



Yearly Reports for 2019

Elders' Report	2	All-Church Activities	7
Pastor's Report	3	Young People's Activities	11
Trustees' Report	3	Other Church Activities	17
Building Report	5	Ministry Teams	20
Staff & Trainees Reports	5	Christian Mission	23

These reports have been prepared in advance of our Annual General meeting on Sunday 26 January 2019 at 6:30pm. The Accounts for financial year 2018/19 are available separately.

Elders' Report

Bruntsfield Evangelical Church exists to glorify God through lives being transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on 2019, we are truly thankful for the Lord's goodness to our church. It is a great joy to see the building full of people of all ages on Sunday mornings and to witness spiritual growth through small groups, one-to-one meetings and serving together. The staff team and Ministry Trainees continue to serve faithfully alongside other church members.

At the same time, we are aware that for many there have been struggles and heartaches in 2019. Some have lost loved ones, while others have faced declining health in themselves or much-loved family members. We must continue to show the love of Christ to everyone, and support each other in times of need.

A growing church will always face the challenge of bringing those who are on the periphery – perhaps only attending one service a week – into the core and helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. There are many opportunities to become involved, including through small groups and a wide range of activities that need volunteers. We would also love everyone to focus on prayer and witness, both individual and corporate, so that we ourselves are transformed and others put their trust in Jesus.

We were delighted to welcome 20 new members in the course of 2019. A number moved elsewhere, including Paul, Elizabeth, Ben and Sam Johnston who are now at Kirkliston Community Church, very near where they live. Paul and Elizabeth were very active, caring and hospitable members of the church for many years, and we pray that God will continue to bless the whole family in their new fellowship. Our oldest member, Jenny Oliver, passed to be with her Lord early in the year, and we were also saddened by the deaths of Marion Purdie, Cliff Smith and Richard Grant. Please continue to pray for their loved ones. At the end of the year we had 119 members, with another 111 people (including children) actively associated with the church.

We welcomed Alistair Chalmers, Alastair Mackintosh and Luca Sueri to the team of elders in May, and they are a real blessing to us. We were sorry to lose Paul Johnston from the team on his move to Kirkliston Community Church. His vision and wisdom will be greatly missed. We continue to be grateful to the Ministry Team Leaders and others who lead activities in the church for their sacrificial service.

The church elders meet monthly in person, and also have a monthly video meeting when we discuss pastoral matters and pray together. In addition, we have a day away each year for more extended prayer and planning, and we are arranging sessions around three times a year when we invite external experts to join us to consider pastoral and doctrinal issues. We value your prayers as we seek to shepherd the flock at Bruntsfield.

*David Aird, Alistair Chalmers, Peter Ervine, Alastair Mackintosh,
Fraser McLaren, Ian Naismith, Graeme Shanks and Luca Sueri*

Pastor's Report

'Being disciples who are making disciples.'

If our church had a nickname what would it be? It's a question I've often asked myself as I think about our corporate life together. What would people, especially those looking in from the outside, say about us? I love what Luke records in Acts 11. He lets us know that those outside the church made an observation about the early believers in Antioch. In fact they made more than an observation. They gave them a nickname. Christians. Literally 'Little Christs'. So those outside the church looked on at the these Spirit-filled believers and they saw a life that reminded them of Jesus. Therefore, according to the Bible, being a Christian is not about the box that you tick but rather about the kind of life that you lead.

So following that definition, let me ask us, would those outside looking in at Bruntsfield call us Christians? Do our lives resemble that of our Lord and Saviour? That is the essence of discipleship. Indeed, the Lord Jesus calls us to be being disciples who are making disciples. That is our primary objective as we follow him.

With that in mind, looking back over the past year, let me tell you about a few things that greatly encourage me.

I've been encouraged by those who have been declaring. Particularly those people who, by the work of the Spirit, have declared that they follow Jesus. Some have even done this for the first time which fills me with tremendous joy. I've been greatly encouraged by those who have been serving. To hear of those who have been, stemming from a deep love for Jesus, sacrificially serving his people behind the scenes is truly inspiring. I've been greatly encouraged by those who have been going. Those enthused about local and global mission and taking the gospel to all peoples. Finally, I've been encouraged by those who have been finishing. It is one of the greatest privileges imaginable to take the funeral of an individual who has fought the good fight and finished the race well. Nothing humbles me more than learning about life of a person who clearly prized the words of the Lord Jesus 'well done good and faithful servant' above all others. All of these encouragements are testament to the truth that our God is full of steadfast love and faithfulness.

And so let me, looking forward, lay out a challenge for us as a church. Let's give people every reason to call us Christians. Let's continue to pursue the upward call of God in Christ and set our minds fully on the things above. Instead of pursuing our own agendas, let's daily die to our own and pursue that of Christ's as we take up our cross and follow him. Instead of playing it safe, let's be bold in taking calculated risks for the Kingdom of God. Instead of relying on our own wisdom, let's plough ourselves into and have our minds transformed by God's Word and make this a year that is marked by dependent prayer.

Graeme Shanks

Trustees' Report

2019 was a significant year for the church as we moved from our old trust structure to sit under a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which is a more modern and robust charitable structure. The formal transfer of the building took place at the end of August. There have been some delays outside our control in setting up the new bank account, but this is now in operation and we should be able to close the old account and wind up the old Trust in the next two or three months.

The Trustees of the SCIO are David Aird (Chairman), Anne Jackson, Andrew Little, Alastair Mackintosh, Fraser McLaren, Fiona Watson, Jamie Wilson and David Wright. Ian Wilson is Treasurer and Ian Naismith is Secretary to the Trustees. The remaining Trustees of the old Trust are Paul Johnston, Ian Naismith and Ian Wilson.

Finance: Ian Wilson will distribute our accounts separately. We are grateful to Ian, supported by Jamie, for all the work that goes into our now quite complex finances. Ian Naismith is authorised to operate the new account alongside Ian Wilson, which will streamline processing of smaller invoices.

Costs of staff, the church building and our activities are very substantial, and we depend for our financial stability on the sacrificial giving of our members. While we currently have an adequate level of reserves, our funds were boosted by a substantial one-off gift in the last financial year. In addition, we have come to the end of a grant from the Laing Trust Church Strengthening Initiative which has helped support the Assistant Pastor role and have lost part of our exemption from water and drainage charges because our income has crossed a threshold. This means we need to look to increase our regular income.

If you do not currently give regularly to the church we encourage you to consider this. Guidance on setting up a standing order and making a Gift Aid declaration is available from Ian Naismith, or look at www.bruntsfield.org.uk/resources/giving.

Building: We are grateful to David Wright and the team who work hard to maintain the inside and outside of the church. David's report follows this one. A highlight of the past year was the installation of new flooring upstairs after a long period of planning and fundraising.

Staff and Trainees: The trustees have ultimate responsibility for caring for employees and volunteers, and we have moved all staff to new contracts with the SCIO and implemented more robust salary scales. There were no staff changes during the year, but Ian Naismith's hours have reduced from 24 to 16 hours a week from January 2020. We are considering appointing an additional part-time staff member, working 8 hours a week principally on building maintenance and development. Thane Campbell joined the Ministry Trainee programme part-time for a year from September, and we are currently recruiting for the Trainee programme, starting in August or September 2020.

Risk Management: We continue to monitor the risks we face as a Church and have updated the Risk Register, which is available on request. We are also developing a comprehensive set of policies on various aspects of church life and risk management, and these will be generally available in due course. It is particularly important that we are aware of our child protection responsibilities, and all those working with children or vulnerable adults, including Crèche, Holiday Club etc., must be registered through the church under the PVG scheme. Anyone preparing food must have a food hygiene certificate. If you are in any doubt about this, please speak to the activity leader or to Robert Manson (PVG) or Gill Mackintosh (food hygiene)

Opportunities to serve: If you have expertise in any of the areas which fall under the Trustees, including practical skills, finance and risk management, we would be delighted if you were able to help. Please contact Ian Naismith or any of the Trustees if you're interested.

Ian Naismith on behalf of the Trustees

Building Report

As well as our own BEC activities, over 2019 we have hosted various para-church ministries with links to BEC, as well as weddings and funerals. Community use has also continued over the year with several regular users in addition to seasonal and ad-hoc bookings. This community use fits with the BEC aim of being part of our local community and has been in place for approx. 10 years now. The challenge to us as a church community is converting this community use into meaningful contacts and helping people make the step to attending BEC activities in the church.

To help facilitate BEC groups and ministries, from summer 2019 room 3 is available on Mon-Thurs evenings in small groups weeks should any group be unable to meet in their normal location, or any ad-hoc groups of church members need somewhere to meet for Ministry team meetings etc. *Please email myself or Ian Naismith if this would help your group.*

In the past year we have upgraded the upstairs hall flooring, and given the walls a coat of paint, finished upgrading the heating boilers and built a step at the front of the platform to improve safe access for those taking part in services.

2020 looks another busy year, with the development of additional accommodation for youth activities. There are also a legion of small jobs – minor repairs, painting and refurbishment which need input from all of us as members of the church community. Do look out for the workparties, or as a small group, adopt a room to look after! *Please speak to me if you have any ideas, skills or time to offer.*

David Wright

Staff Report

The church staff team is Graeme Shanks (Pastor), Alistair Chalmers (Assistant Pastor), Peter Ervine (Youth Pastor) and Ian Naismith (Church Manager), working alongside our Ministry Trainees (Kat Andrews, Drew Kennedy and Thane Campbell). We are based in the offices to the rear of the church.

Graeme leads the team, which meets each week for prayer, Bible study, review of services & activities and sharing of priorities. Alice Pirie joins these meetings, to help our consideration of pastoral care needs.

Graeme's role encompasses planning ahead including the teaching schedule, preaching, pastoral care through meetings & visits, supporting activity & ministry leaders and training church members for service and leadership. Alistair assists Graeme in these and also leads several activities. Peter is involved in all aspects of work with children and young people and also does building maintenance activities. Ian oversees temporal aspects of church life, including church communications. Drew, Kat and Thane are involved in a wide range of church activities. And, of course, all of the team get stuck in to help with whatever needs done. All except Peter and Ian are also studying part-time.

It's a great privilege to be able to serve the church, and we value your prayers for us and for our families.

Ian Naismith

Ministry Trainee Programme

Looking back over 2019...

2019 was the first full year (of a 2 year programme) of the MT programme for Kat and Drew and it was the year that Thane joined the team for a year. This year Kat has taken leadership of the women's Bible study group (Grove 92) and Drew leads The Embassy. The MTs have had a number of seminars on a range of different topics that are important for their training as they consider future ministry (topics ranging from the Bible, to sermon preparation and social issues). Kat studies at Cornhill and Drew and Thane at ETS. Thane has invested his time in his ring-making evenings and other church related-things (Preacher's group, DIME, etc.).

Looking forward to 2020...

In July 2020 the official 2 year training programme will come to an end for Kat and Drew, they are both looking at going into local church ministry. Please pray that the right positions would come up for them as they seek to serve the Lord here in Scotland. In August 2020 we plan to take on 1 trainee, the intention is that it becomes a running programme (taking on 1 new trainee each year).

Things to pray for...

- That all three of the Trainees would use the rest of their time with us at Bruntsfield well, that they would be equipped and enabled to serve and grow in their love for the Lord and the local church.
- For Alistair as he trains and line manages Drew and Kat, and for Graeme as he trains and line manages Thane.
- For wisdom as Alistair plans the next 2 year programme.

Alistair Chalmers

All-Church Activities

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper (communion service) takes place every Sunday at 10am, following the apparent pattern of the early church in remembering the Lord Jesus each week. After a short reading and devotional comments there is a time of open worship and we take communion towards the end of the service.

This service is quieter and more reflective than others, and we sing more older hymns but also recent ones. We're grateful to Donald Macmillan who sets everything up each week, Charlie Miller who plays the organ (with Ian Wilson generally precenting when Charlie isn't able to be out) and all those who bring the opening reading and notices.

Those attending this service regularly are almost all younger (under 30) or older (over 60), and it would be good to have a wider range of members joining us. Everyone who loves Jesus and wants to start Sunday by focusing on His death for us is very welcome. If you would like more information, please speak to me or anyone else mentioned in this report.

Ian Naismith

All Age Service

Our All Age Service continues to be our best attended Sunday service. It has been greatly encouraging to welcome many new people from across the world to our church. I always find it a cause of rejoicing that our church consists of people from across the age spectrum which wonderfully presents the church as a true spiritually family.

It has been great encouragement so see more people participate in and contribute to the All Age Service. In particular it has been great to see the band leader take a bit more of a steer in leading us in song, different people reading from God's word and leading us in prayer and the addition of a monthly missionary, ministry and testimony slot. We are keen to see this develop as we journey on and to encourage everyone to use their God-given gifts for the upbuilding of the church and for the glory of the Lord.

We continue to be blessed by our times together studying God's word. Over the past year we spent time in Colossians, Isaiah, Romans and the Psalms. A particular highlight was our autumn series in the book of Ecclesiastes which many found both profound and helpful. We also had a short topical series looking at what Jesus says about Money. It continues to be a delight to hear stories of how God has been at work by his Spirit through his Word transforming people more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

One of the highlights of last year was undoubtedly the baptism service where Peter and Garrett publicly declared their desire to follow Jesus Christ. I continue to pray that as we seek to be disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ that we will see many more people take this public step of faith.

Please continue to that God would continue to use the All Age Service for his glory and for the building up of his church at Bruntsfield. Pray for a continued sense of unity in the midst of our diversity and for wisdom for those involved in putting the services together.

Graeme Shanks

Sunday Evening Service

The Sunday Evening service continues to be an encouraging time for those who attend. Given the busyness of the All-Age Service, the Evening service always provides a great chance to still and focus ourselves as we head into the week ahead. It has great to see numbers increase and new people make it a feature of their Sunday.

We've been led in some helpful times of singing together in a more stripped-back style thanks to the hard work of our musicians. Earlier this year we finished our series in 1 Samuel. Over the summer we moved to the upstairs hall where we studied the Sermon on the Mount. The format of the evenings meant that there was time for discussion and prayer around tables which proved very fruitful. We returned to Costa once again and ran a series called 'When Jesus Met...' which gave us an opportunity to learn from Jesus as we saw him approach different people. A particular highlight was the 'Questions Christians Ask' autumn series where we spent time thinking some of the most common questions to the Christian faith which featured a helpful Q & A session.

I am greatly excited looking ahead to next year. We will continue with our blend of expository, practical and topical preaching series. Of notably interest is the series called 'Thinking Biblically about...' where we will be thinking through some modern day issues from a Christian perspective, as well as the series in 1 Peter where the young men in the Preaching Group will be making their Bruntsfield pulpit debut.

Please pray that God would continue to use the evening service for his glory and for the building up of his church at Bruntsfield.

Graeme Shanks

Prayer

As I look back on 2019, I am greatly encouraged and thankful to the Lord for some real signs of growth in our prayer life as a church.

I continue to be encouraged by our monthly Wednesday night prayer gatherings. After spending some time in thanksgiving flowing from our devotional time in the Psalms we've focussed our time on praying for a country in the World, a church in Edinburgh and ourselves at Bruntsfield. It has been a great delight to hear, particularly from the other churches, how much our prayers have meant to them. I always want us to be a church that blesses people by giving. That includes our prayers. One of the great joys has been seeing different people both research and lead us in praying for these different things.

I also continue to be encouraged by the band of faithful people who gather together on a Wednesday lunchtime to pray for our church. I have also enjoyed hearing reports of some deep and meaningful prayer times taking place in Small Groups.

We introduced three 'Weeks of Prayer' throughout the year which culminated in a time of prayer at the Vision Evening on the Sunday evening. One great new addition was the prayer element as part of the summer evening services in the upstairs hall which was enjoyed by all who attended.

As we journey on as a church through 2020 it is critical that God-glorifying and dependent prayer remains the bedrock of absolutely everything that we do.

Graeme Shanks

Small Groups

Looking back over 2019...

Small Groups are a place where people can grow in their knowledge of God and the Bible, enjoy fellowship with other Christians and share life together with a smaller group of people. They help to build deeper and lasting relationships in church and to grow together in knowledge and love of the Lord. We currently have 9 Small Groups that meet across the city.

The Small Group leaders have met for 'learning together sessions'. We looked at the responsibility of the Small Group leaders, the Bible studies that we would be doing together and prayed together. I now write the studies in Small Group booklets to help us all in our studies, to promote personal study and to help people take notes and prayer points during the meeting.

Looking forward to 2020...

In 2020 we will continue with the booklet format for the Bible studies. Here are some of the things we'll be studying together this year; Genesis 1-11, Evangelism, John 13-17, Ephesians and Revelation 1-3. Whilst some of the groups are growing and have no more space, a couple of them are in need of more people. We plan to do more training with the current leaders and for new leaders.

Things to pray for...

- That more people would see the benefit of Small Groups and sign up for one.
- For new leaders to be identified and trained and for Small Group members to be challenged and encouraged in their faith.
- Continue to pray for the Small Group leaders as they prepare for studies and care for the members of their groups.

Alistair Chalmers

Evangelism

Looking back over 2019...

In the beginning of 2019 the evangelism team organised and ran a Life Explored course. Three other things fall under the category of evangelism, but weren't organised by the evangelism team:

The Day Away - Dave Hampton (Christians in Sport) spoke to us about evangelism. We had seminars on the different contexts for evangelism and enjoyed learning together about how we can best share Jesus with people around us.

Christmas Hampers - Church members were able to visit Syrian refugees in their homes. Many said that these initial meetings went very well. Our prayer is that these relationships will develop and opportunities would arise to deepen friendships and share Jesus.

The Word one to one Training - We had a night with Mark Campbell as he taught some of us in the church about how to use a resource (The Word One to One) with our friends and colleagues. The material is very simple and easily understood, a good resource for you to think about using in 2020.

Looking forward to 2020...

There are currently no plans for an evangelistic course in 2020; this is because there has been a culture shift and people are more receptive to meet up with their friends or family members to read the Bible together. Therefore, the evangelism team will instead be focusing on encouraging and equipping church member to engage in 'friendship evangelism'. There still will be events that people can invite friends to like the Scottish night, ring making and painting nights, etc. We would encourage every church member to be intentional about sharing Jesus with friends, family and work colleagues. Also, if you have a particular hobby (running, arts and crafts, etc.) it would be great for you to get plugged into a local group in your area to meet new non-Christians with whom you can share Jesus.

Alistair Chalmers

Day Away

The planning team involved Graeme Shanks, Dechlan and Lyndsey Wilson, Becky Macdonald (before she and Struan left to their new jobs in Italy), David Wright and Gill and Alastair Mackintosh. Following on from the success of the 2018 day away at Musselburgh Baptist Church the team decided to use the same venue again for the 2019 day which took place on Saturday 26th October 2019.

We had 97 people including children attend the day away where the theme was focused on 'Friendship Evangelism'. The visiting speaker was Dave Hampton from Christians in Sport. The day followed a plan of hearing a main talk in the morning followed by different seminars through the rest of the morning led by Dave and other members from the church. Dave continued the theme of his talk with a seminar based on sharing your story and this ran twice in the morning.

Other seminars were organised and led by Luca & Simona on reaching my family & friends, reaching the world by Alistair & Sabine and Corrie Thomson, reaching my workplace by Derek McArthur and Stuart Reid and new opportunities for reaching out by Esther Ferrier and Pete Campbell. A big thank you must go to all these individuals for the preparation of their seminar material and leading them on the day.

Our children's work on the day was once again led by Brian and Julie Downie who have been joining us now for our day away over a number of years. They ran a theme for the day to reflect what the adults were learning and ventured outside into Musselburgh videoing some of the children carrying out random acts of kindness on unsuspecting members of the public, and it was great to see the kids take these steps and the reactions that they got.

We enjoyed a sandwich lunch supplied by Mackenzies catering and then the afternoon was spent in free time and games before coming together at the end for worship and communion.

Particular thanks for the day to the worship team for leading us so well and for David Wright with all his behind the scenes work on tech issues. To all those who helped with the serving of tea and coffee throughout the day to keep us all suitably refreshed. To Natasha, Val and Sam from Niddrie Community church for agreeing to volunteer their time to help staff our creche and, last but not least, to Dechlan and Lyndsey for all their work preparing the quizzes and games.

The day away always provides an excellent opportunity for us to come together as a church in a different environment to focus on a particular issue and the planning team are due to start meeting soon in 2020 to plan the next one.

Alistair & Gill Mackintosh

Young People's Activities

Crèche & Roots

Crèche and Roots is the kid's church group for babies and toddlers up to about 3 years old. The children are looked after by 2 or 3 members of the church and follow an informal lesson plan that includes games, simple crafts, songs and a story from the Bible, as well as time to play. The stories are told through videos by Saddleback Kids which provide simple re-tellings of Bible stories animated with cartoon appropriate for young children. It is a great opportunity to teach the children about Jesus right from the beginning of their lives, and also allows their parents to be in the service.

I took over coordinating Crèche and Roots from Becky McDonald in summer 2019 and it has been a joy to work with such an enthusiastic team to care for these little children. We usually have 2 or 3 children in Crèche and Roots on a Sunday mornings, although with the arrival/expected arrival of a couple of babies at the beginning of this year this will increase. Please pray that these young children will be well cared for and that seeds of the Gospel will be planted in them as they hear Bible stories. Please also pray that as the numbers increase we will have the right number of leaders to care for them well.

Kat Andrews

The Field – (Kids' Church pre-school in Room 2)

Over the last year we have seen lots of changes in our young people in this group. Due to their young age we see their understanding and development increase on an almost weekly basis, and it is a joy to support, encourage, and watch them grow. The Field is often the first time they have heard some of the stories in the teaching plan, and in addition they are becoming more engaged with the stories and keen to learn.

In the summer our core group of four children moved on as they started primary school and we welcomed our new class of four more pre-schoolers who attend regularly. Our teaching plan coincides with that of the older children with a simplified version of the story, a basic craft or colouring in activity, and a simple game. We then join the older children upstairs to recap the lesson and finish with prayer and singing.

We have a rotational team of leaders with a helper, as although the group is small they often require a lot of support. As with all the children's work we would welcome anyone who would like to get involved.

Give thanks for our four regular children in this group and please pray that the Field understand and remember the lessons, and that they really enjoy their experience of church. Pray for the teachers as we aim to make the lessons easy and fun, and keep the attention of these young people.

Arlene Fernandez

The Harbour (Kids' Church P1-2 in Room 1)

This year we have 10 children in the harbour:

P2s, Andreas, Brooke, Emma, Joshua and Mason

P1s, Archie, Chloe (nursery) Innes, Lucy, Maisie and Ola.

Leaders: Michelle, Thomas, Sheeba, Bridget

This year we have a leader and helper for each session. Then the helper goes onto be the leader the following week with a new helper. This gives some consistency for the children which is invaluable in building up relationships and also helps ensure consistency with the teaching. We follow the same programme as other groups, the stories which you usually hear about in the children's talk. The group is held in room 1 which enables us to have a video most weeks and play games etc., and then we join the others at the end.

It's a lively group, which is great, and we have some very bright children who are eager to learn and remember all they are taught. Please pray that they will come to know Jesus for themselves and follow Him. Pray also for us leaders that we will teach and nurture them well.

Bridget Naismith

The Track – (Kids' Church P3-6 in the Upstairs Hall)

Who were involved?

Drew, Elizabeth, Lynn, Peter E

This year we were sorry to see Elizabeth leave the team and Sam leave the group but it has been nice to see some new children coming. From January to August we were finishing our 4-year cycle going through the main narrative of the Bible. In January we were looking at more of Mark, at Easter we were in Luke and after that we covered Elisha, Job, the end of Acts and Esther. In September we started our 4-year curriculum again having now gone through it twice before.

What plans are there for the future?

We will be continuing along in our 4-year curriculum, starting with some of Jesus' parables. I hope to see the team expand a little and it would be good to have another family outing.

What can the church pray for?

Give thanks for the privilege it is to have these children coming to the Track and the privilege it is to be able to teach them from God's Word. Give thanks that the children are listening well and taking things in. Pray that they will be able to go deeper into what may often be familiar Bible stories and see clear applications for their lives. Give thanks for the team who give up their time to prepare and teach the lessons. Pray that they would be able to continue giving of themselves and pray that we will be able to expand the team and find a suitable replacement for Drew.

Peter Ervine

Youth Ministry – (P7-S5)

Looking back...

Recently over the last year we lost a couple of young people and leaders. Some young people left the church such as the Pass family, and a couple of leaders felt like they could not devote enough time to the Embassy and to their various other commitments both inside and outside of church. In light of this with the start of this new calendar year (2020) I have invited a few other members of the congregation to join the group of leaders.

As I came more into the role of team leader this past year more fully I have experimented in trying to do a couple of different things in terms of studies with the kids, mainly an overview of the Old Testament which we went through last term. The goal of this was to look at the major themes running through the Old Testament, which then informs our study of every part of it in future, both in the Embassy and elsewhere, and helps build the kids' understanding of the Old Testament and, in turn, the New Testament.

Looking forward...

We will be studying the first Thirteen chapters of the book of Luke, looking at Hot Topics our young people will be confronted with and spending time in the All-Age Services to continue to incorporate the youth into sermons and that part of the life of the congregation.

For prayer...

New leaders coming in, the youth themselves as we study with them and teach them that they would respond in faith to the offer of the Gospel they hear in services and in the Embassy, that they would grow in that faith and they would 'graduate' from members of the youth group into full and active members of the congregation.

Drew Kennedy

Baby & Toddler Group

The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00 during term time in the upstairs hall. The team consists of Fiona Paton, Margaret Campbell and Terri Unwin, with the setting up by David Campbell and Pete Unwin. Peter Ervine (who brings along Lois) oversees this group.

Looking back over the past year we have had the privilege of welcoming over 70 parents/carers and their children, representing many countries around the world. However, many of these families visit only occasionally leaving our core group of regulars numbering about 15 or so.

The toddlers are only with us for a short time, because all too soon nursery beckons, so while they are with us we aim to provide a safe environment for adult and child alike, where they all feel welcome and included. There is a varied morning of play, refreshments, singing and the occasional craft activity. Sadly, while we extend invitations for many events happening in church, there has been little interest.

Praise for:

- safety for the children each week;
- the regular attendees who we are getting to know better.

Pray for:

- wisdom in knowing how best to introduce Christ to them.

Terri Unwin

Friday Fun Zone (P1-7)

Who were involved?

Leaders – Drew, Fiona P, Ian, Peter E, Peter Mac

Junior Helpers – Jack, Steven

During 2019 we have been using SU material called 'One BIG story' which is freely able from their website. This material goes through an overview of the Bible over 2 years. The resource came about as a result of seeing the effectiveness of the Bible Alive programme in schools, and the impact when children are helped to understand the Bible as 'one big story', seeing how the individual stories connect. By the end of the year we had got up the point where Jesus was calling his disciples.

After the summer it was great to again welcome some new children to Friday Fun Zone, some with a connection to the Holiday club and some the younger siblings of children who already attend.

What plans are there for the future?

We will be continuing with the 'One BIG story' material and we hope to again be welcoming new children to the group, particularly those from the local community.

What can the church pray for?

Continue to give thanks for all the kids that have come over the last year. Pray that we would be able to welcome in new children, particularly non-church children, and that as a result they will put their trust in Jesus.

Peter Ervine

Holiday Club (P1-7)

Who were involved?

Leaders – Alistair C, Addie, Corrie, Bridget, Drew, Emma, Graeme, Ian N, Jenny, Kat, Lynn, Margo, Terri,

Thane Junior Helpers – Gemma, Jack, Lulu, Rachel

Our Holiday club this year was called 'Space Academy' and ran for five mornings in the third week of the summer holidays. Space Academy explored the early chapters of the book of Daniel in the Bible using a space theme. We learnt about a God who is wise, powerful, mighty and above all others. But also a God who is interested in helping his people.

We had a great week including stories, games, crafts, quizzes and drama, with the children really getting into the activities and enjoying learning from the Bible. On Friday we invited parents to come and join us on Bruntsfield Links to launch the water bottle rockets all the children had made. It was great to see such a good turn-out of parents.

What plans are there for the future?

We plan to run another week long summer Holiday Club this year running 13th - 17th July. We are looking at using the new SU material called 'Wonder Zone'. It has a science lab theme and through various

experiments, children will discover the wonders of the world (and beyond!) and how the God behind all of it wants to get to know them too.

What can the church pray for?

Please give thanks to God for all the children who came along and the great team who served them so well. Please pray that the holiday club would continue to grow and that we would be able to clearly share the Gospel with children and their parents.

Peter Ervine

Bruntsfield SU Group (P5-7)

Who were involved?

Drew, Peter E

After the summer Drew and I moved the group to a Monday lunch time as this suits Primary 7s better. This is because the ever-popular running club has P7s on a Tuesday and Thursday. It has been wonderful to see a new influx of Primary 7s to the group, with a number of pupils from a Hindu background. We have had some great chats looking at what the Bible says about us and what it says about Jesus.

What plans are there for the future?

The plan is to continue using some of the JAFFA teaching material up to the summer and possibly use the One BIG story material after that. After the summer we will have a whole new group as the P7s will have moved up to high school and Drew will most likely not be able to help any more.

What can the church pray for?

Please give thanks for the continued opportunity to have an SU group at Bruntsfield and pray that it will be protected. Pray that we would be able to help Christian pupils to be salt and light in the school and that non-Christian pupils will come and hear the Gospel. Pray that the P7s will make the transition to the SU group at Boroughmuir and that someone would be able to take over from Drew after the summer.

Peter Ervine

Boroughmuir SU Group (S1-6)

Who were involved?

Peter E leads the group with 4 others from different churches. Sandwiches for the pupils are very kindly made by some of our Toddler Group team.

We have had a good year at Boroughmuir SU. All the teething issues with moving to a new building in the preceding year have all settled down, we managed to run some leadership training sessions for some of those who were S4 before the summer and it's been wonderful to see most of the S4 pupils back again in

their S5 year. During the exam season, while we didn't have any senior pupils, we watched a great video and discussion series called Nua which was produced by SU Ireland. After the summer we have had a number of Christians who are past pupils of Boroughmuir come back and speak to the SU group and answer questions. Most so far have been fairly recent leavers but one had been a pupil about 50 years ago.

What plans are there for the future?

We want to continue to encourage the S5 pupils to take on leadership roles in the group and there are a few more past pupils I would like to have come along and speak to the group.

What can the church pray for?

Continue to give thanks for the group and the many years it has been running and pray that we will continue to find favour in the school. Pray that the group will be a really welcoming place for all to come and hear about Jesus. Pray that as a group and as individuals the SU group would be making a positive impact on the school. Pray for the S5s as they face some big exams and pray that they would be a good example to the younger pupils.

Peter Ervine

Other Church Activities

Student Ministry

Looking back over 2019...

The student team (Alistair, Kat, Drew and Thane) are engaged in regular one-to-ones with students. In these meetings they read the Bible, pray with and care pastorally for the students. In addition to this we have broadened the 'student lunch' to other young people. The reason for this change was to encourage students to mix in with other people and to build more friendships. These lunches have been valuable both for students and for young people.

Looking forward to 2020...

Our desire is that we would serve the students at Bruntsfield well. We plan to do this by having intentional conversations at the young people's lunch about the sermon, by trying to have all of our students in one to ones and by discipling students to be confident in the gospel of Jesus as they go on to campus. We also encourage every student to be in a Small Group to help them grow in their faith, but also to become part of the church family at Bruntsfield.

Things to pray for...

- That our students would stand firm in their faith, that they would be good witnesses of the gospel and that they would study at university for God's glory.
- Being a Christian student isn't easy, pray for them and for the team as we try to support and encourage them with God's Word.

Alistair Chalmers

Grove 92

Grove 92 is the mid-week women's Bible study. It is open to women of all ages. Due to a change in my days at Cornhill, this year we have been meeting on Monday afternoons at 1:30. This change, along with the opportunity to talk briefly about Grove 92 in a Sunday morning service has meant that the group has grown since last year. Numbers still vary occasionally due to work and family commitments, but there are 6 or 7 women who come regularly. This is really encouraging and I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know them better.

This year we are mainly studying John's Gospel. This has given us the opportunity to think about who Jesus is, what he has done and how this challenges and encourages us. Before Easter we will also be doing a short, more thematic series in Proverbs to think practically about how we live our lives with God's wisdom. My main prayer for the group is that we would all continue to grow in our knowledge and love of God, as well as in our relationships with each other. Please also pray that someone would be willing to consider being an assistant leader for the group.

Kat Andrews

Coffee@bruntsfield

Coffee@bruntsfield meets from 2 to 3.30 in the upstairs hall on the first and third Fridays of the month. The organising team is Anne Jackson, Ian and Bridget Naismith, Alice Pirie and Terri Unwin and we are grateful to many others who have helped us during the year.

On the first Friday of the month we have fellowship over a cuppa, with optional table games, crosswords etc. On the third Friday we have an organised activity, though participation is voluntary and some prefer to just come and chat. At the end of our meetings we have a short 'thought for the day' and a prayer.

Looking back

Over the past year activities have included quizzes, crafts, an art/poetry session, gentle exercises and an afternoon singing Christmas carols. We also enjoyed outings to the Swanston Brasserie in January and to the Park Hotel in Peebles in June.

It has been a delight to witness the 'buzz' as people chat, laugh and engage in activities with each other and also to see relationships within the group deepening, enabling us to better support and encourage one other. We have also been pleased to welcome some who do not come to any of our other church activities.

Looking forward

We are currently planning activities for the spring/summer sessions and flyers will shortly be available.

Part of our original vision for coffee@bruntsfield was that it would be an outreach into the community and we are planning to advertise our meetings more widely.

Please pray

- that all who come will feel welcome and that we will be able to lovingly support each other, particularly those experiencing difficult times
- that the epilogues will encourage and build us up spiritually
- that God will open doors into the community so that we can share the love of Jesus with others

Alice Pirie

Basics Bank

Team: Ian N, Fiona W, Sarah (ECM), Pete and Terri, Fiona P, Jenny, Violet, Alastair M, Drew and Kat

We continue to serve each Friday morning 10 till 1 in the upstairs hall. We receive a steady stream of referrals from ECM, who have been contacted by a range of agencies in health, social care and the voluntary sector.

Some recent stats are below:

- In 2019 we have out 11.3 tonnes of food and toiletries. That's an increase of a third on 2018.
- We fed an average of 23 people per week over the year and that increased to 33 per week between September and December.
- In the course of the year we provided food for 310 adults and teenagers, and 76 children under 12.

We are very grateful for every individual, agency and supermarket who provide for us or pray for us.

Everyone who attends has a range of complex needs - poor physical and/or mental health, homelessness and debt being the most common. All need the Saviour.

Please pray for the souls who attend in their need, and the team, that we might be Christ to those with whom we interact. It can be challenging at times.

Fiona Watson

Care Van

The church has a team of volunteers working on a rota basis one Wednesday evening each month and this has continued to be the case throughout 2019. The Care Van service continues to provide the basic need of food and clothing at evenings and lunch time services, but can also provide an access point to different services offered by organisations to individuals in need. Currently the team at Bruntsfield are Fiona Watson, John Cameron, Alice Pirie, Susan Thompson, Alec Lind, Michelle Seeds, Naomi Hyndman and Jonathan Thomson. Looking forward into 2020 it is great to welcome new volunteers and John Duffy, Ellen Langdon and Marianne Brown will be joining the team.

Having the continued commitment of existing volunteers and new people coming forward is a real reason to be thankful that with all the other aspects of service to be involved in at church, the Care Van ministry continues without any obvious gaps.

What can the church do to pray for the ongoing work of the care van ? Continue to pray for the service users that rely on the provision of the care van that their physical needs in terms of food, clothing and shelter will be provided through the ongoing work of Bethany and Edinburgh City Mission. Pray that the work of the Care Van continues through 2020 across all the volunteer churches and that there is no shortage of individual volunteers. Pray that over the coming year there will be opportunities available for others within the church to step forward and help with this ministry. Volunteers are always welcome and donations of clothes and blankets are particularly welcome and can be distributed by the team from the van on the night we are serving.

Alastair Mackintosh

Ministry Teams

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team is one of the ministry teams within our church and seeks to serve its members in whatever capacity is needed. The team consists of Ruth and David Aird; Nan and Ian Wilson; Thane Campbell; Sabine Chalmers; Esther Ferrier; Alice Pirie; Joanne Garforth. We have also just welcomed Simona Basilotta onto the team and are glad to have her join us.

We meet approximately each month to pray for the church family; plan for training in pastoral care as well as discuss any needs that we can meet. This ranges from visiting people in hospital; providing meals after a baby has been born; meeting up with students or young people for coffee; arranging family outings in the summer or simply just enjoying the company and fellowship of each other in the church.

This year we organised a training day on Dementia which was held in the church. Maureen O'Neill and Dr Mary Marshall came from Faith in Older People and we all enjoyed an excellent and informative morning understanding the process of dementia. Many helpful suggestions were given and also various resources available for those suffering from dementia and their carers were on display. If anyone would like further information from that day please see Ruth Aird.

Pastoral care is a gift that we are privileged to share together. Paul told the Thessalonians that he, Silas and Timothy loved them so much that they were delighted to share with them not only the gospel of God but their lives as well (1 Thess 2: 8). We hope that as we serve you, you will also take us to your hearts, and we may be one in Christ Jesus, sharing our lives together.

Ruth and Aird

Worship Team

Team: Garry Ferrier, Christy Ringrose, Fiona Watson

This year has seen Jamie take a step back from worship leader, while continuing to serve in the band, and Christy stepping up from the band to the worship leader role.

We continue to benefit from all those who use their gifts to serve in the band - Fraser, Jenny, Steph, Andy, Susan, Rachel, Ross and Jack (our latest addition on drums). We remain open to new approaches from members, particularly if you play an instrument - keyboard and guitar are always welcome but any instrument considered! Please speak to one of the leaders. We practice on Thursdays at 730pm.

The worship leaders meet with Graeme, Alistair and Fraser every month to plan the forthcoming services and the introduction of new songs. It's a useful opportunity to share feedback, discuss possible developments and keep the big picture in view.

Technical support is expertly provided by David, Jonny, Mark and Thomas, under the watchful ear of Fraser.

It is a joy to serve in this way - we trust that is evident as we use our gifts to lead the sung worship every week. Please pray for the team - being required twice most Sundays and on Thursday evenings is a significant commitment we share. Pray too that new instrumentalists might be added to our number. Finally, pray that the Lord might be glorified in all that we do.

Fiona Watson

Food & Fellowship

Who are involved?

The team members include Simona Basilotta, Margaret Campbell, Zoe Emmerson , Gill Mackintosh, Lynn McLaren and Stuart Reid. We sadly said goodbye to Becky Campbell and Elizabeth Johnston however we have recently welcomed some new members to the team - Lyndsey Wilson and Marianne Brown. Thanks to the team for all their hard work and support over the last year.

What were the highlights of 2019?

We held a number of church lunches over the year and it has been encouraging to see the numbers attending the lunches increasing and to see new people coming along too.

In addition to the lunches, we held a brunch on the Saturday morning of the Easter weekend which included activities for all ages.

As usual we ended the year with our Christmas lunch which is always a highlight.

We also help support the student lunch ministry along with a number of church members.

In connection with the pastoral team we operate a meals rota for members who may benefit in the short term such as new parents, or perhaps those convalescing.

What plans are there for the future

Looking to the year ahead, in addition to the lunches and events that are noted above we're looking to work closer together with the Evangelism Team on events such as the Scottish night and International night where people can invite friends and family to. We're always open to suggestions of events that we could organise as a way of supporting and developing fellowship for the whole church.

What can the church pray for?

We are always looking for volunteers to be involved in the practical side of the church lunches and the various events that we run due to the increasing numbers attending. It would be good to develop a rota of regular volunteers to help with this.

Gill Mackintosh

Welcome & Integration

Just like the year before, in 2019 too Bruntsfield has seen a lot of new people come through our doors, whether just for a visit or as new members who have decided to make our church their spiritual home.

The Welcome Teams have strived to ensure that everyone is greeted as they join us for the Sunday services, and more importantly that anyone who is new to the church has an opportunity to connect with at least another church member, or that if someone is sitting alone they have a chance to chat with a member of the welcome team.

We hope that in doing so we can help people feel welcome and encouraged, and that this ministry can help facilitate the process of integrating into our community for any newcomers.

Please pray that we can be more intentional and focused in the new year as we serve the Lord and Bruntsfield through the Welcome and Integration ministry, and please do come speak to us if you would like to join the Welcome Team rota or if you have any feedback for us.

Rachel McLatchie, Luca Sueri and Simona Basilotta

Christian Mission

Mission Support

The church has active links with a number of individuals and groups involved in full-time mission. Financial support is primarily through offerings at the 10am service on Sunday morning, and Sheila MacLeod provides updates and points for prayer in the monthly newsletter. There is also a missions slot at the All Age Service on the second Sunday of each month and a missionary noticeboard and table in the coffee area at the front of the church. We also pray for our missionaries at church prayer meetings and some small groups.

The elders have been considering how we can better focus our support for missionaries and mission organisations. We are aware that many in the church are involved in mission activities or have close links with them, and we want to provide appropriate support while recognising that it is not helpful to spread that too thinly. We propose to have a core group of missionaries and organisations - Heber & Fiona Gallitto in Parana, Argentina; Richard & Elaine Leakey with YWAM in Switzerland; Michael serving in the Middle East; Ferrywell Youth Project; Golgota Mission in Romania; and Christian Unions at universities in Edinburgh. We will support and provide information on these regularly. We will have a second group which we will have looser connections with but will support prayerfully and financially as appropriate. This second group is likely to change more regularly than the core group. We will not stop existing financial support to any missionaries as a result of this change of focus, and will continue to pass on information and prayer points as we receive them. More details will be available soon.

Please do get to know who our missionaries are and pray for them. Sheila has written a very helpful summary of the work of the missionaries we support in the January 2020 newsletter, and there's lots of information on the noticeboard. Sheila also organises a prayer meeting for Ferrywell Youth Project, normally in room 3 at 6pm on the first Monday of each month.

Ian Naismith

Ferrywell Youth Project

God is good. That is the key reflection we have at FYP, looking back at 2019. We are so thankful for more volunteers, increased opportunities to engage with young people and share with them who Jesus is and why He came, as well as being hugely blessed with premises that are an incredible resource. In addition to that, we have just appointed Naomi Crolla (our second full time staff member) and this will allow for us to consolidate what we do and look at what else God has in store. However, at the core of it all is continuing to build relationships with young people, in order to share with them more of who Jesus is and help them make good choices in life and find hope.

Thank you to the church family at Bruntsfield for your continued prayers, support and interest in this ministry. Please to continue to pray with and for us that 2020 will be a year of continued blessing and that more young people will come to know Christ and choose to follow Him.

*John Gillan, Bridget Naismith, Ian Naismith, Peter Ervine, Thane Campbell,
Christy Ringrose, Craig Lumsden, Derek McArthur, Pete Campbell*