

waymark

unitarians in edinburgh



Farewell, and Good Luck, Maud

St Marks's Children's Programme Picnic, Sunday 5 June



BLÁTHNAID QUINN reports on an enjoyable event

The sun shone upon our picnic in Prince's Street Gardens! A small gathering of families and volunteers gathered to wish Maud farewell. Ida, the programme co-ordinator, had been busy planning a card for Maud, which the children made during the service. They helped compile a chalice picture together, by stamping parts of the chalice, using one colour each to make an overall image. Some also made individual cards themselves to present to Maud. Bea and Tea gave Maud a Cat Lover key ring, in recognition of her love of felines.

Maud was also the proud recipient of the first inaugural Children's Programme radish. (See photograph on page 6). The children had planted and helped tend the radish crop, which yielded many tasty salad leaves, but just one little radish bulb. It tasted good with houmous apparently. There was a lot of playing, coming down the slide, blowing bubbles, and even an attempt at a game of Twister. Grown-ups reclined on the picnic rugs, sunned themselves and shot the breeze.

Changing times are ahead, but it was lovely to take some time aside, in such good company, on a beautiful day, to bid a gentle farewell, from all the children, to our minister, and to take an opportunity to wish her well, in her journey ahead. Farewell and Good Luck Maud!

Photographs supplied by Bláthnaid Quinn and Susanne Urquhart

St Mark's Unitarian Church Edinburgh, also known as Unitarians in Edinburgh,
is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation Scottish Charity Number SC014167

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Search for 'Unitarians in Edinburgh' on



www.facebook.com

Minister Rev Maud Robinson (0131 659 7600) office
(0131 466 1973) home

Lay Celebrant Joan Cook (0131 552 4479)
(available for rites of passage)

WHO'S WHO

Convener: Mary McKenna (0131 554 1870)

Secretary: Margery MacKay (0131 664 6675)

Treasurer: Brian Robertson (0131 337 9789)

Pulpit Secretary: Lesley Hartley (07718 662008)

Lay Pastoral Team

Co-ordinator: Margaret Ross (0131 283 7481)

Social Secretary: Lynsey Bailey (00078 185449)

Management Committee: Ann Sinclair (0131 664 2944)

Ministry Team: Lesley Hartley (07718 662008)

Church Flowers: Mary McKenna (0131 554 1870)

Music: Jack Westwell

Children's Programme Co-ordinator: Ida Silkenat

Email: stmarkschildrensprogramme@gmail.com

Waymark

Editor Jane Aaronson

for Unitarians in Edinburgh

Email ja@ednet.co.uk

Waymark is published ten times a year for members and friends of St Mark's. Donations towards the cost of publication are always welcome. For more information please speak to Brian Robertson.

We welcome contributions, though space is limited, therefore contributions will be published at the discretion of the editor. Email to ja@ednet.co.uk by the 14th of the month. If you cannot send copy electronically, please note that Audrey Simon will type and email material to the editor. Please contact Audrey at St Mark's.

Attendances

May 22	41 (adults) + 2 (children) = 43
May 29	35 + 2 = 37
June 5	47 + 10 = 57
June 12	47 + 2 = 49
June 19	53 + 2 = 55

SUNDAY DUTIES AT ST MARK'S

SUNDAY STEWARDS

July 3 Rachael King 10 Margery MacKay 17 Lesley & Roger Hartley 24 Ida Silkenat 31 Lesley & Roger Hartley
August 7 John Reid & Mary McKenna

PEACE CANDLE LIGHTING

July 3 Margery MacKay 10 ICUU 17 Tony Finlay 24 Bláthnaid Quinn 31 Gemma Wood
August 7 Susan Cotterill

*International Council of Unitarians and Universalists

WELCOME

July 3 Jill Woolman & Elizabeth Welsh 10 Jane Aaronson & Ross Harper 17 Susan Cotterell & Amy McDonald 24 Rose McDonagh & Tony Finlay 31 Margaret Ross & Heather Coates
August 7 Rachael King & Kate Foggo

COFFEE

July 3 Lynsey Bailey & Margery Giles 10 Lesley & Roger Hartley 17 Margery MacKay & Kris Calder 24 Kirstie Reid & Kate Foggo 31 Bláthnaid Quinn & Rose McDonagh
August 7 Billy Lee & Elisabeth Welsh

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

July 3 Susanne Urquhart & Emily Rueggeberg 10 Ida Silkenat & Lynsey Baily 17 Rachael King & Lesley Hartley 24 Bláthnaid Quinn & Susanne Urquhart 31 Ida Silkenat & Tom Stamper
August 7 Rachael King & Lynsey Baily

FLOWERS

July 3 Mary McKenna 10 Liz Marshall 17 Kirstin Leath 24 Jane Aaronson 31 Margaret Ross
August 7 Kirstie Reid

St Catharine's Homeless Project



The Homeless Project will be closed over the summer and will re-open in September

We will be pleased to add your name to this roster. Please speak to Maud Robinson or Elaine Edwards for more details

(see also page 7)

Progressing our plans for the Next Minister

MARY MCKENNA

Convener of Council reports

The AGM provided a good opportunity for everyone to come together to consider how we go about finding a new Minister. We know this will be a hard job for many reasons, and the Search Committee will take forward the task of identifying a suitable candidate. Members will have the final decision on the appointment of the next minister at a Special General Meeting. Brian Robertson outlined some of the financial challenges he forecasts in the coming years with the current level of giving. The small group discussions confirmed the preference to appoint a full time Minister, though caution was expressed about the costs involved.

The new Council met and considered the long term financial implications of appointing a full time minister. We reviewed the assumptions made about future costs, and reduced some of the provision we had made for accommodation of a future minister. Some of the financial challenges which were predicted will emerge after 2018, and Council agreed some fundraising initiatives to increase the regular giving to address this future funding gap. These include:

- Encouraging all members to make regular contributions through Standing Orders
- Encouraging members and friends to review and increase their Standing Orders annually
- Encouraging legacies, and asking members to consider St Mark's in their will
- Providing envelopes on pews for visitors to donate to St Mark's.

You will be hearing more about these initiatives in the next few months. On the basis of our revised estimates and our plans to increase regular giving, Council is confident we can support a full time minister, and the Search Committee will proceed on that basis.

Also at the AGM, there was substantial agreement to proceed with plans to carpet the upper hall, with the aim of reducing the reverberated noise that is creating difficulties for some people. The Management Committee will take this forward, and would hope to have accurate costs and proposed carpet samples to share during the summer period.

Big thanks to all members of Council who serve us so well with their knowledge, skills and experience. Especial thanks to Rob Whiteman, who is leaving Council, and welcome to our new members, Jane Aaronson and Ida Silkenat. We do need to find a new Treasurer by the autumn, and there will be more about this in future Waymarks.



*REV MAUD ROBINSON reflects on..
.. the transfer of important roles*

Over the past few months, we have been systematically planning and working towards transition at St Mark's. This has left us well prepared for a healthy, positive and loving transition from a period of time with a full-time minister, to a period in which ministerial roles will be co-ordinated and carried out by volunteers. The final stage in this transition – in which I will be involved – will take place over the month of July. Areas of responsibility, which have been largely within my care, will be transferred to those who have volunteered to co-ordinate them, so that by 1 August, I will be able to walk away, confident that St Mark's is in a position to continue thriving and providing compassionate care and inquiring spirituality, to those within our Beloved Community, to those who are searching for what we offer here, and to the wider community.

The two most important roles in my ministry have been leading or facilitating weekly services, and providing pastoral care. The co-ordination of these roles will be assumed by Lesley Hartley, as Pulpit Secretary and Margaret Ross, as Lay Pastoral Team Co-ordinator. In order to facilitate this transition, I am requesting that all enquiries and correspondence about Sunday services and pastoral care be addressed in the first instance to Lesley and Margaret. I will be working closely with Lesley and Margaret to ensure that their questions about their new roles are answered, and glitches are ironed out. If you are corresponding by email, you can copy messages to me. You will find contact details for Lesley and Margaret, and other key people at St Mark's, on page 2 of Waymark.

However, in thinking of this transfer of ministerial roles from the minister to volunteers, let us remember that I have never been solely responsible for ministry within our community. In February 2009 we entered into a Mutual Commitment to Ministry, committing to create Beloved Community by ministering to each other. We have renewed this commitment to each other, each February since then, and although members of St Mark's have many other demands on their time and energy, I have never felt that I have been the only person ministering to the community. From August, the flourishing of our Beloved Community will require an extra level of commitment, not only from volunteers in key co-ordinating roles, but also from all of you who care about what happens at St Mark's. I have no doubt that you will give of your time and energy to the best of your ability.

With love and blessings
Maud

Mindfulness @ Lunchtime

meets at St Mark's at 12.15 pm on Tuesdays

Interbeing Buddhist Meditation

meets at St Mark's every Thursday, usually at 7.15 pm

For further information speak to Jon Bagust

www.facebook.com/mindfulnessatlunchtime

When You Forgive

An address given in St Mark's by REV MAUD ROBINSON on 22 May 2016.

Before Ramadan Muslims observe Lailat al Bara'a – the Night of Forgiveness – when they pray and ask God for forgiveness for their sins. Jews annually observe Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest of their High Holy Days, which is about forgiveness between God and human beings. Synagogues are apparently filled to capacity on that day, even by secular Jews who don't attend synagogue during the rest of the year. Ernie Reay, presenter of Radio 4's religious affairs programme *Beyond Belief*, introduced a programme about forgiveness, saying that his friends told him that – like most Ulster Protestants and most Irish Catholics – he was racked with guilt. He said that from an early age he had had it drummed into him that he needed forgiveness. Some Christian denominations have gone over the top on that need for forgiveness, but Christian forgiveness is based on the Christian belief that God forgives us and therefore we should forgive each other.

An Islamic commentator, a Jewish Rabbi and a Buddhist discussed forgiveness from the perspective of their own faith traditions, with Ernie Reay. I've drawn out a few strands from this discussion to share with you. The Islamic commentator, reacting to Ernie Reay's experience of guilt, said she had never felt racked with guilt, because it's an Islamic concept that God does not burden people with what they cannot carry. She reflected that guilt can be a very debilitating process and she was very grateful that guilt wasn't in her religious upbringing. Islamic justice is based on reparation, rather than on making statements of repentance, and Muslims are required to atone for wrongdoing in practical ways. Forgiveness is between people and God, and there isn't an emphasis on people saying sorry and asking for forgiveness, but human beings have to deal with the practicalities of their wrongdoings, and make reparations for damage caused.

For Buddhists, without a concept of God, there isn't a concept of divine forgiveness, but the Buddhist commentator talked of forgiveness entailing a willingness to look and see what can be transformed within ourselves. He emphasised that the wounded party often needs to be heard, and to have the fault acknowledged before they can forgive. Sometimes it's not easy to forgive until one has allowed oneself to express one's anger and been asked for forgiveness from the perpetrator. This process of being allowed to express one's anger provides a spiritual space in which to begin the journey of forgiveness. All of the commentators stressed that forgiveness is a journey that may take some time, rather just a once-and-for-all glib statement.

The Buddhist spoke about 'the middle way' – a common concept within Buddhist thought – and suggested that some abuses, either in our own personal relationships or in wider affairs, might be so appalling that we feel forgiveness is too big a step to take. In this case Buddhists advocate the meditative practice of equanimity, to safeguard a person from retaliatory action. If one can't actively forgive, equanimity allows one not to hold on to the burden of hatred. If one can't forgive, striving for equanimity is the best thing to do, for one's spiritual health and general well-being.

Ernie Reay also interviewed a South African priest who had been an African National Congress activist. His hands had been blown off, and one of his eyes rendered sightless in a letter bomb attack. He was asked if he could forgive the person who had sent the letter bomb. No one had ever been charged for the crime, and he said he couldn't really forgive until he was asked for forgiveness by the perpetrator. If the perpetrator came and asked to be forgiven, first he would ask

'are you still making and sending letter bombs?' If the answer was 'no', he would be happy to forgive him, and he wouldn't want him to go to prison. However, what he would want was a contribution towards the payment of the assistant he had to employ, because of the loss of his hands. He believed in restorative justice, which chimes with the Islamic thinking mentioned before. He had reached a place where he was willing to forgive but it seemed that in some way he was still carrying that load with him. The Buddhist, having heard this story, suggested that maybe forgiveness can come from within us, despite not knowing the perpetrator, maybe through a prayerful acknowledgement that the perpetrator has been living out their journey carrying a burden of hatred.

The conversation moved on to the very difficult question of forgiving on behalf of a community, or on behalf of those who have died. Relatives, whose family members have been murdered, can sometimes think they owe it to the one who was killed not to forgive. However it was suggested that forgiveness can provide a journey of liberation for them, as they see that their state of paralysis is not what their loved ones would want for them.

Nevertheless, the Islamic commentator gave an example of people who were killed by the secret police in Iran, saying many people found this an impossible situation in which to give forgiveness, because that system of secret police has not been dismantled. It can be very hard to forgive when you are on the losing side, and very especially, when the injustice is still going on. The Jewish commentator mentioned that there had been individual forgiveness by many Jews of Germany as a state, and of individual Germans, but there has been no corporate forgiveness of the German perpetrators of the holocaust from within Judaism.

Is it possible to forgive on behalf of those who are dead? All of the commentators agreed that forgiveness on behalf of others is not truly possible. However we need to think of the future, and therefore a corporate asking for, and giving of, forgiveness is a step in the right direction, and should be supported. Corporate forgiveness in some situations is needed in order for communities not to be caught up in a cycle of hatred, but it's very definitely not straightforward.

One of the commentators used a phrase which struck me very deeply: 'We must learn to hold our labels more lightly.' If we could do this, we might see much more of what we have in common rather than what separates us, and if we had this spirit of moving forward with our commonalities, we would have a better world.

Maybe true forgiveness is for God and for the dead victims to give, but what we can commit to, as human beings, is stepping forward and building bridges, rather than putting all our energies into emphasising our differences.

Two years ago, we welcomed Jean Paul Samputu to St Mark's, to speak about his experience of forgiveness, all who heard him were deeply impressed by the huge and difficult journey of forgiveness he had made. Forgiveness of the people who killed his parents, brothers and sister in the Tutsi genocide seemed so impossible, and undesirable, that it eluded him for years. Only when he found that his own spirit and body were consumed by his own hatred, could he forgive, to heal himself. In an amazing transformation, this man, who previously was full of hatred, became full of love. And that love extends to the greatest extent possible, to the killer of his loved ones. Jean Paul

When You Forgive (continued from page 4)

powerfully lives out his message of forgiveness, by remaining in active contact with his family's killer and sharing a platform with him, to speak about the necessity and power of forgiveness. Jean Paul says: 'Forgiveness is the most powerful unpopular weapon against violence that exists. This weapon does not only fight against community injustice; it also works on one's own heart. Sometimes there is nothing you can do about a particular individual or the situation. Therefore retaining the anger in your heart continues to bring pain and bitterness to you, and may affect your children in future. Forgiveness is therefore not for the other person, but for you who are bitter. When you forgive, you heal yourself.'

Most of us don't have huge or harrowing crimes to forgive, but we all have grudges that we hold against another. One form of forgiveness is throwing off our grudges and encountering people afresh, even if specific words of forgiveness aren't spoken.

Forgiveness is at the heart of much religious practice and experience. Whether one involves God or not, asking for, and giving, forgiveness are important spiritual practices for all of us.

Bernard Meltzer, a popular American radio host said 'When you forgive, you in no way change the past, but you sure do change the future.'

*Copyright Maud Robinson
used by permission
given in St Mark's on 22 May 2016*

Chalice Lighting in St Mark's

by KATI MURRAY

As some you may know Kati suffers from chronic daily pain. She wrote the following poem about her pain. Unfortunately, Kati was able to attend worship on 22 May. Jane Aaronson read Kati's words on Kati's behalf.

Almost ten million Britons suffer pain almost daily, resulting in a major impact on their quality of life.

The battle

Darkness surrounds
My pack grows heavy with challenges
My helmet grows too full of monsters unseen
legs like twisted metal
Pelvis like broken glass
I slash at each foe
illness, pain and fear
I look for friends
Among the fallen
They lie abandoned
Broken
Their souls consumed with pain
I see a white horse
With wings of hope
I get on and ride to lands of healing.

*Copyright Kati Murray
used by permission*

I would like to light this candle today for all those who suffer with chronic pain. May we have hope in our darkness and comfort in our despair.

Volunteers for Fringe Benefits

This August, artSpace@StMarks will host what is probably its largest-ever programme since its inception as an Edinburgh Fringe venue in 1982. From Saturday 6 August to Monday 29 August, there will be a colossal 86 performances in our church.

Our full programme is included in this edition of Waymark. As you'll see, we have up to six performances a day. Please take a moment to peruse the programme. We guarantee there is something for you, whether your taste is Brahms; puppetry; Johnny Mathis; Renaissance song and dance; Scottish piping; Herald Award winner Cathal McConnell; Vivaldi, or the return of last year's sell-out comedy smash, *The Gin Chronicles*. It's all waiting for you at St Marks this year, from the beloved Richard Michael to the nightmarish *Nosferatu* with live musical accompaniment.

During the three weeks of the Fringe, St Mark's is a vibrant, joyous place, welcoming several thousand visitors from all over the world. Most are, naturally, here for a show - our building's acoustics are particularly praised - however, others, seeing our open door, simply take the opportunity to have a look around our magnificent church. Often we have tourists introducing themselves from other Unitarian congregations. Consequently, it would be wonderful to have as many of St Mark's congregation as possible on site during August. For that reason, I am now seeking volunteers to look after our box office.

Many of last year's volunteers have already said they want to help again, but I'd love even more of you to take up the opportunity of joining us. Shifts last for around four hours, although if you wish to volunteer for longer, that would be most welcomed. This year, shifts will be available from 9.30am to 11pm. You can do as many, or as few, shifts as you wish.

In return for volunteering, I'm pleased to announce you will receive two free tickets for any show (subject to availability) for every shift you work!

As a volunteer, you will never be alone on a shift. At least one other member of staff, one experienced in running the church as an arts venue, will be in the building at all times. The work is never pressurised or physically strenuous. On the contrary, as a volunteer of many years standing, I can personally assure you that while staff must be professional, committed and courteous throughout, we always remember the bottom line: this is a festival! By being a St Mark's volunteer, we'll make sure you enjoy being part of the biggest arts festival on earth!

If you become a volunteer you will:

- see the Fringe Festival from a different perspective
- represent our Unitarian community and beautiful city of Edinburgh to visitors
- provide cover that might otherwise have to be paid for, thereby you enhance St Mark's income

Please do get in touch with me if you would like to discuss being a volunteer. It would be great to have you on the team!

*Ann Sinclair in collaboration with
Ross [front-of-house manager]*

Email annsinsclair530@btinternet.com 0131 664 2944

In and Around St Mark's

Website Appreciation



As some of our readers will know, a team from St Mark's, led by our minister, Maud Robinson, has been working on a new updated website, fit for the 21st century. It was launched on 4 June. Suffice to say that the new website is wonderful. Check it out, if you haven't already done so! In this issue of Waymark, we record our most grateful thanks to James Barry and John Wilkinson, volunteer members of the DUWIT team.

James, was for many years, our webmaster, and he has been most helpful in assisting our consultant, Caroline Puck Graves and our St Mark's team of volunteers, in the design of our new website. John, again for many years, has been patiently placing Waymark onto our website each month. We thank them both.

Photograph by Joan Wilkinson

The Refugee Survival Trust

St Mark's Good Cause in July and August

The good cause in St Mark's during July and August is The Refugee Survival Trust. This is a volunteer-led charity that provides grants to asylum claimants and refugees living in Scotland. It was set up in 1996 by a number of concerned individuals, as a reaction to the problem of refugees and people who claim asylum, and are being made destitute in Scotland. The Refugee Survival Trust provides grants to asylum claimants and refugees living in Scotland.

At the service at St Mark's on 11 October 2015, Sarah Tolley (fundraiser) and Agatha Kai-Kai (trustee) spoke movingly about the work of The Refugee Survival Trust. They explained that the charity had provided small grants via other refugee agencies, so that in 2014, they were able to help sixty-three refugee families in Scotland.

The congregation was most impressed by Sarah and Agatha's presentations and a special collection was taken on that day. Subsequently the decision was made to support The Refugee Survival Trust by way of one of our good causes this year.

The Refugee Survival Trust's aims and objectives are to:

- provide an immediate response to asylum seekers and refugees who apply for assistance.
- increase opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to be active citizens.
- raise awareness of the issues facing asylum seekers and refugees.
- contribute to the development of policy and good practice with reference to refugees and asylum seekers.

<http://www.rst.org.uk/http://www.rst.org.uk/>



Our Refugee was made by Ronald Rae. It was constructed around 1980. She is apparently a woman, though her identity is not easily determined. She, like many refugees, has been ignored and invisible, though she has been on the platform for years.

The photograph on the left, below, taken by Ida Silkenat, is of our minister, Maud Robinson, reading the story at our service on 8 April. The photograph on the right, below, supplied by Bláthnaid, shows Maud being presented with a radish, at the picnic on 5 June. The radish was grown by the children.

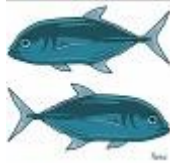


ST CATHARINE'S HOMELESS PROJECT

The good cause in September and October will be The St Catharine's Convent Homeless Project.

In September, (the exact date will be announced in August/September Waymark) our 'Friendship Table' will receive our annual donation of consumable items for the St Catharine's Homeless Project. This year the Project would like us to collect tins of **Tuna** and **Sweetcorn**.

The homeless project gives support to the homeless in Edinburgh, the number of whom is increasing all the time. As well as serving over 90,000 free meals a year, the project offers a huge range of services, from guidance with job applications; help for support groups for addicts; to counselling and help in seeking medical assistance.



The project is used by up to two hundred people a day. These range from long-term homeless people who are sleeping rough or staying in hostels around the city, to old age pensioners who bus in from their flats in the

Edinburgh estates for a meal and some company.

On Friday evenings, two people from St Mark's help serving the meals. If you would like to be a part of this worthwhile initiative, please speak to Maud Robinson or Elaine Edwards elaine.m.edwards@virginmedia.com

Image from Clip Art

Uniting for Peace : Summer 2016 Edinburgh Inter-Faith Peace Occasion

at St Mark's

on 5 July
at 7.15 pm

Speakers will include

Rev John and Mrs Joan Miller *who will report on the 2015 Parliament of World Religions*

Ian Mills, *founder-director of the charity Abraham's Children in Need*

Brian Cooper *will report on UFP's 2015-6 Edinburgh Christian-Muslim peace dialogues*

Sister Louisa Gupta of Brahma Kumaris will conduct a Meditation for Peace, and there will be prayers from different traditions

Baha'i musician, Maureen Hunter, will play music for peace on the clarsach

(Donations requested to help cover costs)

More information from Rev Brian Cooper
UFP Churches & Inter-Faith Secretary, 0131-446-9545

WORSHIP STUDIES FOUNDATION COURSE 2016

*A course in taking services of worship,
leading to a General Assembly recognised qualification*

will take place at St Mark's
from 11 am to 4 pm
on the following Saturdays

10 September, 24 September and 1 October

The course will take the form of a series of workshops for those interested in leading worship in their own or other churches, or who are interested in increasing their participation in services led by others. Participants will benefit from the expertise of others.

Topics will include

What do we mean by worship? Themes, Prayers,
Structuring a Unitarian service of worship,
Presentation, Music, Reflections, Poetry
Practicalities, Use of Technology,
Something for children?
Communication, using texts from other faiths

The course meets the requirements of the WSC panel for the WSC Foundation Level Certificate. Those wishing to obtain the GA recognised WSC Foundation Level Certificate will need to deliver two original services for assessment following the course.*

The SUA has agreed to offer financial support with travelling expenses.

Cost of lunch, (and if required the purchase of ABC of Lay Preaching) to be borne by the individual.*

For further information, or to register,
please contact Joan Cook joancook@hotmail.co.uk

**Optional there may be costs involved.*

Baby Blessing at St Mark's



Hamish, son of Clare Duffy and Valérie Blanc, was blessed, by our minister, Rev Maud Robinson, at St Mark's, on the afternoon of Sunday 29 May.

Photograph supplied by Maud Robinson

Congratulations to Rob Whiteman

St Mark's member, ROB WHITEMAN, has been training for Unitarian ministry. On 12 June, our Convener, Mary McKenna, presented Rob, a keen cricket enthusiast, with a cake suitably decorated, by Mary, which he shared with the congregation. Rob will be sadly missed. He played a very full part in the life of St Mark's, including leading worship, being a member of various committees, volunteering and writing articles for Waymark.



His Valedictory Service took place at Unitarian College Manchester on 14 June. This marked the formal end of his ministry training, and his recognition as a Minister of Liberal Religion. He is the first person from the Edinburgh congregation, in many years, to have trained for the Unitarian ministry. We wish Rob well in his ministry.



THIS MONTH IN ST MARK'S

Most events in this diary are open to everyone, and we look forward to seeing you at them.

New courses and groups start up each year, and you are all invited to join. If you are interested in arranging an event, or starting a group at St Mark's, speak to Maud Robinson (Minister) (0131 466 1973) / maudrobinson@googlemail.com

Saturday 2	11.00 am	Waymark folding and mailing For details email ja@ednet.co.uk
Tuesday 5	7.15 pm	Uniting for Peace : Summer 2016 Edinburgh Inter-Faith Peace Occasion (more details on page 7)
Sunday 10	10.15- 10.45 am	Chalice singing group rehearsal
Saturday 16	11.00 am	Bereavement Group
Sunday 24	10.15- 10.45 am	Chalice singing group rehearsal
Saturday 30	11.00 am	Waymark folding and mailing For details email ja@ednet.co.uk
Saturday 31	2.00 - 5.00 pm	Maud's Farewell Party (more details below)

Everyone's welcome
to
Maud's Farewell Party

on
31 July
from
2.00pm to 5.00pm
at
34 Inverleith Terrace
Edinburgh, EH3 5NU

'Let's hope the sun continues to shine'

SUNDAYS IN ST MARK'S

Services are at 11.00 in the church, with coffee and conversation in the upper hall afterwards. Children sit with their parents for the opening part of the service, and then follow their own programme. The good cause in July and August is The Refugee Survival Trust. See page 6 for more details

Sunday 3 July Rev Maud Robinson

Let's Settle this God Thing Once and for All

An ambitious proposal from writer, Anne Lamott. Let's give it a try and see how we get on!

Sunday 10 July Rev Maud Robinson

We Are What We Repeatedly Do...

... Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. ~ Aristotle

Sunday 17 July Rev Maud Robinson

The Refugee Crisis – Can We at St Mark's Make a Difference?

Tommy Sheppard MP (Edinburgh East) will speak about the Refugee Crisis. At our AGM we agreed that we – as a congregation – should become involved in advocacy for over a million people caught up in the current Refugee Crisis in Europe.

Following the service, you are invited to a Q&A session with Tommy Sheppard (on any matters which concern you).

Sunday 24 July Rev Maud Robinson

Being an Eco-Congregation

We have joined the eco-congregations network; but this means nothing unless we do something practical about it.

Sunday 31 July Rev Maud Robinson

Endings – Transitions – New Beginnings

This will be Rev Maud Robinson's final service as minister with the Beloved Community of Unitarians in Edinburgh.

Poetry Reading for Pleasure Group

is taking a holiday over the summer and

will meet again on
Sunday 11 September at 12.45

*want to know more?
please speak to Margery MacKay*