

St Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter

July 2025 Issue 48

www.stmargaretschapel.com

St Margaret's Chapel Flowers



photo
credits
SMCG





Double celebration in May

Following our suggestion in the January newsletter about placing flowers in the Chapel to commemorate special occasions, we are delighted to share with you the news of a double celebration on 8th May of the 80th anniversary of VE Day and the 90th birthday of member Peggy Nichols. Peggy sent a donation to the Guild for this beautifully patriotic floral arrangement placed by a member of the May flower team.

While these flowers marked the occasion in our little chapel on the day, Peggy and her family were attending the VE Day service at Westminster Abbey in the morning and then a concert in the Albert Hall that evening at which Peggy addressed the assembly to describe her memories of VE Day on her 10th birthday in 1945.

Peggy hopes to come up to Edinburgh to visit the Chapel this year, perhaps to join the Margarets for coffee, and to visit her *alma mater* Atholl Crescent: Edinburgh College of Domestic Science, now more familiar to us as Queen Margaret University, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.



*Peggy celebrating with her children
photo credit J Williamson*



*Peggy addressing the Albert Hall
photo credit Talin Chakmakjian*

Why not celebrate your special occasion at the Chapel with flowers?

As a number of our members live outside our local area, we are offering the opportunity to have flowers placed in the Chapel on behalf of any member who is celebrating a birthday or special occasion. This would be dependent on the date being available. Email the Flower Supervisor (fpigott19@gmail.com) to discuss dates, transfer of money and for more information.

An Iris from Ayrshire

While a member of a flower group would usually head to the Chapel on their given day to arrange flowers, talented artist, Margaret Carslaw has instead painted her March flowers from her studio in Ayrshire.

Replacing her monthly flower arrangement with a stunning painting of an Iris in oils, Margaret sent us an image of the painting to share with lovers of both flowers and art.



photo credit M Carslaw



*Margaret in her studio
photo credit M Carslaw*

Describing her work, Margaret said:

"From my studio in Irvine, Ayrshire I am sending 'Iris' as my floral pictorial offering to honour St Margaret this month. This beautiful flower has a rich meaning: it represents hope and courage by returning each year in Spring – a glorious rebirth of rich purples, lilacs and yellows. As a painter, my main interest lies in the challenging use of oil paint to transform something so delicate into an iconic image of strength and power – also a fitting description of St Margaret herself whose faith illuminated Scotland."

Margaret Dean is a Buddy

Some time ago our Convenor asked me if I would care to be a "buddy".

It was to keep those members of the Guild who, for one reason or another, found themselves unable to attend our meetings on St Margaret's Day or indeed on any of the other occasions on which Guild members gather together, in touch, not just with a newsletter but with a human voice (!) and another Margaret.

As someone who finds it difficult to stop talking, I was very willing to give it a try and I have found it such a happy, rewarding thing to do. Whether my two buddies have enjoyed conversation with me is another matter! You must ask them.



photo credit SMCG

As new members join the Guild and "old" members grow older, any activity which makes for inclusivity must be both good for the Guild and the individuals concerned.

It is not an arduous undertaking involving telephoning one's buddy as often as is mutually suitable and agreeable and it is fun to make real contact with someone you only met perhaps once a year. We can never have too many friends. If you would like to be a buddy or have a buddy contact you, I'm sure Hazel Dunn (hazel@poststreet.net) would be happy to put you in touch.

Margaret Dean

We would love to hear from any of our members who would like to **share your skills** in support of Guild activities, such as: photography, legal advice, flower arranging, monthly flower rota supervision, events organising . . . and anything we haven't thought of! Please get in touch with someone on the committee! In the spirit of St Margaret, there is so much we could be doing!

Visit to St Margaret's Cave and Dunfermline Abbey 26th July

We are happy to report that St Margaret's Cave in Dunfermline has now reopened. Newer members may not be aware of the strong links that St Margaret had with Dunfermline. We are planning a visit to view the cave, tour the Abbey, and then have lunch at Abbot House café. Our very own Margaret Dean will be our Abbey tour guide.

The plan is to meet at the car park beside the cave at 11 o'clock on Saturday 26th of July. The cave is free to visit, however there is an entrance fee for the Abbey, and members would meet the cost of their own lunches.



photo credit Undiscovered Scotland

Members should be aware there are stairs to the cave, which may prove tricky to those with mobility issues.

Please contact Hazel Dunn (hazel@poststreet.net) if you would like to join us.

St Margaret's Cave
Glen Bridge Car Park, Chalmers Street
Dunfermline KY12 8DF

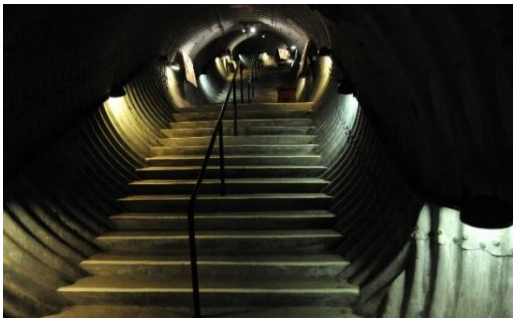


photo credit Undiscovered Scotland

Next Coffee Morning: Wednesday 16th July

The Guild meets every month at the Johnnie Walker rooftop bar at 145 Princes Street (the former site of Fraser's). We have a table reserved from 10am unless otherwise notified by email. Everyone is welcome, but newer members or those who have not attended in the past are particularly welcome!

Dates for your diary: Wednesday 16th July

Saturday 16th August

Tuesday 16th September

Thursday 16th October

Monday 17th November at the Castle

Tuesday 16th December



New Governor's Installation



photo credit Army Communications

ceremony there was a reception in the Grand Hall, which provided an opportunity to speak to some of the others attending the event.

I was delighted to be invited to represent the Guild at the Installation Ceremony of Maj. Gen. Bruce, when he was formally presented with the keys to Edinburgh Castle in April. The current format of the ceremony dates back to 1936, and incorporates many symbolic moments. Music was integral to the formal and colourful event, during which the Guild President, Rev. Neil Gardner, took part in the ceremony in his role of Chaplain to the Governor.

It was a glorious evening, and I was pleased to witness such an historic tradition. After the

Hazel M Dunn, Guild Convenor

Committee update

Following the announcement from our Convenor, Hazel Dunn, that she intends to step down from her position at this year's AGM, we undertook an open process, in line with our Constitution, to seek a new person for the role. We are delighted to say that Fiona Pigott, our current Flower Supervisor, has decided to apply for the position. She will be formally voted in on 17th November, given she is running unopposed; we will do this via a show of hands as per the processes outlined in our Constitution.

Fiona is uniquely qualified to assume the role. She has been a member of the St Margaret's Chapel Guild for over a decade and is currently the Flower Supervisor and a trustee on the Executive Committee. Following her early retirement from banking in 2018, she has spent her "free time" volunteering at her local church as an Elder and an administrator in the office, undertaking a range of tasks including communications and website editor. She also volunteers at a stroke survivors club and cares for her grandchildren, aged between 13 and 2, which she describes as both rewarding and exhausting!



photo credit SMCG

Fiona said: "I have really enjoyed my time in the St Margaret's Chapel Guild and on the Executive Committee, most recently looking after the rota for August ladies and then looking after the twelve monthly supervisors. Being on the Committee has given me a good insight into the processes that take place, and the skills needed to do the role successfully. I am passionate about the continued success and development of the Guild and am particularly proud of the fellowship and friendship the Guild fosters amongst our community. I am delighted to have the committee's support in this application."

Angela Casey is Acting Web and Digital Editor and Margaret Crawford is Acting Membership Secretary until they are formally elected in November.

The committee meets roughly every two months. If there are any matters which you would like to have raised at these meetings, please get in touch with any member of the committee. We are always interested in talking to people who may have something to contribute and we often have openings on the committee for people with a particular interest or talent.

Website Refresh

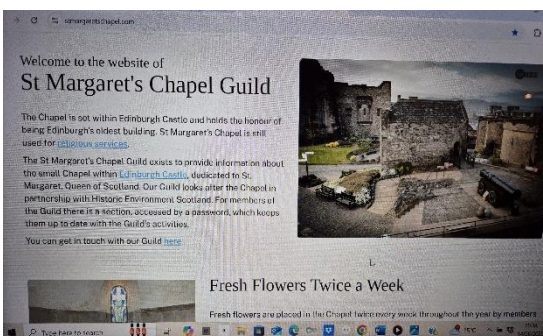


photo credit SMCG

<https://stmargaretschapel.com/>

Over the next few months our website is going to have a layout refresh. This is mainly to add some new pages to make using it a bit easier. There will be more information about the Chapel and the stained glass on the public section, as well as clearer details about how someone can join the Guild.

We are also adding much clearer directions for people to donate to the Guild online. Within the members' site we'll be adding a new Flowers page which will include updated flower guidance and a new gallery of recent arrangements. The members' site will also include up to date

details of the Guild's jewellery and a more logical layout of the pages.

Over the last year we have been working to ensure our site comes up higher when people Google it, so we are easier to find, which is well on its way. This is helpful for people who want to join the Guild or work with us, or even donate. We are always grateful for user feedback if you spot anything while using the site.

And remember: Facebook: St Margaret's Chapel Guild Edinburgh

Twitter: StMargaret'sChapel @StMargaretCG Instagram: stmargaretschapel

Angela Casey, Acting Web and Digital Editor

The Guild's 85th Anniversary

The Guild will celebrate its 85th anniversary in 2027. We are looking into how we might celebrate this, and one thought is to go through the Guild archive and put together a display of the Guild's history. We would like to form a small team of members who would prepare the display and work on the format of the celebration.

We would be delighted to hear from you if you feel that you could contribute to marking the next Guild milestone.

Please get in touch by contacting Hazel Dunn
(hazel@poststreet.net).



photo credit SMCG

How to join the Guild



photo credit freepik.com

We always welcome new members of **all ages** to St Margaret's Chapel Guild.

If your first or middle name is Margaret or a derivative of it, we'd love you to join and be part of our fellowship. You could then join a flower month and enjoy heading into the Castle to arrange your flowers in the Chapel, joining our annual get together on St Margaret's Day in November for an AGM, our monthly coffee mornings, our regular newsletter and a range of events which we organise occasionally.

We also welcome membership from interested organisations and have a long association with some churches, schools, societies associated with St Margaret and of course, Queen Margaret University. We are always pleased to hear from groups who are interested in working with us or supporting the Guild.

To apply, contact our acting membership secretary:
Margaret Crawford (busyweebie@btinternet.com)



photo credit freepik.com

What's in a name?

The name Margaret, meaning "pearl" is derived from French (*Marguerite*) and Latin (*Margarita*) from Ancient Greek: μαργαρίτης (*margaritēs*), via Persian *murwārid*. According to Wikipedia, it ultimately traces its roots to Old Iranian *-mrgāhrita**, "derived from a shell" and has been an English name since the 11th century and remained popular throughout the Middle Ages. (See the Wikipedia article for an extensive list of famous Margarets.)

Do you know someone with any of these names?

Daisy, Pearl, Maggie, Meghan, Marguerite, Margaritte, Meg, Margarida, Greta, Greet, Griet, Gretchen, Gretel, Madge, Maisie, Marge, Margie, Margo, Margot, Marnie, Megan, Peggy, Rita, Mette, Meta, Mae, Máiréad, Máighréad, Marjorie, Marjory, Máirghréad (Irish), Margaretha (Dutch), (German), (Indonesian), (Swedish), Małgorzata (Polish), Margaryta (Ukrainian), マーガレット Japanese ਮਾਰਗਰੇਟ Punjab, مارگریٹ Urdu, മാർഗരറ്റ് Malayalam, 마가렛 Korean, मागरेट Hindi, مارگارت Farsi (Persian), 玛格丽特 Chinese, مارجريت Arabic, মার্গারেট Benjali, მარგარეტო Georgian.

(info from <https://www.names-hub.com/translate/margaret>)

Silver Jewellery commemorating St Margaret

Members may purchase pieces from our silver jewellery collection at the AGM in November or by contacting Guild Treasurer Margaret Williamson on m_doig@hotmail.co.uk.

The marguerite flower with silver petals contains a central pearl that recognizes St Margaret's unofficial title of The Pearl of Scotland.

Current prices:

Earrings £54 per pair
Pendant with necklace £60 each
Brooch £45 each



Postage & Packing will be added to any items requiring shipping.

Margaret Williamson, Treasurer SMCG

photo credit SMCG

Ancient and Modern Tributes to St Margaret: An Icon and a Village

Guild member Charlotte Ann Margaret de Klee, whose Wintershall Theatre annual production of the Easter Passion Play in Trafalgar Square was featured in the July 2023 edition of this newsletter, has attended a workshop on icon painting and prayer with Sr Annette Lawrence DMJ at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell, Godalming in Surrey.

Icons, it is said, are more than pictures, they are windows to the sacred and writing an icon can be a spiritual journey. Charlotte, of course, chose to take this journey with her icon of St Margaret of Scotland, pictured here. She has shared with us one completed icon and another in progress. The next workshop at this centre takes place in May 2026 for any Guild members who might be interested in pursuing this beautiful and creative form of meditation.

“Apart from St Margaret’s Hope in Orkney, there have been no villages or towns in Scotland named after St Margaret until . . .”



photo credit Charlotte de Klee

From this ancient tradition to a very modern enterprise, Charlotte's husband Rupert has been involved in naming a **new village of St Margarets in Midlothian**. This impressive development of luxury homes by Robertson Homes is near Roslin and seven miles south of Edinburgh in **Firth Road, Rosslynlee, EH25 9QF**. Among the Pentland Hills, near Rosslyn Chapel, Rosslyn Castle and Wallace Cave, the development is part of the conversion of the historic Rosslynlee Hospital designed by Scottish Architect William Lambie Moffatt in the 1870s. The firm is a finalist in several categories of the **2025 Scottish Home Awards**, including two designs nominated for show home of the year in St Margarets village.

Queen Margaret University: Award, Anniversary and Public Talk



photo credit Herald Higher Education Awards

Queen Margaret University (QMU) has been crowned Higher Education Institute of the Year at the prestigious **Herald Higher Education Awards 2025**, held in Glasgow on 29th May 2025. Coming in **QMU's 150th anniversary year**, this accolade celebrates the institution's enduring commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, inclusion, innovation and student support.

Pictured here among the jubilant staff members are **Principal Sir Paul Grice**, holding the award and left of him, **Jane Scott**, Director of Marketing and Communications, who often attends our Guild meetings on St Margaret's Day in November, accompanied by students who benefit from the Guild's annual donation to QMU's overseas study

programme. Thanks to generous philanthropic support, including **contributions from St Margaret's Chapel Guild**, QMU were able to support 15 students in undertaking transformative study abroad experiences in 2024/25 enabling life-changing opportunities across the globe including Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Australia and USA.

Acting with Head, Heart and Hand: Margaret, Queen of Scots (d.1093), and Victorian Pioneers in Women's Education and Advancement: A Public Talk and Q&A

The University extends an invitation to join them in celebrating their 150th anniversary with a special event featuring two distinguished historians who will illuminate key figures in the story of Queen Margaret University.

Dr Bill Aird will explore the life of Margaret, Saint and Queen and her remarkable legacy. Discover the long-reaching impact of her choices in educating her daughters, and how she shaped the Scottish royal court, preparing the ground for her son, King David I to transform Scotland. Dr Lesley Orr will then highlight the social movements that led to the creation of QMU, focusing on their inspirational female founders who campaigned for rights and worked to transform opportunities for women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, both within QMU and well beyond.

A female leader of more recent times, Margaret Curran, former MP and MSP, now a member of the House of Lords, will chair what promises to be a fascinating, revealing and inspiring look at the stories of women who acted with head, heart and hand. To register your place at this **free** event on **Thursday 13th November 5.30-7.00pm**, follow this link to the [QMU website](https://www.qmu.ac.uk).

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 Dunn in the first instance by emailing hazel@poststreet.net

Articles for our next Newsletter We're always interested to hear from members with ideas for articles for our newsletter. Please email catrinamarg@aol.com