

Review of the year 2018

CRICHTON
COLLEGIATE
CHURCH

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The Battle's Over A Nation's Tribute

Sunday, November 11th 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War with events taking place across the country. At Crichton, a special service of both Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Peace was held. It took the form of choral evening worship, not only to remember the sacrifice of the fallen, but also to give thanks for peace and look forward with hope. Choral pieces were beautifully sung by the Consort of Voices under their musical director, Stuart Hope. A gifted young piper, Finlay Rae, played a lament as the wreaths were laid and 'The Battle's O'er' as the congregation departed. Fusilier Martin Craig of 2 Scots played the Last Post and Reveille. The organ was played by Matthew Beetschen of Dunfermline Abbey.

Her Majesty the Queen was represented by Lt. Col. Richard Callander OBE TD DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian. Lt. Col. Campbell Close, Commanding Officer, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



After the storm

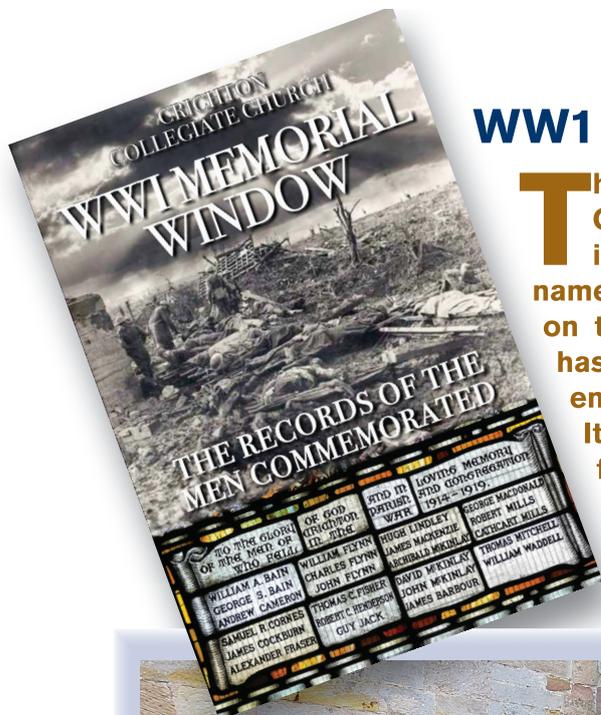
(2 Scots) and Councillor Peter Smaill, Provost of Midlothian, together with other local dignitaries, were in attendance. Standard bearer Angela Wilson represented the Royal British Legion. The recently appointed minister of Tyne Valley Parish, Revd. Dale London, a former Army chaplain, officiated.



Church Bell Restoration Project Completed

With a late heavy snowfall slowing progress on the restoration, the bell was finally removed from the tower in May. The work was carried out by Edinburgh Stonemasons Ltd. under the guidance of Stewart Inkster and his team, who specialise in rope access and are skilled in working with lime mortar. It was transported to the John Taylor & Co. Ltd. foundry in Loughborough where it underwent restoration. This involved fitting a new independent crownstaple to the bell, a new clapper and replacement of the half wheel and headstock in traditional hardwood. Meanwhile, a colony of swifts arrived in the tower earlier than usual, which meant that restoration work to the masonry of the bell cote had to be delayed until the birds had departed on their annual migration to warmer climes in August. The bell was rehung at the beginning of November and rang out officially for the first time at the Thanksgiving for Peace Service on Remembrance Sunday. Our grateful thanks to the Garfield Weston Foundation, The Dalrymple Donaldson Fund, The Leche Trust and WREN - The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund and the individuals whose support made this project possible. The project was completed on schedule and on budget. Pictures of the restoration can be found on the church website.





WW1 Memorial Booklet

The research undertaken by Crichton resident, David Bird, into the stories behind the names on the memorial window on the north wall of the church has been published in a booklet entitled WW1 Memorial Booklet. It is a fascinating read and a fitting tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It is available to purchase at a cost of £5 plus postage.



St Andrews University Madrigal Group

Services

There were six services during the year starting with Easter Sunday Communion, followed by Ascension Day Eucharist, Tyne Valley Parish United Communion Service, Harvest Celebration, Armistice Day Remembrance Service and finishing with Carols at Crichton. This service of Readings and Carols was again particularly well attended. Four weddings, three funerals and two christenings were held in the church during the year.

Concerts

Another successful concert season began in May as part of Midlothian Heritage Week, with the Roxburgh Quartet presenting Baubles, Bangles and Beads which featured works by Haydn and Borodin. This was followed by a visit of the St Andrews University Madrigal Group as part of their UK summer tour. The Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra played in June. Strings and Pipes featured works by Boyce, Handel, Giuliani and Rheinberger. In September, Eternity Singers presented an a cappella concert Pure Voices in association with Christian Heritage Edinburgh.

The Friends ~ Time for Tea

In addition to overseeing the regular Sunday Openings, the Friends Committee arranged four successful events during the summer which raised much needed funds for the church. In June, thanks to the generosity of the Dundas Becker family, they held Tea in the Orangery at the magnificent Arniston House. It was a wonderful setting, and while enjoying delicious food, visitors were entertained by harpist Alison Kinnaird, followed by walks around the gardens. August saw Whitburgh House, home of Alasdair and Elizabeth Salvesen, open for three days under Scotland's Garden Scheme. The Friends supplied the Teas, the proceeds of which were generously donated to the Trust. In September we were treated to a fascinating tour of the historic Borthwick Castle which has recently undergone a major refurbishment by owners Mr and Mrs Birch. It was an opportunity to see the tremendous amount of work that has been carried out and learn more of the building's long history. Afternoon Tea was served afterwards at Loquariot, the home of David and Judy Tolley

Towards the end of June, the Pathhead Choir, who use the church for their choir practices, gave their tenth anniversary concert. This event, hosted by the Friends, is always well supported by the local community.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Ovens and Duncan McDougall during the year and remember with gratitude their support of the Trust over many years.



www.crichtonchurch.com

Information regarding upcoming events is available on the website and sent out via email. Please keep us up to date with your contact details. The Trustees are working to ensure that we are fully compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations implemented in 2018.

My personal thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement.
Henry Duncan, Chairman • March 2019