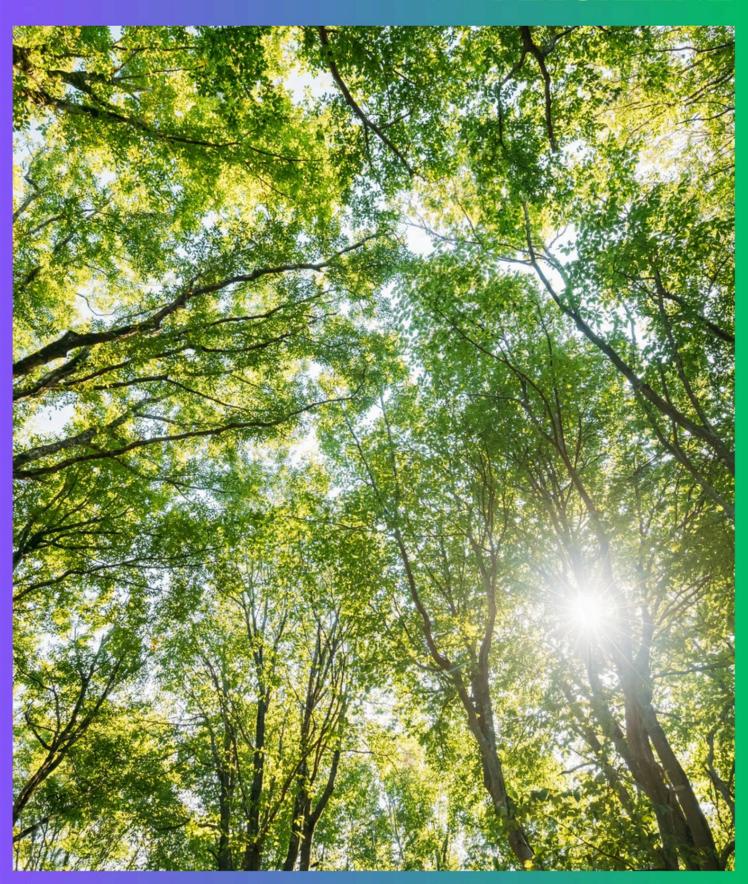
CROSSROADS MAGAZINE



FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH



Letter from the Minister

Join us for worship Sunday 10.30am

and all through the week

On Sunday the 19th of May, 50 days after Easter, we celebrated Pentecost in our church.



Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Christian church because it marks the moment when the disciples received the power of the Holy Spirit. This enabled them to communicate and spread

the message of Jesus in other languages, with the people from various regions and cultures who were present in Jerusalem at the time. We celebrated with cake and balloons and it was a great day.

It's a day which I suppose also makes us stop and think and ask ourselves, in the bustling chaos of our modern lives, whether or not we often overlook the ways in which God speaks to us?

God is perhaps not speaking to us as He did at Pentecost, but what about those more gentle whispers of divine communication? Are we missing them amidst the noise of our busy lives, without realising it?

For centuries, believers and those seeking to know more about God, have sought to decipher the ways in which God communicates with humanity.

From our ancient Biblical texts where we hear God's voice echo across the ages, timeless truths, guidance wisdom to our o w n personal experiences, the through which we perceive the

divine, are as varied as the colours of the rainbow which we saw over our church a few weeks ago.



During Lent, back in March, I gave up social media, removing as many apps as I could from my iPhone and used the time to read more and find more for moments prayer meditation. It's been such a good thing to do. I've moved from a 'smart' phone to a 'dumb' phone! Maybe that's something might want to try? And with the extra time you have maybe you could find a moment just to sit and be open to the possibility of God and discover that, through the stillness of the mind and the openness of the heart. voice bе heard. can perhaps expect thunderous declarations or tongues of fire though, as we heard about at Pentecost, but trust and be open gentle whispers of the soul. As your world slows down without social media, trust and be open too, to those moments of divine providence, which can be simply a timely coincidence or an unexpected blessing. These are the encounters which serve as reminders tangible o f presence and care for us.

Getting out into the natural world especially here at the foot of the Pentlands, is another precious way to experience God.

Being among nature serves as a powerful testament to the existence and majesty of God. From the awe-inspiring colours of the Pentlands,



to the delicate beauty o f the flowers in the gardens all around us, creation itself speaks the divine o f presence. When I am out and about the parish, leaving the car behind when can, ı love rediscovering the quiet serenity and the subtle rhythms of nature which always communicate speak to me of the hand of God at work in the intricate tapestry of life.

That being said, it's also in the community and fellowship of being together on a Sunday, when we come together as a church, that God's voice can often be heard. What I love about the time we all spend together on a Sunday, and at other times during the week, is how God speaks to us through the loving words and actions of each one of us.



It's in the bonds of community and fellowship that I see week after week how, as a church family, we find strength, support, and encouragement to persevere in our journey together, rooted in our faith.

Whether it's а word friend, encouragement from а compassionate gesture someone new coming along church or a shared moment fellow worship with believers, God's presence is often felt most acutely in the midst of authentic relationships. If you would like to be part of this, just come along between 10:20am and 10:30am on any Sunday morning. You don't need to have been to church before or be a member. All are welcome here!

As we go into the summer months together, I hope we will all

find ways we can begin or continue to seek, listen and respond more to the ways God communicates with us.

It may 'only' be that you hear gentle whispers of His voice in your lives, rather than ever experience the world transforming events of Pentecost, but however it is you let God communicate with you, it will be life transforming and reassuring to know that God is still present in our world. matter how troubled and broken we have made it.

Have a wonderful summer Blessings Rev Chervl

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This edition of Crossroads finds our convenor of Fellowship and Hospitality - Anne Lambert, "Under the Spotlight"



What is your first memory of Fairmilehead Parish Church?
My first memory is when I brought my children to Sunday School, encouraged by a friend of mine who was a leader of Stepping Stones at the time.

Describe your new role as convenor of Fellowship and Hospitality at Fairmilehead Parish Church, in just three words.

Challenging Rewarding Exciting

When not at work busy organising events and hospitality here in the church, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy playing bridge and golf. I would love to be better at both. I also love going to the cinema. I go weekly and see some great films and some not so great!





What radio station do you listen to and why?

I listen to Radio Forth in the car as it is local. However, recently I have tended to listen to books instead.

If you could learn one random skill, what would you learn?

I would love to be able to paint. My mother could have gone to art college. I wish I had inherited some of her talent.

If someone asked you to give them a random piece of advice, what would you say? Live life to the full, none of us knows what tomorrow will bring.

What's the best advice you've been given?

You have to take the rough with the smooth in life. Don't always expect everything to go as you expected.

Kindl or paper/hardback? What was the last book you read and would you recommend it?

Paperback. I love the feel of a book although I take my kindle on holiday. The last book I read was A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles which I would recommend.

Social media. Is it your friend or your foe? If it's your friend, what do you enjoy most about it?

On the whole it is my friend. I enjoy keeping in touch with friends from all around the world.

What three apps do you use most on your phone?

WhatsApp Libby the library app. Facebook.

You have to spend a month on a desert island. You cannot take your family or indeed any people with you. Name three items you would have to take with you.

Sun lotion.

A bible.

A photo album of friends and family.

What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?

A leisurely start followed by coffee/lunch with friends and then time with my family, ending with reading my book in bed.

We know you enjoy travelling! What is your most treasured memory of somewhere you have visited?

Seeing a tiger in the wild in India, a very emotional moment.



Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you choose as a dinner guest? You can choose three people to make up a table of four with yourself!

Michael McIntyre to keep us entertained with his comedy, Josh Groban for his singing and Sir David Attenborough for stories of his amazing life involving the natural world.

Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? What is it and why haven't you done it?

I would have loved to have gone to Machu Picchu but I'm not very good at altitude and probably not fit enough to do it now.



And last but not least, tell us your favourite knock knock joke.

Don't have one but this is one of the better ones!
Knock knock
Who's there
A little old lady
A little old lady who?
Hey, you can yodel.



BUILDING A SCHOOL /EDUCATION CENTRE IN RWANDA

I first met Samantha Hunt MBE in February 2017. Sam is Chair of Survivors Fund (SURF), a UK based charity that supports survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. She is also head of the Reaching Rwanda programme that connects children and young people in the UK with their peers in Rwanda.

works with partner organisations to provide longterm support for projects that have a high impact and are sustainable. Tens of thousands of genocide survivors and their families have been helped to rebuild their lives including providing homes, access to health and education together grants to set up small businesses.

Rwanda The Reaching programme provides opportunities for children and young people here to plan and carry out fundraising campaigns personal and develop relationships with children and young people in Rwanda. I first Rwanda visited with programme in April 2019, during which time I fell in love with beautiful ʻland this o f thousand hills', returning February 2020.

Education in Rwanda is highly valued. However, although there access to free education. children can only attend school if they have the appropriate uniform and all the equipment pencils and as Therefore, they start school whenever their families afford it and, if they cannot, they do not attend. As a result, children of different ages will be in the same class and many children do not go to school at all. This includes children who have no parents or other family to support them.

It became Sam's dream to build a school/education centre that any child could go to because there would be no restrictions. By February 2020 she had raised enough money to buy the piece of land for the building. While this was being constructed, the centre would operate from temporary premises.



View from the permanent location of 'Philly's Place'

The centre is called 'Philly's Place' in memory of Sam's grandmother. It opened in its temporary location in November 2020, providing free education and enrichment lessons for children of all ages and abilities.

As well as traditional lessons, the children do arts and crafts, sports, music and dancing. The centre is extremely popular and has proved to be much needed. Some children walk up to 15km (just over nine miles) each way to attend. One father brings his daughter on his bicycle, a journey of 20km (almost 12.5 miles) each way every day.

There is space for 60 children to have two hours of teaching. However, there are more than 150 children arriving for each session with 200 more queueing up for their turn. Therefore, the hall is crowded and children are also being taught outside. At other times, adults also receive lessons in activities such as sewing so that they can set up small businesses making clothes and items to sell in the markets, thus becoming self-sufficient.

Teaching in temporary premises is not ideal. Apart from being too small, the building and its surrounds are close to a main road and at times the centre has been closed at short notice. The permanent building is situated up a track in a safer location and will provide for many more children in its purpose-built facilities. The structure been erected and has utilities fitted. Help is now needed to complete it and get it ready for teaching.

Some of our local uniformed organisations, Brownies Rainbows, run bγ Sandra Walton, are fundraising 'Philly's Place'. Hopefully, the building will be finished by the end of this year and I plan to in February l will Afterwards, share photographs of the centre fully operational to show the children here how their efforts have helped their peers in Rwanda. In this way we also make those connections between children and young people in Scotland and in Rwanda.



Children queuing for their turn of teaching at 'Philly's Place'



If you would like to find out more about the work of SURF, please visit their website at

https://survivors-fund.org.uk/

Mamie Philp's book 'Ten Days in Rwanda' is available on Amazon, proceeds from which go to the completion of 'Philly's Place'.

The Parkinson's Coffee Group

Parkinson's disease can genetically transmitted - however, this is not always the case. The symptoms are perhaps best recognised b y many ʻshaky as hands'. It is shown that there are around 40 symptoms with suffers displaying a much smaller subset. Aileen Brannan and my wife Sandra, had noted that there were a surprising number of folk living with Parkinson's within the Fairmilehead area and they both thought it would good idea, for those who wished, to meet up informally. At the moment this is taking place at the Pop-up-Café at 10.30am on prearranged Wednesday mornings.

The "Pop-up-Café" provides an ideal environment for those associated Parkinson's to with meet and contrast and compare experiences neutral and supportive surroundings. Personally, I have found this very helpful and a great way to meet folk who I would be unlikely to interact with under other circumstances.

The Parkinson's Coffee Group came into being thanks to Aileen, Steve, Sandra and Anthony (in order!). particular Having experienced living with Parkinson's over a good number of years they understand the importance connecting, sharing, encouraging and learning from each other. That is exactly what happens each time we meet at the Pop-up-Café. This Fairmilehead Parish at provides a Church friendly. comfortable, relaxing environment thanks to the happy, hard working volunteers who run the café.

We get together once a month for a catch up and our conversations are always open and honest. It is good to hear Parkinson's stories and issues from the others providing a very important message to us that we are not alone.

More often than not we have a laugh as well as a moan about the condition. Steve has put us in touch with the Parkinson's UK Edinburgh branch which has also provided good support.

It is surprising how many people in the local community live with Parkinson's and our little group is expanding steadily. Hopefully word will get round and more people will come along and experience the camaraderie and empathy that we enjoy.

So, if you have experienced Parkinson's yourself, or are a partner or friend of someone living Parkinson's, you are welcome to join us at the Pop-up-Café to explore any aspects of Parkinson's well as as important topics such as the latest rugby results etc. There is agenda or membership example, I am not a member of the church. All you need to do is turn up. Finally, we would like to thank everyone who helps with organisation and operation of the Pop-up-Café.

If you would like more details of the activities of the Edinburgh branch of the UK Parkinson Society please contact Stephen at chair@edinburghparkinsons.org or Google Edinburgh Parkinson's for further information.



Article written by Anthony Walton

Presbytery Plan update

by Malcolm Cutt



Following recent meetings of the Presbytery Deployment Group, it is now proposed that St. John's Colinton Mains should move forward as part of a different grouping. A meeting between representatives of the Deployment Group and representatives of Fairmilehead, Greenbank and Morningside churches therefore took place in early April to discuss the possible options. This seems likely to involve a union involving Greenbank and one of the other churches (either Morningside or Fairmilehead), with the other church joining the united church in a Parish Grouping. This would involve working closely with the united church but without, at this stage at least, entering into a formal union. Further discussions are planned over the next few weeks, and the options will also be considered by the three Kirk Sessions in parallel with the discussions with the Deployment Group. It is hoped that a firmer idea of the final proposal will emerge before the autumn.

FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH

WE ARE RECRUITING

AVAILABLE POSITION PARISH ASSISTANT

Are you passionate about serving others and deepening your faith within a supportive community? Our vibrant and welcoming church is seeking a dedicated individual to join us as a Parish Assistant. This is an exciting opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our congregation members and beyond.

Responsibilities:

- Provide pastoral care and support to members of the congregation, including hospital visits, home visits.
- Conducting funerals. Training will be given.
- Support and be involved in the work of the Fairmile Project.
- Coordinate and participate in community outreach initiatives, fostering connections with local organisations and individuals in need.
- Collaborate with the pastoral team to develop and implement programs that nurture spiritual growth and fellowship among members of all ages.
- Support the administrative needs of the church, such as managing communications, church magazine and newsletter, maintaining our website and records, and assisting with event planning.
- Assist the Minister in organising and taking part in the leading of worship services and Bible studies including preparing materials, coordinating volunteers. Offer holiday cover for the Minister when required.
- Supporting and working alongside the volunteers in our Young Church and Holiday Club.

Qualifications:

- An active church connection and deep commitment to your own faith and
 a desire to share it with others.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to empathise and connect with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Previous experience in a pastoral or ministry role preferred, but not required.
- Strong organisational and administrative abilities, with attention to detail and the ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- · Flexibility and adaptability in a dynamic church environment.
- A servant-hearted attitude and a willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team.

Working hours

This is a part time flexible working position of 27 hours per week, including Sunday mornings. Non working days would equate to two days off per week

Salary : £18,500 per annum

Join us as we journey together in faith, service, and community! To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and passion for ministry to Mrs Fiona Bonar at personnelcommitteefhpc@gmail.com

Closing date: 25th July 2024 Interviews mid August.

We look forward to welcoming you to our team.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

FROM 1 MAY 2024

THE CONTACT
NUMBER FOR
FAIRMILEHEAD
PARISH CHURCH
WILL BE

07484 070128



MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH CENTRE



What is the Fairmile Project? Well, it is a project which has, as its objective, to reach out to anyone in our parish who is on their own and who would benefit from getting out of the house and spending time with others, while also having the possibility to make new friends. It's open to anyone and no church connection is needed.

Every Monday at 2.30pm we welcome people of all ages and there is no cost to the activities. It's simply donation only. Each week we do something different and you don't have to come along every week, you just need to come along when you can.

The Project won't be running during the month of July, but will meet again on the first Monday in August. We meet in Frogston Hall, which is the first hall on your right as you come centre. The the church into centre is accessed from the car park where there are disabled spaces and the entrance and hall are on one level making access for the less mobile easier.

Here are examples of what we get up to on a Monday!

The first Monday of the month is Crossroad Island discs, which is an afternoon hearing about the life of someone in our church or community through their music choices. This is a fantastic way to get to know one another in our community and we have heard from guests young and old.

The **second Monday** of the month is Monday Meetup. On this Monday we take part in a variety of activities which have included dominoes, beetle drives or even craft sessions where we have made Easter cards and paper daffodils. We have even had a go at colouring in!



The third Monday of the month is our afternoon tea, with delicious home baking and scones and of course a chance to catch up with friends.

The **fourth Monday** of the month is when we welcome our organist lain Whyte to our session for a singalong. Iain brings his guitar to accompany us as we sing songs on a variety of themes which has included Scottish music and songs about Spring.

All are most welcome at the Fairmile Project and it's a great way to meet people and make new friends. We always finish our activities with a cup of tea or coffee, a selection of goodies and a good chat so why not come along and try us out? We look forward to seeing you!



WE ARE RECRUITING

AVAILABLE POSITION SUNDAY CHURCH OFFICER

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve your community in a meaningful way? Our church is currently seeking a dedicated and reliable individual to join our team as a Weekend Church Officer

Responsibilities:

- Assist with setting up and clearing for Sunday morning fellowship. 9:15am-12:30pm.
- Operate the Sound System when required during worship. Assist with special events, services and activities held within the church on a Sunday which may end slightly later.
- Ensure the sanctuary, fellowship halls, kitchen and toilets are left clean and orderly. This will include tasks such as sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, dusting and sanitising surfaces.
- Ensure that all areas are properly stocked with necessary supplies such as toilet paper and paper towels.
- Notify appropriate personnel of any maintenance or repair needs within the facilities.

Qualifications:

- Respectful and professional demeanour when interacting with church staff, congregation members and visitors.
- Willingness to uphold the values and mission of the church.
- Previous experience in janitorial or custodial work preferred but not essential. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work independently.
- Good time management skills and the ability to prioritise tasks effectively.
- Age 18+

Schedule:

Part-time position with flexible hours, typically requiring weekend availability, but we are particularly keen to hear from those also available to offer holiday/illness cover for our weekday church officer. £11.50 per hour.

If you are interested in joining our team and contributing to the upkeep of our church community, please submit a brief letter outlining your interest and qualifications via email for the attention of Mrs Fiona Bonar at personnelcommitteefhpc@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Knitting Group - The Flock

by Helen Grant

Have you heard about our knitting group? We are a group which meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except July, in the Caerketton Hall, to knit and natter.

•You may have seen our wonderful pulpit falls, in red or purple or yellow. We are currently working on our next fall, which is in shades of green, with both flowers and leaves.

Our current projects are:-

- Jerseys for Primary school children. These are currently sent to a school in north Edinburgh, which has a large intake of refugees, mainly from the Ukraine. These children arrive in Edinburgh with only the clothes which they are wearing.
- Hats, gloves and scarves for the homeless.
- Hats and scarves for Primary school children - these can be any colour, and are donated to the Edinburgh School Uniform Bank charity (ESUB).
- •Fiddle muffs for those living with dementia or delirium. Fiddle muffs provide a wonderful source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation, and keep hands snug and warm at the same time.

If you would like to join our knitting group, there is no requirement to knit for any of the projects we are following and you do not need a Church connection.

If you are unable to attend our meetings on a monthly basis, we would still love to hear from you, and you can still knit for any of our projects. For further information, please contact Helen Grant through the Church Office.



HOW WE CARE by Dr Scott Arthur

"Feeding the 5,000" is a phrase that has probably been with us all since childhood. A difficult concept if the idea of using just five loaves and two fishes is taken literally. However, the story conveys a message which is more about what can be done through sharing rather than spreading a little among a lot. That is exactly what the Edinburgh Food Bank does and we, at Fairmilehead Parish Church, do what we can to support this worthwhile charity. The sharing of that extra tin of beans or a packet of babies' nappies is helping many people in Edinburgh through a period which has been called the "Cost of Living Crisis". The extent of the need is great.

20,361 three-day emergency parcels were given to people in 2023 and almost 6,000 three-day emergency food parcels have been given out so far this year! These food parcels provide three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food - however, the need is for more than just food. Providing toiletries and household cleaning products and directing those in need to relevant agencies is also important.

Our contribution
is small in relation
to the need
but 'Mony a mickle maks
a muckle' and the
sharing offered by
Fairmilehead makes a
huge difference!





GET FIT OUTDOORS AND ONLINE!

2024 TIMETABLE JOIN THE COMMUNITY

MONDAY

06:15 Fairmilehead Park 09:15 Fairmilehead Park 18:30 Fairmilehead Park

TUESDAY

10:30 Fit Mummy Bootcamp - Fairmilehead Church (Indoor and babies welcome) 18:30 Indoor class - Fairmilehead Church

WEDNESDAY

06:15 Fairmilehead Park 09:15 Fairmilehead Park 18:30 Fairmilehead Park

THURSDAY

09:15 Beginners class - Buckstone Waterboard Field (Brough Park)

FRIDAY

06:15 Fairmilehead Park 09:15 Fairmilehead Park 13:30 Kids Bootcamp

SATURDAY

08:00 Fairmilehead Park

Outdoors Indoors Kids Fit Mummy Beginners

NUTRITION - PERSONAL TRAINING - BODY MOT - SPORTS MASSAGE

OUTDOORS BOOTCAMP - TRY A FREE CLASS ONLINE BOOTCAMP - OVER 350 WORKOUTS AVAILABLE



or contact David for more information: info@edinburghbootcamp.co.uk

edinburghbootcamp

SIDEY'S PILATES

Level 3 Instructor

Beginners Welcome

Fairmilehead Parish Church

Frogston Road West, Edinburgh, EH10 7AA

Monday: 9.45-10.45am Wednesday: 7-8pm Friday: 8.50-9.50am

8 week courses

Please contact Diane to reserve your space Mobile: 07882 359741

e-mail: diane@sideys-pilates.co.uk

-See website for full details & other venues and info for Zoom Online interactive classes

www.sideys-pilates.co.uk







Girlguiding

Edinburgh - Fairmilehead

We help all girls know they can do anything

Volunteer with Girlguiding

It's totally flexible and there's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes, you don't need any guiding experience and everyone is welcome!

Find out more girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: No.SCO13171



Holiday club 2024!

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SUMMER ADVENTURE FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES? LOOK NO FURTHER!

Our Church Summer Holiday Club is back this year on Monday 15th July! We will run it for the week from 9:30am to 12:00pm. £25 for the week.

Cheryl, our Minister will lead the Holiday Club, alongside our church members, who will be here to make this summer the best one yet for your children or grandchildren!

- It will be a week of fun learning all about the yummy food we find in the Bible and we will be doing that in lots of different ways!
- © Each day will bring a new food theme from the Bible! We might even discover some chocolate!
- Sharing our good news!
- Once again we will let your child's imagination soar with daily arts and crafts activities.
- Lots of games to encourage teamwork and friendly competition in the church garden. Make sure you bring sunscreen or a waterproof!
- Cool Treats and Snacks: Delicious snacks will be provided daily to keep your little ones energised and hydrated.
- Building! We will also be building a large church out of cardboard and LEGO!
- Our experienced and passionate church volunteers are dedicated to providing a caring, safe and fun environment for your children.

HAVE A READ AT SOME OF THE FEEDBACK WE GOT LAST YEAR!

"This has been amazing, the crafts that my children brought home every day were beautiful!"

"All the leaders have been incredible with my little girl.
She didn't want to come on the first day, and now she doesn't want it to end."

"My little one didn't have anyone to come with and I was apprehensive that I'd be able to leave him on his own. I expected a phone call within the first half. I couldn't believe it when I came to pick him up, and the way you organise the holiday club meant he made friends within the first 20 minutes".

"Can't thank you enough for helping my daughter grow in confidence. She's going into primary one after the summer and this has been a real confidence builder for her".

"Please thank whoever organised all the outside games. The children have had a real blast!"

"Thanks for all you've done.
Providing the snacks was one
less thing for me to do in the
morning! It was much
appreciated by me - a busy
working mum!"

SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SUMMER FUN! REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY. DETAILS OF HOW TO DO SO ARE ON THE BACK PAGE.

No Church connection needed.

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

by Anne Lambert

The remit of the Fellowship and Hospitality Committee is to find ways to bring together members of the congregation and the wider community. This year we have already held a Beetle Drive which was enjoyed by all who took part. It was won by Judith Wilson and runner-up was Neil Grant.



In April we welcomed the annual visit of the Dovecot Singers who entertained us with some beautiful music.

We always enjoy their concert and

the bonus was that we made almost £600 from donations, which was divided between the Church and the Dovecot Singers' chosen charity, Music in Hospitals and Care.



In May, 30 members of the congregation gathered to dine at EH15 restaurant at Edinburgh College. This event has grown in popularity and if you missed out this time we will be holding it again next year.



Other events will be planned later in the year so hopefully you will find something that interests you. These will be communicated via our website

See https://www.fhpc.org.uk/



