



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

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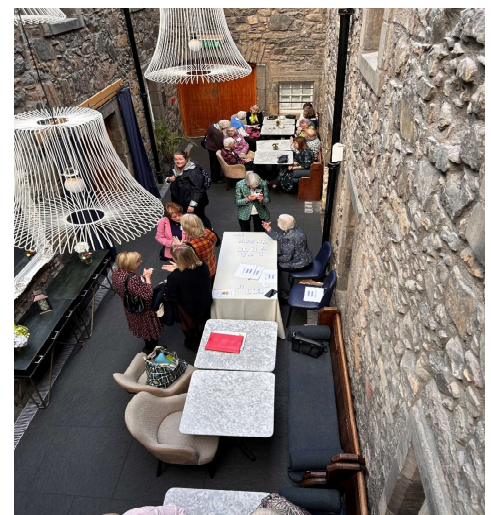
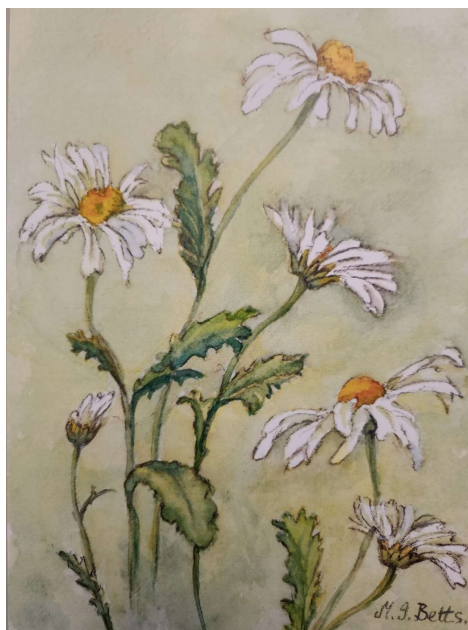
St Margaret's Day 2023

It was lovely to see so many of you at our St Margaret's Day celebration on the 16th of November last year. My thanks to all those whose help made it such a successful day. A number of the new members who joined have been in touch to say how friendly and welcoming the other members made them feel, which is so good to hear. The new members ranged in age from 9 months to 91 years, and many are able to arrange the flowers in the Chapel (though 9-month-old Maggie Fowler may need to wait for a while before she is allowed to use scissors).

I am aware that a lot of information is sent out with the AGM notice, but there is one point I would like to clarify, and that relates to the cost of the day. While we are not charged for the use of the Chapel, Queen Anne Room and café, the cost of the lunch does include a contribution to cover the lunch of our guests. The Guild meets the expense of the shuttle bus to assist less-able members get from the esplanade to the Chapel. We do not aim to make a profit on the day, but we do try to minimise the loss. We are very grateful for the donations that Guild members make on the AGM reply forms, but the Committee, as Trustees of the Guild, would not like to rely on these to fund the expense incurred with St Margaret's Day. The Committee are always open to suggestions about how we can improve our annual celebration and would welcome your thoughts.

We had a sales table on the day, which featured the beautiful marguerite card that Margaret Betts designed for us. Cards are available at a cost of £2 per card, or six for £10. Do get in touch if you would be interested in purchasing them.

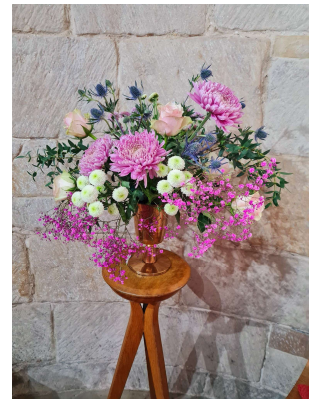
Hazel M Dunn (hazel@poststreet.net)



All images SMCG's unless otherwise stated



St Margaret's Chapel Flowers



Welcome to SMCG Executive Committee's new members!

Angela Casey



Angela Casey (*Membership Secretary*) joined the Guild in 2019. She works in public and political relations and has years of experience as a non-executive director of public and private organisations. She's a keen hillwalker, outdoor enthusiast and vegetable grower.



(Image: Angela Casey)

Fiona Pigott



Fiona Pigott (*Guild Flower Supervisor*) joined the Guild 8 years ago, introduced by Margaret Gordon. Fiona describes herself as a keen amateur learner flower arranger. She is looking forward to learning about the monthly rotas and members' ideas. She enjoys travel, knitting, reading and spending time with her grandchildren, including Lucy who joined the Guild in 2022. Fiona has recently acquired an e-bike and is looking forward to using it more this year!



Fiona and granddaughter Lucy meeting the Patron at the Guild AGM 2022 (Image: Claire Heyes)

Catrina McGillivray



Catrina (*Committee member*) joined the Guild in 2016 and is going to be helping with the newsletter and online updates to the Guild booklet. Catrina worked in radio and newspapers, as a teacher of English and Scottish Literature at Newbattle Abbey College and as academic support tutor at Queen Margaret University. She is delighted to have time for new activities since her recent retirement.



Catrina (right) with Margaret Studley at the sales table AGM 2023 (Image: S. James)

Guild Buddy System

The Guild is considering establishing a "buddy scheme" to build links between members and provide support and friendship to those who would like it.

The scheme would partner a Guild member who would like to volunteer with a member who thinks they'd benefit from some additional social contact. It would be up to the partnership to decide the nature of their relationship but it could include regular phone chats or meeting up for a coffee. The scheme is designed to further the sense of fellowship that is such a key value of the Guild, and help to tackle loneliness and isolation.

If you have any views on how the scheme might run, or if you'd like to put your name forward to take part, please email Holly Williams at hollygulfether@hotmail.co.uk

All correspondence will be treated in complete confidence.



My Debt to the Guild's First President

Every time I attend a St Margaret's Guild event or see a photograph of the Guild's first President, The Very Reverend Dr Ronald Selby Wright, I think of the enormous debt that I and so many others in my youth, owe him. Dr Wright was the Minister at Canongate Kirk between 1936 and 1977. Throughout all these years, as well as serving the spiritual needs of the parish, he committed so much of his life to guiding young people. His initial inspiration was Dr Charles Warr who, in the late 1930s as Minister of St Giles, had become deeply concerned about the needs of young people in the Royal Mile and Holyrood areas at a time of distressing unemployment and social depression. As a young Assistant Minister, Dr Wright took up the challenge and started what became the Canongate Boys' Club. At the end of the Second World War, during which he was best known as the "Radio Padre", he started the Canongate Girls' Club which ran in tandem with the Boys' Club.

I was 10 years old when I joined the Canongate Girls' Club, which met separately from the Boys' Club but came together at church services and other special church related events. We had a permanent campsite on the east coast at Skateraw and again, separate from the boys, we would camp there at different times throughout the year. Dr Wright believed that clubs for youths should be places where their members could socialise in safety and pursue healthy outdoor activities. He believed that faith, sport and companionship were the bedrock upon which children grew into mature young adults. Almost 60 years ago my sister and I both met our husbands at the Canongate Club and to this day we remain married and members of Canongate Kirk.

By Anne Margaret Croft



*The Very Reverend
Dr Ronald Selby Wright
Minister of Canongate Kirk
1936 – 1977
Image : Anne Croft*



*Jean Drummond, Hazel Dunn, Anne Baird and
Flora Gilfillan*

Castle Family Carol Service

After a four year break due to Covid19, the Castle Family Carol Service took place once again in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle on the afternoon of Monday 11 December 2023. The service was led by our minister Rev Neil Gardner and was well attended by members of the military, castle staff and a handful of lucky Guild members and partners.

The carol singing kicked-off with *O Come All Ye Faithful* accompanied by an army brass band with a particular highlight being a soloist singing the opening verse of *Silent Night* in German. Although the army musicians were wearing smart red uniform jackets and kilts, the service was informal and welcoming - there were even a few Christmas jumpers on display!

The event was rounded off with an opportunity to chat over mulled wine and mince pies, which was most welcome on a cold and drizzly Edinburgh Monday in December.

By Flora Gilfillan

Guild Daisy Brooches

The Guild has daisy brooches which are available for sale to members. One creative member had her brooch converted to a necklace pendant. There was some interest from other Guild members when it was modelled at the AGM in November. We have investigated the possibility of getting some pendants made and the cost (including an 18" chain) would be £71 (although it would reduce to around £55 if we order more than 5). If you would be interested in purchasing a pendant, please get in touch.

The same creative member came upon a daisy brooch whilst browsing in a charity shop in Edinburgh. She purchased the item and has donated it to the Guild. We thought that we might 'regift' it to one of our new, young members. Should you have a daisy brooch that you no longer use, please consider donating it to the Guild so it can be passed on to another member to enjoy.

Images by : Y. McAulay



Talk on St Magnus Cathedral Graffiti Project

Tuesday 13th February 2023 at 7pm on Zoom

St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, Orkney was founded in 1137 as the site for the resting place of the relics of St Magnus. It is the only completely medieval cathedral surviving in Scotland. It is thought that the same travelling group of stonemasons worked on Dunfermline Abbey and Durham Cathedral. Graffiti surveys at other medieval cathedrals and churches have revealed a huge range of drawings and inscriptions. In medieval times, it was common for pilgrims and visitors to carve their names or leave devotional marks.

The St Magnus Cathedral Graffiti Project was started in 2019 and has recorded over 600 individual marks on the ground floor of the cathedral, ranging from 12th century masons' marks to 20th century pencil graffiti, and even some mysterious marks which may have had a ritual purpose.

Fran Hollinrake, historian and custodian of St Magnus Cathedral, has very kindly agreed to give Guild members a talk on the project online. Zoom joining details will be sent out to members nearer the time.

Princess Anne blooming in Melbourne

Margaret Banks, a Guild member from Australia, stayed up late to join us on a Zoom coffee chat during lockdown. Discussion turned to gardening and how well the Princess Anne rose bush thrived in Britain. It is not readily available in Australia, but Margaret tracked one down, and late last year sent a photograph of her rose in bloom. We hope it goes from strength to strength and proves a lovely, living reminder of the Guild.



Image : M. Banks

Congratulations and best wishes as SMCG member Holly Gilfether married Mark Williams in the Chapel last December.



Flowers in the Chapel (image J. Curlewis)

Mr & Mrs Williams (image: Lindsay Watson)



Holly with Rev. Neil Gardner (image: H. Williams)

February Coffee Morning Venue

The venue for the monthly coffee morning, to be held on Friday the 16th of February, will be the Johnnie Walker rooftop bar at 145 Princes Street (the former site of Fraser's). We have a table reserved from 10am until 11.30am. There are limited options in terms of food, and anyone with a particular dietary requirement should contact the venue directly. The views from the building are glorious, and if the venue proves successful, we may consider meeting there in the future.

All welcome, but newer members or those that haven't attended in the past would be particularly welcome.

Guild Flower Demonstration

Our Flower Supervisor Fiona Pigott is planning to host a flower arranging event in mid-March at the Gibson Craig Hall in Currie where Margaret Hunter will demonstrate how to arrange some simple displays using alternatives to oasis. Fiona is hoping this event will encourage new members to consider joining the flower rota and to enjoy placing their own arrangements into the Chapel. She reminds us that no previous experience is required and there will be refreshments and ample parking at the venue. This will be an evening event with the date to be announced soon. All welcome!

Talk on the Life of St Margaret

Guild members interested in attending a talk on the Life of St Margaret are invited to indicate their interest by emailing speaker Olivia Begbie (oliviabegbie@hotmail.co.uk) and to copy in our Convener Hazel Dunn (hazel@poststreet.net) and Secretary Sarah James (smcjames@me.com).

Based on your responses, it is proposed to host the talk for Guild members in May or early June in the Harry Younger Hall near the Canongate Kirk on the Royal Mile. Olivia Begbie is also available to deliver her half-hour talk to other interested groups in the Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian areas as a daytime fund-raising event on behalf of the Guild.



New member Jessica Whitten and her husband with baby Ralph at his Christening in the Chapel on 13th January, (Image: J. Whitten)