

# waymark



unitarians in edinburgh

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## St Mark's welcomes the world to the Edinburgh Fringe



Image by Jamie Calder

# A Very Warm Welcome to St Mark's

from Rev Peter Fairbrother



## Summertime and the living is... lively!

Festival time! Yay! (And for those reading this for the first time in September - post-festival time! Yay!) It seems like a mere blink of an eye since last year's festivities, yet here we are again... our church transformed once more into artSpace@StMarks, venue 125, at the Edinburgh Fringe. Yes world, we're ready (or as ready as we'll ever be)!

If curiosity has drawn you to flick through these pages whilst waiting for one of the Fringe shows to start, then I extend to you a particularly warm welcome. Do say hello to us on Twitter - *#UnitariansinEd*, or connect with us on Facebook - *Unitarians in Edinburgh*. We'd love to hear from you. Better still, perhaps you might like to come and meet us on Sunday? Our time together in community continues as usual throughout the festival month. Services are listed opposite, and as you can see they're a light and lovely collection. In August we've got pop, seasonal verse, and travels in time and space. (I'm humming the theme tune as I type!) Things become mellower as we enter the gentle month of September: Rev. Brian Cooper provides us with his reflections on the festival on the 8th; our harvest service, held by Rev John Clifford, follows on the 15th; and the month flutters to a close with the 'Butterfly Effect' led by our very own Jack Bell making his platform debut as service leader on the 29th.

Of course, if the whole festival thing feels somewhat overwhelming you're welcome to join us for some chill-out time. Mindfulness@lunchtime continues throughout August (and onwards) every Tuesday, from 12.15-2pm. Please see the listing on page 10.

How ever you spend the time ahead, I wish you a happy and healthy August and September.

**Much love,**

**Peter**

*Image: The altar of the St. Mark's Earth-based Paths Group, from the meeting held on the 19th June, which welcomed the summer Solstice. It was created by the newly ordained Rev Kim Atherton-Dow. Our congratulations on your ordination, Kim, and wishing you well in all future ministry.*



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# Future Sunday Services at St Mark's

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**Services are at 11am in the church, with coffee and conversation in the hall afterwards. Children sit with their parents for the opening part of the service, and then follow their own programme.**

## **4 Aug — The Return of the Church of Pop!**

*Service led by Rev Peter Fairbrother*

You know you want it! More show tunes and sunny verse, this time to herald the beginning of the Edinburgh festivals.

## **11 Aug — Considering Substance Misuse, Harm Reduction, and Promoting Recovery**

*Service led by Lesley Hartley*

We are pleased to welcome a speaker from Turning Point Scotland Edinburgh Services — a charity that provides support to people experiencing problems with substance misuse.

## **18 Aug — Going with the Flow**

*Service led by Rev Caroline Cormack*

We may like the idea of 'going with the flow' in life but what does this really mean and how do we achieve it, especially during challenging times? This service will explore how we can encourage a freer flow of energy within ourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually.

## **25 Aug — The Most Important Things I've Learnt About Life I've Learnt from Doctor Who**

*Service led by Rev Peter Fairbrother*

Reflections on life inside and outside the box, and I'm not simply talking Tardis!

## **1 Sept — Coming Around Again**

*Service led by Rev Peter Fairbrother*

A lesson is repeated until it is learnt. In life there are no mistakes, only lessons. Today we reflect on our learning edge.

## **8 Sept — Glimpses of Faith at the Festival**

*Service led by Rev Brian Cooper*

Rev Brian Cooper reflects on some Festival shows, with faith related themes.

## **15 Sept — Global Climate Change and Harvests we Depend on**

*Service led by Rev John Clifford*

Preparing the soil, planting seeds, nurturing and caring for the plants, gathering in and processing...at each stage of the harvest, changing weather conditions are making a once predictable (more or less) process very unpredictable. Is there a solution to this present and real threat to our unsustainable model of how we feed ourselves?

## **22 Sept — Thankyou!**

*Service led by Lesley Hartley*

A service to celebrate and say "thankyou" to Rev Peter Fairbrother for all that he has done for us during his first year in ministry at St Mark's. A service with guest appearances, readings and music.

## **29 Sept — The Butterfly Effect**

*Service led by Jack Bell, with Rev Peter Fairbrother*

Even the smallest actions have consequences... Drawing from both personal experience and examples from world history, Jack Bell, a member of St Mark's, reflects on the repercussions of our actions and how they shape our future.

# Lighting the Chalice

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## **St Mark's member Richard Ross recently lit our Chalice with these words.**

Many years ago I was a student in Germany and was able to visit East Germany or The German Democratic Republic as it was officially called. This was a country where the Rule of Law, as we know it, did not obtain – the law was essentially whatever the authorities of the day decided should be lawful or unlawful. I remember the whispered secret conversations and above all the state of anxiety and insecurity in which many people lived.

I had similar experiences in China just a few years ago.

This has left an indelible impression on me and emphasised for me the need to be forever vigilant.

Of course, in the cases I have just quoted this situation came about suddenly and any opposition was ruthlessly suppressed.

However, I believe that threats to the rule of law can happen incrementally, in a haphazard way almost without our noticing. They become the new normal.

Three things have happened in this country which disturb me:

Firstly, the Windrush scandal. I met recently a former colleague whose mother had come to Britain on that ship, answering the call of The Mother Country, worked all her life and then discovered in her twilight years that her status was irregular.

Secondly, the case of people who moved from other parts of the European Union to this country. Their right to do so was incorporated into British Law - both English and Scots. Now suddenly they are asked to apply for "settled status". I have spoken to people here in Edinburgh who have been here for many, many years, worked, brought up families and are in a quandary as to what to do. They are also being asked to pay for a status which they thought was already settled.

Thirdly, there is the matter of removing a person's nationality on the basis that he or she may have committed an offence - as yet unproven in a court of law - and that furthermore he or she may - just may - be eligible to apply for the nationality of another state.

Retrospective legislation which seeks to put right injustice and historic wrongs is one thing, but this is not even retrospective legislation but is rather decision making without due regard to the legal position.

Many people have suffered great anxiety and worse as a result of these measures.

I light this candle for those who have suffered from arbitrary decision-making wherever that may be.

# artSpace@StMarks

## Edinburgh Festival Fringe Programme 2019

**Michael Mulligan, the Venue Manager at artSpace@StMarks introduces this year's Fringe Programme.**

"Hello, my name is Michael Mulligan and once again I have the pleasure and the privilege of being the Venue Manager at artSpace@StMarks for this year's Edinburgh Fringe in August.

For 2019 we have a line-up that is diverse and truly international.

Old favourites such as Richard Michael with his fantastic piano performances, and also with his hugely talented family, will return. Other returning artists include the Royal Scottish Pipers Society; Sheena Jardine; John Sampson with Brass Tracks; Peter Robinson with Missa Brevis Caledoniae; and Peter Jones with the Edinburgh Renaissance Band. Solo pianists are also strong in the line-up with Alastair Cameron and a welcome return for Peter Sievewright.

Guitar music fans are catered for with both Andy Gunn and Steve Garrett.

The international element brings us Arnhildur Valgarðsdóttir from Iceland with traditional singing and music from her homeland; Reeda Kreen and his choir from Estonia; and Nils Brown from Canada with folk music.

As ever, Ross will be on hand for the day-to-day running of the venue and will be waiting with a warm welcome for all our visitors. Here's to a great Edinburgh Fringe, still, and by a long way, the largest international arts festival in the world."

**The Fringe is here so off we go,  
down the Mile from show to show,  
There's something here for everyone,  
will likely rain but pray for sun,  
Venues all and everywhere,  
in pubs, in closes, in church yards fair,  
Music, theatre, good and bad,  
the massive crowds, the cobbled yards,  
Auld Reekie's ancient, calm mystique,  
becomes a crazy world these weeks,  
We'll hear the hoots the battle cries,  
our beautiful city comes alive,  
The pride we feel will swell our chests,  
when visitors hail, "This is the best!"**

*Image by Jamie Calder, words by Christina Harper*



## Alasdair in Concert

**Alasdair Cameron** on piano plays a varied programme reflecting Brahms, Chopin and Schubert's varying takes on patricide, love, tenderness and passion.

**25<sup>th</sup> August** 16:30 — 1h

£13 full price; £8 concession

## Brahms Violin Sonata No. 3 and Stravinsky

**Sheena Jardine** (violin) and **Richard Lewis** (piano) play the beautiful Violin Sonata No. 3 in D minor by Brahms, plus Stravinsky's Suite Italienne, in a varied programme with other delightful violin and piano pieces, including Elgar. The Suite Italienne is an arrangement of some of the movements of Stravinsky's Pulcinella suite, based itself on music by the Italian composer Pergolesi. It is full of quirky melodies and rhythms and very pleasing to listen to. The Brahms sonata is a romantic work with some beautiful lines and different moods and characters.

**6<sup>th</sup> August** 18:30; **14<sup>th</sup> August** 14:30

1h

£10 full price; £7 concession

## Brass Tracks

The **Brass Tracks** quintet returns with a timely show paying homage to our rich cultural ties with Europe. Praised for their excellent technique and attention to stylistic detail, this highly professional ensemble presents musical highlights from the past 500 years, from Monteverdi to Morricone, many of them featuring exciting new arrangements. Consummate musicianship allows Brass Tracks to deliver a diverse and accessible programme with a lightness of touch, and a dash of humour, that will satisfy the expert while entertaining newcomers to the classic brass.

**12<sup>th</sup> August** 18:30

1h

£10 full price; £8 concession; £5 disabled or child

## Edinburgh Renaissance Band's Minstrels and Monarchs

**Edinburgh Renaissance Band** bring the music of great halls, cathedrals and servants' quarters to life. A dozen musicians play a huge range of period instruments including shawms, cornetts, sackbuts, nakers, crumhorns, viols, fiddles, recorders, bells, bagpipes, rackets and a serpent.

**12<sup>th</sup> August** 16:30; **13<sup>th</sup> August** 18:30; **14<sup>th</sup> August** 16:30

1h

£12 full price; £10 concession; children free

## Fingers and Thumbs with Andy Gunn

Scotland's own guitar virtuoso **Andy Gunn** transposes his renowned abilities onto ukulele, classical, steel and cigar box guitars among others. With warm vocals and a heartfelt playing style he offers an eclectic mix of blues, soul and songwriter material woven together in an intuitive way to bring each song and instrument alive.

**3<sup>rd</sup> August** 20:20; **10<sup>th</sup> August** 20:20; **17<sup>th</sup> August** 20:20

1h 20m

£10 full price; £8 concession

## Guitar Discovery

**Steve Garrett** plays new solo guitar music inspired by stories and experiences of landscape, exploration and human endurance which blends jazz, folk, rock and classical genres. Sources include Antarctic expeditions, Gustav Holst, Padruig Mor MacCrimmon, Nan Shepherd and Robert Burns.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August** 12:30

1h

£10 full price; £6 concession

## Icelandic Folk Songs and Stories

**Adda** (Arnhildur Valgarðsdóttir), a professional pianist and singer, performs Icelandic folk songs of various moods and tells stories in between of this eccentric nation's culture. Informative, romantic realistic and comic. The audience is invited, at times, to hum or clap along to some of the songs.

**5<sup>th</sup> August** 14:30; **8<sup>th</sup> August** 14:30; **10<sup>th</sup> August** 14:30

1h

£10 full price; £8 concession; 'Pay What You Want' at door

## Kalevipoeg – Estonian Epic Tale in Songs

The Estonian epic tale Kalevipoeg is written in songs. **NUKU choir** perform these old runic songs mixed with contemporary jazz, adding an ancient storytelling touch to the performance with theatrical elements. Twenty-five singers and musicians are taking you to the magical world of the ancient north, so you can experience old songs with a contemporary jazz choir sound. The songs will be in Estonian, and the narrator's text and programmes in English.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August** 16:30

1h 10min

£13

## Missa Brevis Caledoniae

**Carpe Diem Productions** sing Peter D Robinson's setting of the short mass for choir and soloists in Latin and Scots. The performance features other works by the composer.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August** 20:30

1h

£10 full price; £8 concession

## Peter Seivewright (Pianoforte)

**Peter Seivewright** performs Ronald Stevenson's Passacaglia on DSCH and JS Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C major.

**18<sup>th</sup> August** 19:00

1h 30min

£10 full price; £7.50 concession; £6 child or student

## Tickets

Buy tickets **in person** at **St Mark's Box Office** or from **the Fringe Box Office**, 180 High Street, EH1 1QS; **by telephone** by calling the Fringe Box Office on **0131 226 0000**; or **online** at **www.edfringe.com**

### **Richard Michael BEM at 70: Generations**

Pianist **Richard Michael BEM** celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by appearing with family members Paul Michael (bass), Hilary Michael (violin and sax) and Joanna Duncan (violin), improvising on well-known themes, encompassing jazz, folk and Baroque styles and songs from the Great American Songbook.

**7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August 18:30**

1h 15min

£12 full price; £10 concession; £5 child, student, family, unemployed; 'Pay What You Want' at door

### **Richard Michael BEM at 70: Celebration**

Pianist **Richard Michael BEM** performs a wide-ranging programme of standards looking back on a distinguished career, whilst looking forward to new possibilities in his role as a leading educator, broadcaster and composer. His programme will include well-known tunes from the Great American Songbook, in addition to the music of Robert Burns. Richard will demonstrate his unique skills as a master of improvisation by taking themes suggested by the audience and playing them in any style, tempo and key.

**15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> August 18:30**

1hr 15min

£12 full price; £10 concession; £5 child, student, family, unemployed; 'Pay What You Want' at door

### **Royal Scottish Pipers' Society**

Pipers from the **Royal Scottish Pipers' Society** play a programme of popular marches, strathspeys and reels, as well as jigs and hornpipes, contrasted with more serious piping including some competition pieces, new compositions and a piobaireachd, the classical music of the pipes.

**12<sup>th</sup> August 20:30; 19<sup>th</sup> August 20:30**

2h

£12

### **The Scots Musical Museum: Sea Shanty Sing-a-long Concert**

**Nils Brown**, international tenor in Baroque, classical and Celtic styles performs with **Ronnie O'Byrne**, world champion reciter.

**19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 16:15 & 18:15**

1h 30min

£10 full price; £7 concession

### **Shine**

A variety show performed by students from **The Performance Academy** drama and theatre schools in Scotland. A new show packed full of drama and musical theatre songs, created to make their students shine and leave audiences wanting more!

**24<sup>th</sup> August 17:00**

1h

£12



# Interfaith World Peace Event 2019

**Rev Brian Cooper hosted the Interfaith World Peace Event 2019 at St Mark's on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, with speakers from a number of different faiths taking part. Margery MacKay, from Edinburgh Unitarians, reported on the event.**

The talks were wide-ranging - Sister Louisa Gupta from Brahma Kumaris set a peaceful mood for the event with a Peace Meditation before Alastair Moodie from Glasgow Unitarians spoke about his visit to the 2018 World Parliament of Religions in Toronto. Alastair reminded us that the first World Parliament of Religions took place after an Exposition in Chicago in 1893, when a large number of worldwide delegates were already there. This was the birth of the first formal multi-religious dialogue.

Next Iain Stewart, the Executive Director of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association was interviewed on "Hate Crime" by Rev Brian Cooper. Iain felt that while the "hate crime" situation was getting worse in Scotland it had not yet reached the same level as in England. People in Scotland tend to think "We're all Jock Tamson's Bairns" which Iain felt was partly true; we were quite welcoming but there was a growing undercurrent of "hate crime" such as people calling Muslim women and children names on buses and in the street. Additionally, there had been attacks on Mosques. Iain had also heard that some Jewish people were wondering if they wanted to remain in Scotland. Whenever there was a terrorist incident anywhere in the world "hate crime" incidents went up here. Iain was pleased that our politicians had respect for all faith communities and he hoped that they would do even more to promote this attitude, and that the Interfaith Community in Edinburgh would also promote harmony.

Dr Abdul Hayee, President of the Edinburgh & Fife Ahmadiyya Group, spoke about the Ahmadiyya Muslims for Peace and Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Mirza, a messiah, founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in 1889 as a renewal movement within Islam emphasizing teachings of peace, love, justice, and sanctity of life. Mirza also recognized the teachings of the great religious founders including Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Krishna and Buddha, prior to Mohammad's arrival. Ahmadiyya reject terrorism. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad declared that "jihad by the sword" has no place in Islam.



*From left: Margery MacKay, Rev Peter Fairbrother, Dr Alastair Moodie, Sister Louisa Gupta, Iain Stewart, Rev Brian Cooper (front), Laura Westring, Dr Abdul Hayee*

Dr Hayee said that there were Suras in the Quran that stated it was better to forgive than to take revenge and that if an enemy wants peace, peace should be offered. In their community they did practical things to create harmony such as inviting neighbours to break fast at the end of Ramadan and building hospitals in India and Pakistan.

Laura Westring gave a beautiful summary of the Baha'i faith, and the song "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" was sung.

# In and around St Mark's

## Women's League Annual Lunch Royal George Hotel, Perth

Thursday **15 Aug** at 12noon

An opportunity for League members and their church friends to meet and chat.

For more information contact Barbara Clifford  
e: cliffordbarbara@yahoo.co.uk

## Harvest Collection for St Catharine's Homeless Project

Sunday **15 September**

The Sunday Harvest Service at St Mark's will include a collection for the St Catharine's Homeless Project. This year St Catharine's have asked for donations of tins of **tuna, sweetcorn** and **baked beans**.

## Poetry & Prose Reading for Pleasure

Sunday **15 September** at 1pm

Come and share some favourite poems or prose.

For more information contact Margery MacKay  
e: stmarkssecretary@btinternet.com

## The Bereavement Support Group

Saturday **21 September** at 11am

The Bereavement Support Group offers support to anyone suffering a loss through bereavement, separation or estrangement.

For more information contact Jane Aaronson  
e: ja@ednet.co.uk

## Mindfulness @ Lunchtime

Every Tuesday at 12.15pm

For more information contact Jon Bagust  
f: mindfulnessatlunchtime

## Edinburgh Wild Geese Sangha (Interbeing Buddhist Meditation)

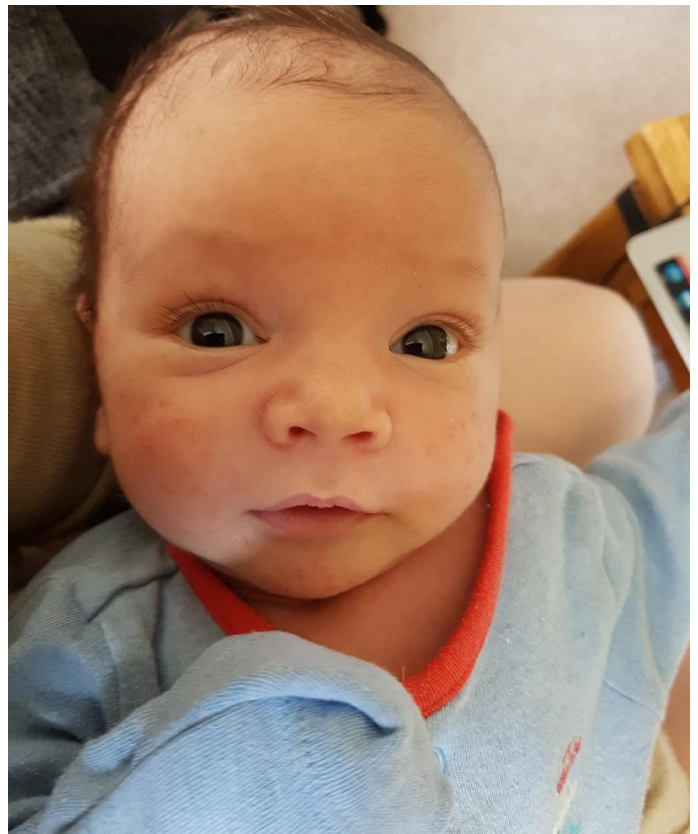
Every Thursday at 7.15pm

# Celebrations at St Mark's!

**Huge congratulations to Julie and Rob Godfrey as they welcomed their beautiful baby son Remus Basil Godfrey into the world on 11th May.**

Rob says "so far we've really enjoyed our transition into parenthood and Remus has made it easy by sleeping peacefully at night (long may this continue)."

Love and blessings to the family from all at St Mark's.



## Waymark Deadlines

**6 September** — October / November issue

**8 November** — December / January issue

**10 January** — February / March issue

**6 March** — April / May issue

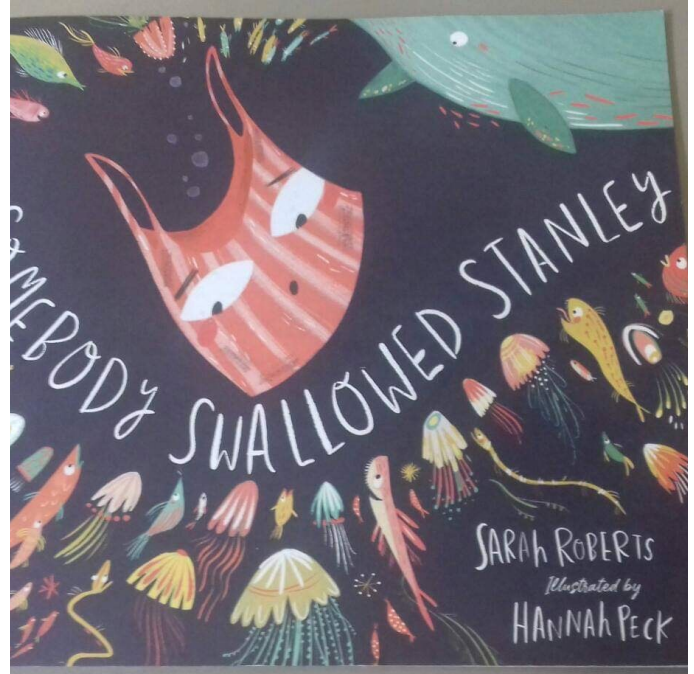
e: editor@edinburgh-unitarians.org.uk

# Children's Corner with Sara Robertson

Hello from the Children's Programme! Over the last few months we have been looking at the natural world and some ways we can connect with nature, both in worship and conservation. June 23rd was our summer picnic. It was a perfect day to visit the park and the children had a great time playing together outside.



To help local bees, we placed a bee drinking station in the church garden.



"Somebody Swallowed Stanley" by Sarah Roberts. A story about plastic pollution in the sea.



Sun inspired weaving for the Summer Solstice.

## Upcoming Themes

Our theme for **August** is "Believe what you read?" looking at how different perspectives can change how things are reported and thinking about how to find the truth or decide what to believe. In **September**, we will be discovering what community means, why it is important and some ways to build connections between people.

We are actively seeking new leaders for the Children's Programme to cover 1 or 2 Sundays in a 2-month cycle. If you would like to get involved or find out more, please speak to Sara, Peter or Lesley or email [stmarkschildrensprogramme@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkschildrensprogramme@gmail.com)

If anyone has any unused yoga or foam camping mats, we would appreciate them to make seating spots for the children's space.

Contact [stmarkschildrensprogramme@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkschildrensprogramme@gmail.com) for more information



**Yesterday is done.  
Tomorrow never comes.  
Today is here.  
If you don't know what to do,  
sit still and listen.  
You may hear something.**

*Image by Christina Harper*

*Words by Carl Sandburg, 1878-1967, Unitarian Universalist Poet*