

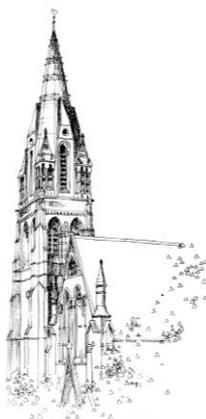
MAYFIELD SALISBURY PARISH CHURCH
EDINBURGH

Online Worship Material Available 8.00am Every Sunday

Sunday 9 August 2020

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Is it a memory or another dream?



Is it a memory or another dream
That golden afternoon in which we walk
Together through the meadow? Touch and talk
Are mingled as we sit beside the stream
And watch the minnows swim against the flow.
They dart between dark shadows and the gleam
Of sunlight in green water – come and go
Like us from depth to height – suddenly seem
Translucent in the glancing lights that show
Where their quick-stirring forms are flickering.
We watch and hold each other's hands till evening,
And as we watch, our souls dart to and fro
Between the lights of speech and depths below,
The silent depths where touch is everything.

*Printed with permission, Malcolm Guite
from The Singing Bowl
Canterbury Press*

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

AS A DIVERSE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP ALMIGHTY GOD



Welcome **Revd Helen Alexander**

[Click to view](#)

Good morning to the members and friends of the congregation of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church and welcome to all who are joining in this worship online for the 9th Sunday after Trinity.

Last Wednesday evening Mayfield Salisbury's church doors were opened again to those wishing to come in for Five Minutes Peace *(or more)*. I'm sure we're all delighted to have reached this stage in reopening the building and look forward to Sunday morning worship from the beginning of September. This will inevitably be a different experience from that enjoyed before the coronavirus, and the online services will continue for those who are likely to prefer these.

But this is anticipating a few weeks ahead, and I invite all to join me in a short period of silence in preparation for worship now.

Scripture Sentences

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people.....
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps. *(Psalm 85: 8, 10 – 13)*

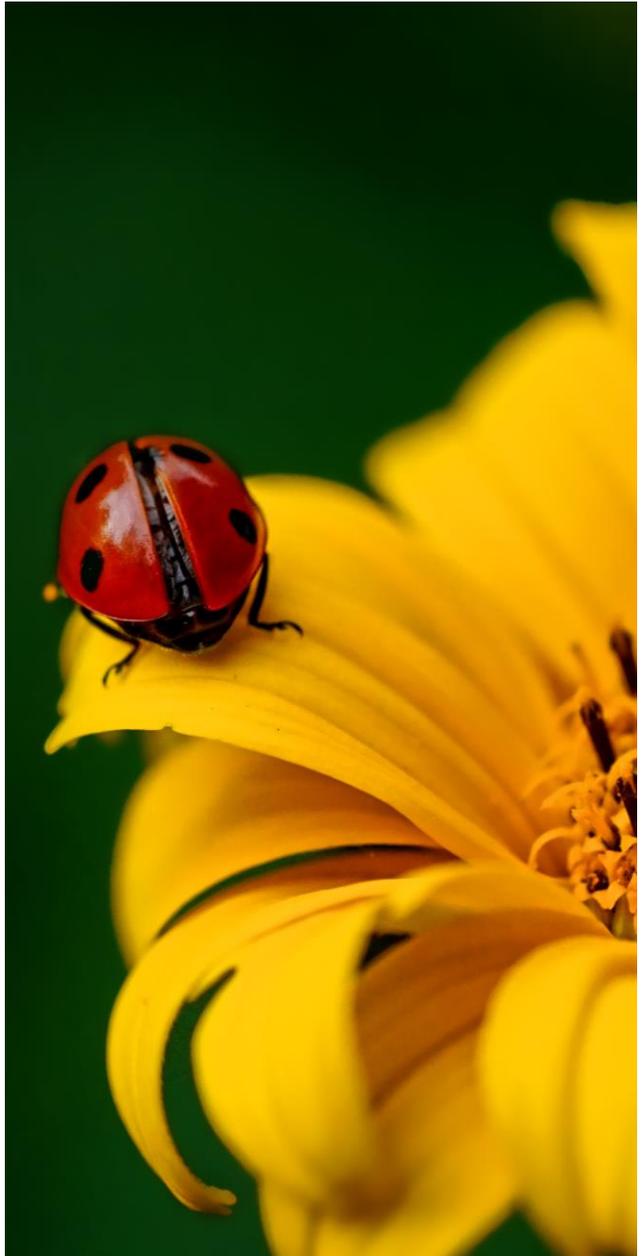
Let us pray

'Let me hear what God the LORD will speak'.

Forgive us, good Lord, when we are so quick to speak that we fail to listen; when from anxiety, helplessness or pain, we suppose that unless we find words for our distresses as well as our joys, we have no hope of the peace of your presence.

Help us to still ourselves, trusting in the grace and attentiveness of heaven. Help us to quieten ourselves as a mother soothes her child and to trust in your faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bless us now, frail vessels that we are with our mixture of joy and sadness, pain and pleasure, anxiety and pride; and help us so to open ourselves like a flower in summer that we may discover the grace that lies within us as well as acknowledging that which makes us fearful or ashamed.



We lay the past week before you now remembering the good things as well as those that might cause us and others pain. Help us to listen in silence now for your still small voice of kindness, sympathy, and the assurance of forgiving love...

We lay the week that lies ahead before you: that which may make us worried and preoccupied as well all we may anticipate with happiness and pleasure. Help us to listen in silence now for your encouragement of our joy, and for comfort and courage in the words of Jesus Christ our Lord: *'Lo I am with you always to the end of the age.'*

Hear us as we commit this time of worship and the rest of the day to the continuing grace of your Holy Spirit.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Spirit is ever sent to be the life and light of your church, open our hearts to the riches of your grace that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Children's Message Hillary Leslie

[Click to view](#)

Matthew 14:22-33

Good morning everyone! It's really nice to be here with you again this morning. I'm thinking about all of you this week as some of you prepare to go back to school.

During the summertime I always think back to my time spent as a camp counsellor in Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania we can get really big thunderstorms – heavy rain, lots of thunder and lightning and really powerful winds! I know it doesn't storm very often in Edinburgh, but I wonder if any of you have seen a big thunderstorm.

Each week at camp, the campers would go on a white-water rafting trip, which went ahead rain or shine. I wonder if any of you have heard about white-water rafting? It's where a group of people pile into a boat with paddles and make their way down a river that's moving really fast, over big waves called rapids; they are moving so quickly that they turn the water white! It's a lot of fun but can also be really scary.

One year, my first time rafting, I went with a group of campers on a very stormy day, and we didn't have a guide in our boat – it was raining really hard while we were in the boat, and you could hear the thunder rumbling in the trees. I remember being really scared because of the storm and how dangerous the water felt, and also because I felt responsible for keeping all of the kids in my boat safe.



My campers were also really scared, and a few of them gave up paddling, and we started to lose control of the boat. As we went down a big rapid, our boat capsized, and I was the only one who was able to stay in the boat. All of the girls who fell out were frightened, and I managed to pull them back in with the help of another boat. We reached a calm part of the river, and the sun started to come through the clouds as the storm passed. We decided to pray because most of us were feeling like we couldn't keep rafting even though we were only halfway done; our fear of the thunderstorm and the water was so big, that we asked for God's strength to give us confidence to keep going because we didn't believe in ourselves that we could do it. We made it to the finish and ended up having a lot of fun, even after our boat flipped over!

Not only do we experience real storms, like the thunderstorm I went through while rafting, but we also go through other 'storms' in our lives that can be really difficult. It might be moving to a new town or a friend moving away, getting a disappointing or unexpected exam result, or feeling scared going back to school during the coronavirus pandemic. These are all really scary – how can we handle these big feelings and get through the storms?

In our Bible story today, the disciples are in a boat on the lake during a strong, windy storm. And then they see Jesus walking across the top of the water towards them. He isn't swimming in the water, but he is walking on top and he doesn't sink! Jesus calls Peter to 'Come,' so Peter gets out of the boat to walk on the water to Jesus. Peter comes toward Jesus, but he gets frightened and begins to sink into the stormy waves. Jesus reaches out and catches Peter saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Now you might have heard this story told and think the message is that Peter sinks because he doesn't trust God. But Peter doesn't sink because he lacks faith in God; Peter sinks because he doesn't have faith in himself as one of God's children.

God calls us to do many things, and sometimes these things are really hard, and might be something we are really scared to do. We might think these things are impossible, that we can't get through these experiences, or we can't do these things. But God has faith in each of us. God wants you to have that same faith in yourself. God wants each of us to believe that through God, we can do what we are called to do, and we can make it through the storms the pop up in our lives. When we have that faith in ourselves as a child of God, we will see that we are stronger than we think, and we can make it through the storm.

Let's close our eyes and pray together, repeating after me:

**Holy God, thank you for these last few days of summer;
For friends, sunshine, and long lie-ins.
Be with us this week as we return to school,
And help us face our scary storms.
Remind us to have faith in ourselves,
Just as you have faith in us.
Please bless those who are hurting today,
With your love and peace.
Amen.**

HYMN 404

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning

[Click to view](#)

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth --
at Bethlehem
I had my birth.

*Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John --
they came with me
and the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame,
the holy people
said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high,
and they left me there
on a Cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black --
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body
and they thought I'd gone --
but I am the Dance
and I still go on.

They cut me down
and I leapt up high --
I am the life
that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you
if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord
of the Dance, said he.

*Played by Kate Pearson sung by Stuart Mitchell
Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004)
Words and Music: (c) 1963, Stainer & Bell Ltd, PO
Box 110, Victoria House, 23 Gruneisen Road,
London N3 1DZ*

WE LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Readings **Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 – 28**

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

St Matthew 14: 22 – 33

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

Readers: Wendy Mathison and Kay McIntosh

Reflection **Revd Helen Alexander**

[Click to view](#)

Matthew and Mark both tell the story of Christ's walking on the water which is reminiscent of that of the stilling of the storm told by St Luke as well as by the other two.

For the people of the ancient world, a rough sea signified chaos, and what for us are impersonal forces of water and wind could for them quickly become manifestations of evil spirits. In the Old Testament, God is Lord of all creation, and is poetically envisaged as mastering the sea by superior power in Psalm 77:

**¹⁶When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.**

**¹⁷The clouds poured out water;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on every side.**

**¹⁸The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and shook.**

**¹⁹Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.**

**²⁰You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

The last couple of verses of the psalm appear to hark back to the crossing of the Red Sea by the Children of Israel led by Moses and Aaron, as recorded in the Book of Exodus. For St Matthew, Jesus was the new Moses; and for all the evangelists the earthly Christ exhibited God-like features. So, whatever incident may form the basis of today's Gospel story, the readers and hearers of the day would have called to mind Scriptural references to divine power over the sea and God's walking on the waters with unseen footprints, as the writer of Psalm 77 so eloquently put it.

It all goes to show that you need to read the New Testament with an eye on the Old, in the same way that young people today can't understand classic English literature if they don't have some knowledge of the Christian Scriptures.

Whatever we might think of Jesus' capacity to exert power over stormy waters, I think it's possible to miss important elements in today's story by focussing exclusively on the apparently miraculous. In identifying words for these additional elements, I'd choose separation, faith and worship.

At the beginning of their story, both Matthew and Mark stress the separation of the disciples from Jesus. He goes off to pray in the hills alone, while making or constraining his followers to get into the boat to cross the sea ahead of him. This appears to imply some reluctance on their part.

Our minds might readily go to the separation we've experienced in recent months, as the coronavirus interrupted our normal lives and has significantly affected how we conduct our relationships. For most of us, lockdown has meant separation from some family members at least and friends, and has been agony for many, eased only recently and with the ever-present threat that longed for connections may be discontinued again.

Connection and the pain of separation affect all human beings. Contemporary research reveals the extent to which tiny infants just out of the womb respond in amazing ways to close personal touch and to sound, and it's been long been recognized that for a child to be separated from a principle caregiver for too long has profound implications for later life. Perhaps many adult struggles in the difficult days we've experienced recently hark back to this sort of early trauma, half buried in consciousness. We all need connection, from the day we're born and even before it, however much we may sometimes deny this or try to remain strong for the sake of another.

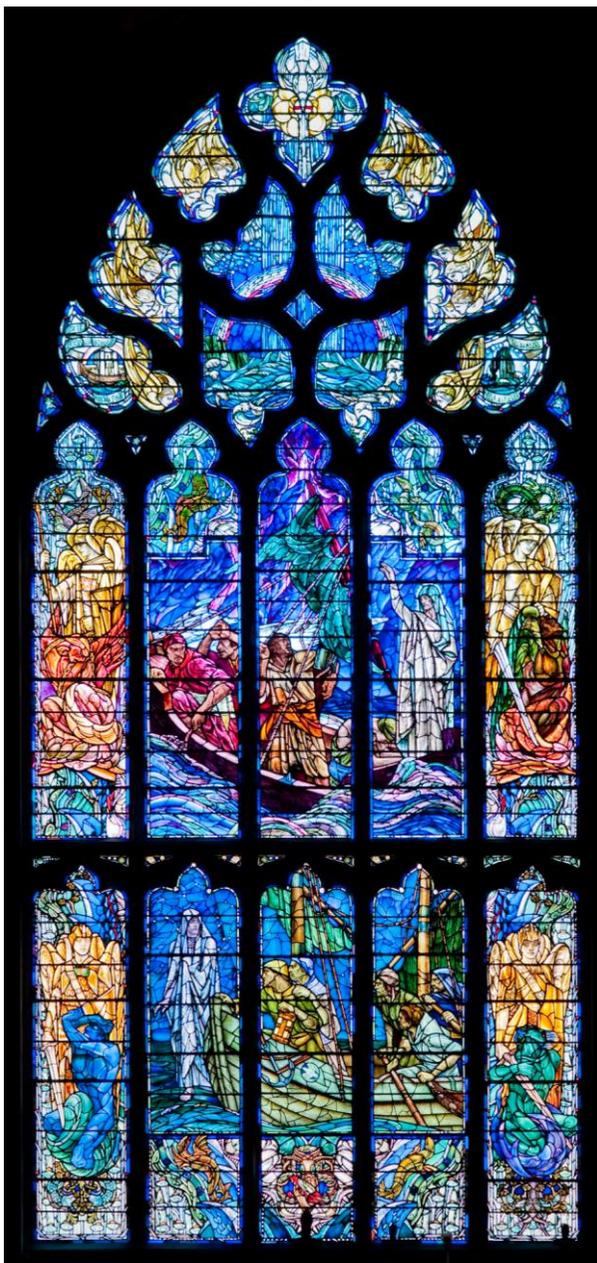
In the end, Christ came to his disciples, perhaps just as they reached tipping point in the way that children can be poised on the edge of separation-anxiety before they too tip into the darkness of nameless dread. It's to be hoped that the easing of lockdown has come in time for many of us joyfully to re-engage with people face-to-face without lasting symptoms of distress, although we do know that the mental health of the nation is a matter for concern, and we must surely support all efforts to meet emerging need, looking to our own and that of those we care for as we do so.

And so to what Christian faith might offer in response to the agony of separation and the hope of healing and redemptive touch. In the story, the

disciples got their Lord back, and all was made right again. Would that it were so simple for us, perhaps!

Possibly for some, faith is mostly a tranquil journey over a comparatively calm sea, with rarely a storm or even a light squall to trouble a life committed to God in Christ.

For many more of us, I suspect, the voyage of faith has proved much more difficult. It may have begun significantly, even startlingly, with confidence and certitude; or perhaps it is as if we've been sailing in the comparative security of some kind of intuitive, developing understanding for as long as we remember. Yet, however the journey began or continued, difficulties may have emerged along the way: a decided rocking or two of the boat, for example, stormy passages, or the jettisoning of outworn articles of belief while being unsure what new cargo might be taken aboard; sometimes perhaps a perilous sense of capsizing. We might have felt, or still feel barely afloat on the sea of faith; or beached somewhere, hearing only:



*North Window St Giles' Cathedral Edinburgh
Photograph by Peter Backhouse*

*“Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar
Retreating, to the breath Of the night-wind”*

... as Matthew Arnold eloquently put it in his poem *Dover Beach*.

If this is true for some of us, it seems we are in tune with the age – which could itself be something of a consolation.

I wonder though if St Matthew might point us in the direction of greater consolation when, at the end of his story he tells us that the disciples worshipped Jesus as he stepped into their boat followed by a shame-faced Peter, dripping wet.

Our experience of worship might take many forms: spreading our arms in thanksgiving to the source of life on the top of a mountain or deep in a wood for example; or opening our minds in imagination to Christ as a personal, supportive companion who would grasp us when, like Peter we are in danger of being overwhelmed; or taking quiet moments at the beginning of a day or at its end when the matters of the day are committed to God in Christ sometimes with awareness of presence or, probably more often, in a habitual exercise of commitment; or joining in company with others, remotely as now or in a building, when our connection with other worshippers may help us in our struggle or our joy; or perhaps feeling alienated from the company of the faithful yet hoping that some essential sacredness might somehow touch our starved and longing souls, and so, coming back from time to time in the hope of nourishment for our disbelief.

I suggest that all these experiences might pass as worship in its broadest sense. An attempt to grade them in terms of superiority would seem of limited value. We are as varied as the disciples in the boat, including the one who floundered around overboard. And as they did, we know what it is to love and to lose; to feel the pain of separation and to long for restoration; and just sometimes to lose ourselves in gratitude, thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN

Voluntary

Kate Pearson

[Click to view](#)

Intermezzo Op. 118 No. 2

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

We offer our heart-felt prayer for the agony of Beirut and Lebanon: the horror of the recent accident in the shattered city within a country of existing struggle and hardship. We pray for the people there, the injured and those who are bereaved. We remember all who are engaged in efforts of rescue and relief and those from other nations now embarked on mercy missions, praying for courage and resilience for all. We think of the process of investigation and pray for all involved including those whose responsibility it was to protect the safety of the city and its port.



We pray for other nations brought particularly to our attention in past days, thinking especially of the people of Melbourne, stricken cities in India, centres of coronavirus in Africa, the Americas, Europe and at home, making our prayers for the whole world in various stages of dealing with this massive threat to health, prosperity and the welfare of the poorest.

We pray for all organisations dedicated to betterment in our world of gross inequality, remembering the work of Christian Aid and especially today the emergency appeal being made in its name for help and relief of nations struggling to cope with the impact of coronavirus. We think of the global

nature of its work and that of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee, giving thanks for all these and other organisations that work in our name and for the sake of the powerless, the vulnerable and those most at risk from the ravages of nature and from callous inhumanity.

We pray for children and young people in this strangest of summers, offering our hope that they have enjoyed re-engagement with their friends and the wider members of their families. We think of those who have received news of grades that will determine their immediate future, praying for those who are delighted or disappointed, angry, and anxious about the next step. And we remember teachers and parents and friends who support them.

We pray for people we know intimately and name quietly now. We pray for those who may come suddenly into our minds now, and those who are never far from our attention and remembrance. We pray for those whose needs we know about, or guess at. We remember those in trouble, those who are ill, or are worried about themselves and other people. We bless those who give us far more than we ever suppose we give them. We think of those with whom we share tears and laughter, sadness and joy, and the quiet unassuming gift of friendship.

And rejoicing in the Communion of Saints, we remember all dear to us who are held with us in the unbroken fellowship of the church in heaven and on earth, making our prayers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

HYMN 286 **Tell out my soul**

Woodlands

[Click to view](#)

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

*Played by Kate Pearson sung by Stuart Mitchell
Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) based on the Magnificat from The New English
Bible Words: (c) Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa; (c) Hope
Publishing Company for the United States of America and the rest of world.*

BENEDICTION

[Click to view](#)

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you
And the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all.

AMEN Full choir

[Click to view](#)

Prayer for Lebanon

*God, our refuge in times of trouble we pray for our
brothers and sisters in Beirut today.*

*Lord, be with the emergency services as they battle to
help the thousands injured.*

Lord, hold those who have lost loved ones in the palm of your hand.

Lord, we pray for wisdom for leaders as they make difficult decisions.

*Lord, open our hearts - may they be full of compassion
for the suffering we see. Stir us to action.*

*In the tragedy of loss, we pray your comfort in
the chaos and injury, we pray your calm and divine healing.*

In the devastation and the heartbreak, we pray your peace.

We pray that in the despair that lies amid the rubble of the explosion

*There will be glimmers of hope and life. **Amen.***



INTIMATIONS

1. **PASTORAL CARE** The Revd Neil Gardner may be contacted with pastoral care enquiries on 0131 556 3515.
2. **ANNUAL LEAVE** Hillary Leslie will be on annual leave 16 to 22 August inclusive.
3. **CHRISTIAN AID URGENT APPEAL**
We recently received the following urgent appeal from Christian Aid, which we very much hope you will consider supporting:

Last year, over 45 million people were forced from their homes by conflict and violence. Families who have suffered so much need your help now more than ever to face the deadly threat of coronavirus. Millions of lives are at stake.

Coronavirus is the latest threat to their safety. Families who have fled conflict and hunger are now living in crowded camps where social distancing is impossible. In these places there is limited access to medical care, clean water or enough food, making people extremely vulnerable to coronavirus. **Here, the virus is likely to be even more deadly than it has been in the UK. Deaths are already mounting.**

We've joined the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to raise urgent funds for communities living in extreme poverty and conflict in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Please help us protect refugees and vulnerable people in the world's most fragile places today.

We're already responding to the Covid-19 outbreak by delivering life-saving information and hygiene support, personal protective equipment and food packages to communities in need. Your donation can help us to:

- provide families with clean water, soap and information on keeping themselves safe
- give frontline medical and aid workers the equipment and supplies they need to care for the vulnerable and sick
- ensure families get enough food to prevent malnutrition, particularly amongst children

Help families who have lost everything as they face this deadly threat.

If you'd like to contribute, click on the link [Please donate now](#) or visit the Christian Aid website at www.christianaid.org.uk Cash and cheques cannot currently be accepted, but you can make a donation by telephone on 020 7523 2269. Thank you!

The Christian Aid Committee

4. **5 MINUTES' PEACE RE-OPENING** We are delighted to announce that 5 Minutes' Peace, opening the Sanctuary of Mayfield Salisbury Church to members of the congregation and the wider public for private prayer and meditation, will recommence this week. **It will take place every Wednesday from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.** Strict social distancing protocols will be in operation and visitors must wear a face covering. Come and experience once again the beauty and peace to be found within our Sanctuary.

5. **YOUTH UPDATE**

Youth & Parent Surveys now available: Hillary has created surveys for the parents and youth looking over the 2019-20 youth programming term, including the virtual programming since March. These are very helpful to continually improve youth programming at MSPC, and to aid with the planning process for the upcoming term, so if you haven't gotten a copy and would like to take part, please get in touch with Hillary!

Virtual Youth Programming: The *virtual* youth schedule for the month of July can be accessed on the church website under the 'Young People' tab. All youth programming will be held over Zoom. New virtual youth consent forms must be sent to Hillary before attending a session. For log-in access to the Zoom sessions, or to get a copy of the consent forms, please contact Hillary!

6. **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS** Psalm 133 and St Matthew 15:21-28

7. **VACANCY UPDATE** Over the past few months the Nominating Committee has met several times courtesy of Zoom which on the whole has worked very well for us. As you may be aware the Commission of the General Assembly recently issued guidance to assist congregations and Nominating Committees during the Covid-19 pandemic. You will wish to know that in the light of this and the interest expressed in the vacancy to date we have set a **deadline of**

10 August for applications which is now advertised on the Church of Scotland website.

The Nominating Committee will have to rely on different methods for assessing candidates to those normally used but we are confident that we will be able to make progress. When we reach the point of a sole nominee preaching we will do our best to ensure that all those entitled to vote will be able to see and hear the nominee conduct the same act of worship and be able to participate in the vote.

Depending on the Covid-19 restrictions applying at the time, this part of the process may take longer than usual and we will issue advice and guidance on the process when we reach that stage.

Meantime we ask you to keep us in your prayers.

Boyd McAdam. Convener

8. **ONLINE OFFERING / DONATION** The Church is very grateful to all those who give by standing order enabling us to maintain a large portion of our income through these difficult times. We now offer the ability to contribute to our work electronically through the 'give.net' facility which appears on the home page of the Church's website. This provides the possibility of adding Gift Aid to donations. There is also a direct link to the new system which is: <https://www.give.net/20311853>

With best wishes, Hugh Somerville, Free Will Offerings Treasurer

Forthcoming Deadlines

Order of service for next week: Thursday at 6.00pm.

Next Grapevine: **Friday 28 August at 6.00pm.**

Please send submissions to the Church Manager, William Mearns.

Phone: 0780 801 1234 or email: churchmanager@googlemail.com

Books for the Journey

My Sour-Sweet Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul by Mark Oakley.

Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian Way by Rowan Williams.

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