean



#### A VERY SPECIAL YEAR

*Margaret Dean*

**T**he Margaret 900 year has been a most exciting and interesting one with a wide range of events to reflect many interests on an international, national and local level. For me, however, it has also been on a very personal one.

It began on 16th November 1992, when I joined the St. Margaret Chapel Guild, attended the service in the Chapel, their AGM and special luncheon at Edinburgh Castle. Later that evening Professor Barrow gave the first of the St. Margaret Lectures in the City Chambers in Dunfermline and it was my pleasure to give the vote of thanks as I have been privileged to do throughout the series. Not only have we listened to interesting lectures, we have met stimulating, widely travelled people who have come to Dunfermline and who have helped to put our town firmly on the map.

To be asked to read one of the lessons at the Inaugural Service at St. Giles Cathedral in January 1993 was a great honour and a special experience for me to form part of the procession flanked by senior clergy of different denominations. The warm ecumenical spirit was deeply felt also at the magnificent stirring services in two very different traditions - in Dunfermline Abbey in June 1993 and in St. Mary's Cathedral on the 16th November, 1993.

Closeness and co-operation have been the keywords in a series of wonderful, happy events. The opening of St. Margaret's Cave brought together senior dignitaries of Church, District and Region as well as school children, mums and dads, community helpers and the Dunfermline Heritage Trust in a joyful procession. Co-operation too brought about the Flower Festival with its breathtaking displays created by many floral art clubs throughout Scotland, all orchestrated by Miss Alex Robertson who sent me a photograph of my own particular favourite "The Marriage of Malcolm and Margaret" in deep, rich reds and royal purple.

Royal events are always special and the St. Margaret year brought two visits from Princess Margaret at which I was privileged to be present as well as the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House from which we experienced a really speedy drive home as police outriders pushed us through red lights and pressed us to ignore speed limits. Prince Charles' car behind us needed to arrive at Turnhouse in time for his flight!!

Theatre has also played its part in the special year and for me there were two outstanding performances. "Margaret - a Saint for Scotland" was played in the old nave of Dunfermline Abbey where the cold could do nothing to dispel the magic which was created there for the audience. "Nativity" was performed by the drama students at Queen Margaret College and was full of life, fun, vigour and sincerity.

The 16th November, 1993 saw me back in Edinburgh for the re-dedication of the St. Margaret Chapel after a year which has had a great impact on my life: my horizons have widened, I have appeared on television; I have supped at a great medieval banquet, I have met new and interesting people; I have made many new friends; I have attended church services in different traditions and denominations; I feel I have begun to know and appreciate the extraordinary woman who is my namesake and whose saint's day also happens to fall on my birthday.

Margaret came to Dunfermline 900 years ago and helped it become an important, busy, controversial place, a process which continued right up until The Reformation in the 16th century. This year Margaret has again come to Dunfermline and has helped us create an important, busy and controversial year.

It is for me as Chairman of the Dunfermline Heritage Trust and all of us as citizens of Dunfermline to continue that process and follow where Margaret, Saint and Queen has led.

*The bottom righthand photograph shows the 900 Club at the re-dedication of St Margaret's Chapel, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1993.*

## Hungarian Delegation visit to Scotland May 2023

After meeting Dr Laszlo Kalman Hungarian Consul General at our AGM last year and discussing St Margaret's links to my hometown of Dunfermline, he asked if I could help facilitate a visit of Hungarian Dignitaries to Scotland.

The delegation of 10 included: Dr Laszlo Kalman, Mr Arpad Potapi State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad and Dr Szili Katalin former Speaker of the House and current Chief Advisor of the Prime Minister. The delegation all hail from constituencies in the region of St Margaret's birthplace in Hungary

Our day started with a wreath laying at St Margaret's Shrine in Dunfermline Abbey presided over by Rev MaryAnn Rennie. MaryAnn kindly gave us a tour of the Abbey & Nave pointing out amongst other things, the foundations of St Margaret's Church where Queen Margaret worshipped during her lifetime. We spent so long in the Abbey that we had an uphill sprint to St Margaret's Memorable Church arriving just in time for Mass. Father Syriac gave our delegation a very warm and heartfelt welcome. During Mass Mr Potapi and Dr Katalin presented a collage gifted from the community of Mecseknadasd, the birthplace of St Margaret. A wreath was laid in the Lady Chapel alongside the relic of St Margaret.

Our day ended with a visit to St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle where the final wreath was laid.

What a joyous, informal day it was.

**Margaret Williamson**



## Queen Margaret University Costume Showcase 2023

Hazel Dunn and Margaret Studley attended this event on behalf of the Guild.

This event held in April does as the title suggests showcases the work of the of the 4<sup>th</sup>(final) year, which started in September 2022, students who are about to complete their Costume Design and Construction Course. The students must produce bespoke garments for QMU Drama department productions, or commissioned pieces for commercial theatre or film productions and research pieces to accompany their dissertation. Where appropriate, the accompanying wigs and accessories are created. The event was "staged" in the Traverse Theatre with the support of students from the QMU's Performing Arts Courses.

The venue, the steeply raked seating surrounding the apron stage, and the cooperation between the two courses meant that this was not simply a garment walk past, but rather the actor models created cameos from the related productions. This approach demonstrated just how well constructed and how fit for purpose the garments and accessories were. The joyful atmosphere for the whole show was created and maintained intermittently maintained by a "Rue Paul styled Drag Queen, Mrs Mop, whose welcoming banter endeared himself to the audience.

A bonus to the performance in the foyer bar area "stalls" had been created for each student to display a garment of their choice, the accompanying sketch/workbook and a folio documenting highlight of their course work, work experience placements and reflecting on how these have guided their hopes for a future career. Following the performance, the students and models came to the stalls willing to answer questions. It was an experience that was thoroughly enjoyable, and I was impressed with the design and construction skills on display. Also, it was encouraging to see that not all students had perfect drawing skills, but this had not proved to be a handicap to their acquisition of good pattern cutting and construction skills required for their future careers.

**Margaret Studley**





## Guild visit to The Great Scottish Tapestry – February 2023

Upon hearing about Margaret Ann Crawford's visit to The Great Scottish Tapestry (January newsletter), the Guild were enthused to arrange a visit. 6 members took the train from Edinburgh to Galashiels and were not disappointed. One couldn't fail to be impressed to see firsthand the skills and effort involved creating this piece of history for us all to share. The story of Scotland is quite incredible, and the tapestry really draws this into focus. A return visit is a must.

On hearing of our visit Margaret Dean gave the name of one of the stitchers of the St Margaret panel- Kate McDonald. Kate's recollection is that the original artist designing the panel had envisaged Queen Margaret in green but was persuaded that blue was more appropriate.

**Margaret Williamson**



### SMCG, St Margaret & Football!

Yes, it's true – they have a connection.

I was invited as a Guild committee member to attend Dunfermline Athletic Football Club as they commemorated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visit by the Hungarian Miners' football Club to Scotland in 1963. Three matches were played, many of the Scottish players from these matches went on to play for Dunfermline Athletic. There were Dunfermline players in attendance who played in the matches, we had a zoom call with their opponents in Hungary. There was a lot of camaraderie between the two teams, as you can imagine.

Many of the Hungarian team spoke not only of football but their delight when they heard they were coming to Scotland, somewhere they knew little about with the exception that "their" Princess Margaret was crowned Queen here. Many spoke of visiting St Margaret's Chapel in the Castle and her burial place in Dunfermline Abbey in 1963 and in later years returning with their families.

Dr Laszlo Kalman, Hungarian Consul General Edinburgh presented Jim Leishman, Provost of Fife and former Manager and player of Dunfermline Athletic, with Sport Friendship certificate.

**Margaret Williamson**

### A Generous Donation

We would like to thank the members of the National Guild of St Margaret of Scotland for their recent, very generous donation. They are based in the USA and can trace their lineage back to St Margaret.

Karen Janzy has recently been elected as their President General, and we wish her all the best in her new role.

Each year on the day closest to Thanksgiving we place an arrangement featuring red, white and blue flowers in the Chapel, in recognition of the National Guild's contributions to our work.

The group have been staunch supporters of ours for many years, and we look forward to maintaining and strengthening the links between the two Guilds.

**Hazel Dunn - Convenor**



## St Margaret's Pilgrimage June 2023

After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic the St Margaret's Pilgrimage has returned to Dunfermline and SMCG were invited to join the procession. Five members represented the Guild: Margaret Dean CVO, Margaret Catrina McGillivray, Fiona Pigott, Margaret Lynch and Margaret Williamson.

The Ecumenical service in Dunfermline Abbey was led by Archbishop Cushley and Rev Mary Ann Rennie followed by prayers at St Margaret's Shrine.

SMCG had refreshments at Abbot House before heading to St Margaret's Memorial Church for Mass and the pilgrimage which was in the following order:

- Mr Peter Palocz, Deputy Hungarian Ambassador to the United Kingdom
- Dr Laszlo Kalman, Hungarian Consul General, Scotland
- Teachers and Pupils from St Margaret's Primary School, St Columba's High School and Holy Name Primary School
- Father Syriac Palakudiyil, St Margaret's Memorial Church, Dunfermline
- The Most Reverend Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
- Rev Dr Iain Greenshields - Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
- Rev MaryAnn Rennie, The Minister Dunfermline Abbey
- Knights of Malta – Sovereign Order of Malta
- St Margaret's Chapel Guild
- Knights of St Columba

For the occasion the relic of St Margaret was removed from the Lady Chapel of St Margaret's Memorial Church and on display for both services.

A wonderful day spent remembering and honouring St Margaret. Thankfully the sun came out, it had threatened to rain on our parade.

### Margaret Williamson





## Death Notices

Sadly, we have to report the deaths of Margaret Macrae, Margaret Nunn and Dr Stephanie Blackden.

Margaret Macrae passed on 8<sup>th</sup> February. There was a celebration of Margaret's life held at Norton House Hotel, the Guild were represented by Fiona Kidd and Margaret Marr. Margaret joined the Guild in 1993 and was a June flower lady.

There was a Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Nunn at the Salvation Army centre on Gorgie Road on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. The service was attended by Margaret Laing, as well as being a fellow Guild member was a friend and neighbour. Margaret was a long-standing member of the Guild after joining in 1987.

Dr Stephanie Blackden's daughter Clare White has let us know that her mother died recently. Stephanie joined the Guild in 2002.

## Baptisms and Weddings

Guild members can request to use the Chapel for these events at no charge. We are limited to the number of times we can do this in a year, and always take into account that the Chapel is not available during the busy months of the year (June – September). Should you wish to investigate the possibility of using the Chapel, please contact our Convenor, Hazel M Dunn in the first instance by emailing [hazel@poststreet.net](mailto:hazel@poststreet.net)

## New arrival – Maeve Margot Frazer

Gillian Frazer (our former Flower Supervisor) has been in touch to let us know of the safe arrival of her daughter. Maeve was born on the morning of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, and weighed 9lb 3oz in old money. Both are doing well, and Maeve looks adorable.



## King's Birthday



Guards outside St Margaret's Chapel in celebration of the King's Birthday Salute.

## Articles for our next Newsletter

We're always interested to hear from members with articles to add to our newsletter, this gives us a more diverse content and the opportunity to connect with all our members. Please contact [m\\_doig@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m_doig@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Flower Ladies

We are always delighted to hear from any member who is not yet on the flower arranging rota. Those interested please contact our acting Flower Supervisor [margaret.studley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret.studley@yahoo.co.uk)

### Money Collectors

We are always seeking Guild members to replace those who have stepped down from the money collecting team. This involves going to the Chapel on a weekday once a fortnight to collect the donations we receive for the booklet, and then banking the money at any branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland that has a cash counting machine. A team of two members undertake this activity for two months at a time, and it is done before the Castle opens to the public at 9am. It is an essential activity to the smooth running of the Guild, and not an onerous task. We would provide more detailed instruction on what is involved, and new recruits would be encouraged to accompany one of the current teams on a scheduled visit to the Castle.

Interested, please contact our Treasure [yvonne.mcaulay16@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.mcaulay16@gmail.com)

## Coffee Mornings

After the summer coffee mornings will commence on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. Details are regularly updated in the members section of our website – [www.stmargaretschapel.com](http://www.stmargaretschapel.com)

## Website and Social Media

Work continues on our website [www.stmargaretschapel.com](http://www.stmargaretschapel.com). Historic Environment Scotland kindly took new photographs and drone shots of St Margaret's Chapel, I look forward to sharing on our social media (see below):-

Facebook: St Margaret's Chapel Guild Edinburgh

Twitter: StMargaret'sChapel @StMargaretCG

Instagram: stmargaretschapel