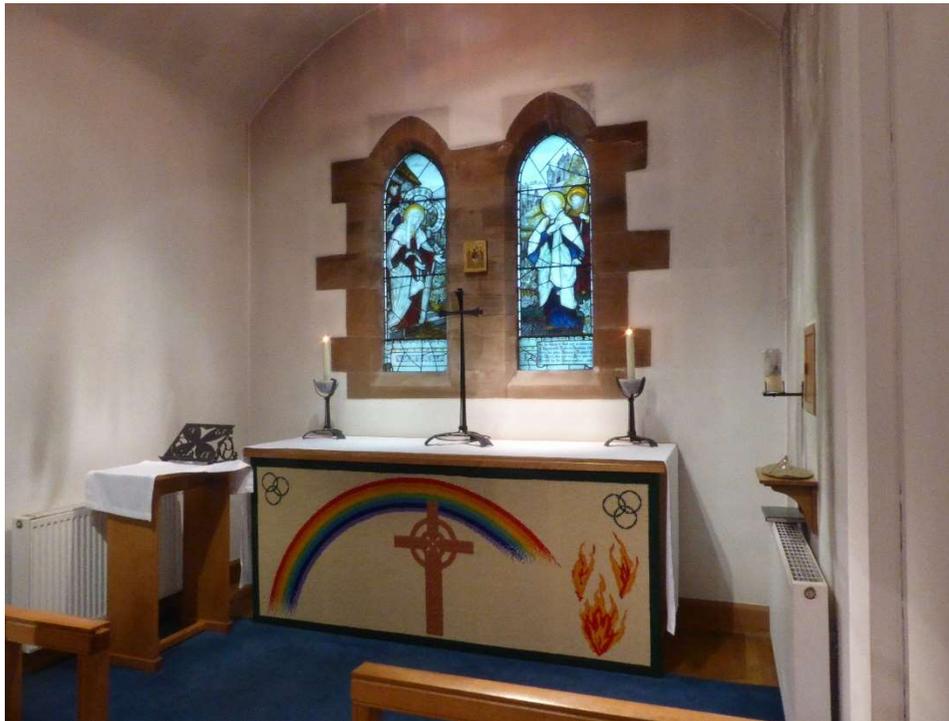


**January & February 2017**

# THE MESSENGER



***The Magazine of St Michael  
And All Angels  
Episcopal Church, Helensburgh  
[www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk)***



## **Service Details**

### **Sunday**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
*Crèche and Sunday Clubs*

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

### **Tuesdays**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite) followed by refreshments

### **Thursdays**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

For other services not listed here please see Diary (Page 10) inside



**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH**

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

**The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway**

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## A Wee Note from the Rector

You will read this as 2017 starts and we all embark on an uncertain future. This is the milieu in which we as Christians should feel right at home, because Jesus calls us to be prepared to live in an uncertain world where we live by faith that He, at any rate, does know what is going on. Our job is to try to help others to develop this faith and trust in Him in uncertain times.

We in Scotland, and certainly in Britain generally, face an unknown future. We are starting the break-up of the European Union and absolutely nobody knows where this is going to lead us. What history teaches us, and what we have, of course, not bothered to learn, is that fragmentation among nations is not a Good Thing.

The world is scarred by some pretty ghastly conflicts, in which millions of by-and-large-innocent civilians are suffering unimaginable horrors, and in which some extraordinary feats of bravery are being performed daily by people such as the staff of Medicins Sans Frontieres and some Christians NGOs. Since the need to sell huge quantities of military hardware and make vast sums of money, or the need to appease the Saudi Arabians so that the oil keeps flowing, or to appease the Russians so that the gas keeps coming, is upper-most in the minds of politicians, nobody has any idea how or if these conflicts will be resolved and what the world will look like if peace does miraculously break out (although, Praise the Lord, peace does seem to have broken out in Colombia.)

In our own country, however hard you try to manipulate the figures, it is patently obvious that the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' is continuing to widen alarmingly. What social unrest lies down the road if this continues, and when it comes, where will it end?

St. Michael's church community also faces its uncertainties. We have financial uncertainties which have to be addressed, BUT bearing in mind that we are a Christian community, not a business or an industry. We are not the only church in the Diocese grappling

## MESSENGER

**January/February 2017**

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*March/April Edition*

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## From the Rector (continued)

with this conundrum: how do we render to God what is God's, as well as rendering to Caesar (the diocese and the state in this case) what is Caesar's? To be faithful to Jesus' explicit teaching we have to do both!

In the meantime, of course, St. Michael's needs someone to volunteer to be the new treasurer to take over from Trevor by Easter 2017. She or he will have to face finding a resolution to this conundrum. So we need to pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this matter, and for Trevor whilst he is still in-post.

Finally, of course, St. Michael's faces the uncertainty of a vacancy when I step down as rector in October 2017. Vacancies are not good places to be for any church in the diocese, especially one where clergy tend to stay for quite a long time. (Which is why I have advised the Bishop, and will do so again, that at a largish church like this one the Bishop puts a 10-year limit on the ministry of a priest.) A vacancy can last for months because of the current policy of (supposedly) nothing being done about a new rector until I have departed. Which is why I am strongly advising you to start discussing NOW among yourselves and with the new Vestry what sort of priest you wish to follow me. As I said to you earlier in the autumn, I want you to be able to hit the ground running on October 2nd 2017! The other comment, which I do hope you will take to heart, from my Rector's AGM Report, are the words from a past rector of Saints Paul & George Episcopal Church in Auld Reekie: "More of the same means more of the same. We need to do church differently if we are to arrest the decline".

One CERTAINTY is that there is no reason at all why you should not appoint a priest who WILL encourage you to do church differently so that the decline may be arrested! Recent church history in the British Isles shows it is most certainly possible for churches to grow again. In a worryingly uncertain world St. Michael's church community should have faith and go for it! God Bless you all whatever 2017 brings!  
*The Rector*

## News

Merry Christmas to everyone and a Guid New Year. As we go through unavoidable dislocation during the painting of the Church, the Calendar becomes more complicated. This issue, please ignore the regular schedule of services on the back cover and use the Calendar in the centre pages.

*Richard Smith, Editor*

## Notices

FOOD SAFETY. You will have seen from the summaries of recent vestry meetings that the vestry has been considering the issue of food safety at St Michael's. This is an issue that we must take seriously, not just from the health perspective, but also because of the legal implications if someone suffers harm. A sub committee was formed to consider the matter, and has produced a St Michael's Food Safety Policy, based on advice from the diocese and endorsed by the Argyll & Bute environmental health officer. A copy of our Food Safety Policy is now displayed in the kitchen, and we must follow the guidelines it contains (which are largely common sense).

We need someone to act as our 'food safety co-ordinator'. This will not be an onerous task – any volunteers?  
*Nick Davies – Vestry Secretary*

SIDESPERSON CO-ORDINATOR. Mr Brian Kyle has been our sidesperson co-ordinator for almost 10 years, and he has indicated that he intends to retire from his post with effect from the AGM 11th December 2016. Our thanks go to Brian for his sterling service in this important post. We now need someone to take over. Any volunteers?  
*Nick Davies – Vestry Secretary*

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING. There will be no coffee morning in January and the February coffee morning will take place at 10:30 am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Angela Russell's home, 65 Macleod Drive, Helensburgh G84 9PS.  
*Maureen Kyle*

DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY The next meeting will take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm in the Rectory.

MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS See article on Page 8/9

ECO-CONGREGATION MEETINGS See article on Page 18/19

THE PRESHAL TRUST CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. It is Saturday evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. The presents from the 'Angels' of St. Michael's have been steadily arriving for nearly a month. They occupy the equivalent of two double beds. With Brian Kyle at the helm we plan to deliver all these wonderful 'goodies' to Govan on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. May the four of us say a huge thank you for another magnificent effort. There will be joy on Christmas Day for more than a hundred youngsters. Well done again St. Michael's.

*Brian & Maureen; Barbara & Shaun*

# Vestry Report November 2016

The Vestry met on 7th November. After prayers for spiritual guidance the vestry tackled the following agenda:

EXTERNAL NOTICE BOARD. The Treasurer confirmed that we could afford to proceed, thanks in part to an anonymous donation towards it. We can therefore at last go ahead with this project, completion of which might take up to 6 weeks.

FOOD SAFETY. The Vestry Secretary reported that a Vestry sub group had drafted a Food Safety Policy based on Diocesan guidance, taking into account similar policies in other churches, and with input from members of the St Michael's community with catering experience. The draft policy, which is a simple 1 page document, supported by separate guidance for cooking and for baking, had been endorsed by the Argyll & Bute Environmental Health Officer. During subsequent discussion, it was acknowledged that the policy tended towards being 'risk averse' but it was agreed that the main thing is to have a policy in place. It could always be modified in the future. It was agreed that the St Michael's Food Safety Policy be implemented.

KITCHEN. The St Michael's kitchen was also discussed. Ultimately refurbishment would be desirable, to include installation of a dishwasher and a replacement cooker, but this was not affordable at present. The Vestry Secretary reported that the A&B Environmental Health Officer had, quite unprompted, strongly recommended the use of 'Anti-Bacterial' cleaning products for kitchen surfaces and for washing up. Regrettably the 'Eco' products currently in use do not conform. The Vestry acknowledged that this would disappoint those who remain keen to improve our eco profile, but concluded that, in view of the advice given, that we should switch to anti-bacterial products.

Concern has been expressed regarding the necessity to carry crockery and urns of boiling water up the stairs for Sunday coffee, which is potentially dangerous for members of the Sunday coffee roster. Options were discussed but no firm solution was agreed.

PROPERTY MATTERS. The Property Manager reported that it had been a quiet month for a change, and he thanked Selina McGeoch for her work in the garden area.

The new internal notice board is now in place, and is a considerable enhancement, although there had been no Diocesan financial assistance. However, an anonymous donation had made the project affordable, for which the Vestry registered their appreciation and thanks.

Issues with ground water drainage were under investigation.

ORGAN FUND. The Director of Music had asked approval to run an organ fund, so that a reserve of money will be available for future organ refurbishment. Some funding could

## Vestry Report (continued)

be raised through musical events. It was reported that the organ was rebuilt in 2000-2001 at a cost of £40,000, following a 5-year period of dedicated fundraising. The Vestry approved the commencement of an organ fund, which is to be administered by the Treasurer.

ORGAN TUNING. The Director of Music is not convinced the current organ tuning contractor is the best choice, and asked for approval to investigate alternatives. It was agreed that he should be authorised to seek quotes from different contractors.

FINANCE. The Treasurer reported that we had spent £8,500 in September against an income of £7,500, the additional expenditure being mainly due to the unexpected £1800 bill to treat dry rot in the crypt.

There had been a small increase in income resulting from the stewardship appeal, but our income needs to be greater. The possibility of a fundraising campaign was discussed.

CHARITABLE GIVING. The option of reducing or ceasing charitable giving, even temporarily, to relieve our financial position, was discussed. The decision on our charitable giving will be taken in March 2017, but the St Michael's community needs to understand that this might have to be a last resort option if we fail to increase our income.

FINANCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE. In response to our financial difficulties, it had been suggested that a subcommittee of financial experts be formed. In discussing this, it was acknowledged that financial decisions were the legal responsibility of the Vestry and could not be delegated to a sub group. It was also pointed out that the Vestry needed to better understand financial matters rather than rely on the Treasurer. It was agreed that possible 'terms of reference' for a financial sub group for future Vestry consideration could be drawn up, with the principle that it would be a 'fact assembling' group rather than a 'decision making' body.

VESTRY 2017. The Vestry as defined in the constitution should consist of 6 – 9 members and 3 officers. The constitution further states that 3 new members should be recruited at the AGM, the longest serving members stepping down if we are in surplus. There is no maximum timescale for Vestry service, although office holders should serve for 3 years. With 2 members looking to stand down at the AGM, and one resignation, there will be 3 vacancies this year. A discussion took place as to whether a smaller Vestry might be more efficient, although on the other hand fewer members might lead to meetings becoming 'non-quorate'. 3 Volunteers to serve the on the vestry are needed.

Dates of next meetings:

a) AGM: Sunday 11th December @ 1230. b) Monday 9th January 2017 c) Monday 6th March 2017

*Nick Davies, Secretary*

## Candlesticks

A follow-on to the article in last month's **MESSENGER**, entered by Berit Vogt about the damaged candle holder. How fortunate we were that Berit took on this task and put a lot of effort into obtaining the two beautiful holders which fit into their wrought iron settings. It is a joy to see them back in their place on the Trinity Chapel altar along with the centre cross. Thanks to Berit for all her involvement, expertise and financing this project, allowing me to use Sir Harry Barnes' (Principal of Glasgow School of Art) wrought iron creation, which he donated to our lovely church.

*Callon Smith*



## Mothers' Union

In our November meetings, we found out a lot more about Mothers' Union than we previously knew and we welcomed Betty Balfour as our speaker about Bletchley Park. She gave us a fascinating insight to life as a Wren in World War II. In December, we had fun at our Christmas meeting called Party Pieces.

Some members joined with the local Guilds for our annual United Service which was held this year in Cardross Parish Church in November. We learned about the support being given by Dumbarton Presbytery to young Christian Palestinian children who cannot normally afford to go to school.

## Mothers' Union (continued)

We had very good representation at the MU Autumn Council meeting held in St Oswald's Church at Castlemilk in Glasgow. A full report is elsewhere in the magazine.

### Dates for Your Diary:

Thursday 19 January at 10.00 am: AGM and the future of MU.

Tuesday 7 February at 1.45 pm: The Waverley. The history of our local steamship.

Thursday 16 February at 10.00 am: Riding for the Disabled. Hear about the helpful work done locally.

Tuesday 7 March at 1.45 pm: EAPPI. If you don't know what these letters stand for, come to the meeting and find out.

Thursday 16 March at 1.45 pm: Helensburgh Writers are going to share some of their work with us.

Sunday 26 March: Mothering Sunday

As always our meetings are open to anyone who would like to come along.

Watch out for other events coming up under the auspices of Mothers' Union.

### REPORT ON AUTUMN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016 AT ST OSWALD'S, KINGS PARK, GLASGOW.

On arrival we were made very welcome with tea or coffee and biscuits. Seven of us were able to attend so our branch was very well represented. The service at 11.00 am was led by Rev Lucy Ireland and Bishop Gregor. During it, three trustees were enrolled and two new members. Two of the trustees were our own Richard and Margaret Horrell, so it was good that so many of us were present to support them.

Revd Lucy gave a short talk on the importance of faith and gave us some time to think and write down the ways in which our faith is important to us.

Afterwards, while we were eating our packed lunch, the bake off cakes were judged by the Bishop who unwittingly awarded first prize to our Diocesan President! There was then the opportunity to sample the cakes at 50 p a slice which raised £20.

/... Continued on page 14

## Service Changes in January/February 2017

St. Michael's Church is the only Grade A-Listed church in Helensburgh. Grade A-Listing means that we have a responsibility (legal, I believe) to care for the building. Therefore, as far as I know, if we deliberately neglect caring for it, especially in the light of all the financial assistance we were given for the Restoration Project, there may be consequences, even if only that we would not get any more financial grants if the building is allowed to deteriorate. When the Restoration Project was completed we knew that we would have to renew the interior paint-work every few years because our stone-work, geographical position, and the climate, make this necessary.

I hope that you will agree, looking at the paint on the interior walls each Sunday, that it is high time that the paint-work is renewed. Therefore, for about 2 months from Monday January 9th most of the church interior will be closed to the public. For all services except the 8.00am Eucharist on a Sunday we shall be using the United Reformed Church on the corner of W. Princes St. and James St.

Here is an outline of the changes which will occur to our worship:

From Tuesday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - the 10.30am Eucharist will be celebrated in the side-aisle of the United Reformed Church. (I am not sure whether or not we shall be able to have refreshments afterwards.)

Thursday evening Eucharists will be cancelled for the duration.

SUNDAY JAN.15th. The 8.00am Eucharist will be in our TRINITY CHAPEL but with access ONLY through the Main Hall and the Sacristy. We shall have a joint service starting at 11.00am with our friends in the URC. It will not be a Communion Service, but we have a guest preacher from US (formerly USPG) kindly organised for us by Marion Blake. Choral Evensong will start at 5.00pm in the URC.

SUNDAYS after that will have the same pattern for the 8.00am Eucharist and 5.00pm Evensong, BUT..... The Sung Eucharist will start at \*\* 10.00am \*\* and be shortened, to finish by 10.45am (INTERCESSORS, please note - will you please keep your prayers BRIEF for this period? Thank you!)

On SUNDAY MARCH 5th (when hopefully the church repainting will be completed) we shall have another joint service starting at 11.00am, but this one will be a Holy Communion service in the URC tradition.

## Service Changes in January/February 2017 (continued)

On the LAST Sundays of January and February there will, of course, be NO Choral Evensong. Evensong-Plus will be annulled for the duration.

ASH WEDNESDAY (March 1st) will be observed on SHROVE TUESDAY, Feb.28th at the 10.30am Eucharist. There will NOT be a service on Ash Wednesday. (So, we shall have to have our pancakes on Monday Feb. 27th. Sorry, this means Lent will be one day longer in 2017. You could dedicate this to a Day of Prayer for guidance in finding my successor)

OPEN SPIRIT will be held in St. Michael's Lower Hall at the usual time of 9.30am. Access will be via the Main Hall or via The Rectory garden for buggies!

Baptisms and Weddings will have to be held over until we are back in St. Michael's. Funeral services will HAVE to be held only in the Crematorium Chapel. I am sorry about this restriction, but it is unavoidable.

There will not be any formal Office Hour for the duration, so please contact The Rector to make an alternative arrangement. Please do not try to deal with administrative business on Sunday morning; we shall be under a wee bit of pressure! Thank you for your co-operation.

SUNDAY EIGHT O'CLOCKERS, please note - when the Trinity Chapel has to be repainted there may be one or two Sundays when the 8.00am Eucharist has to be cancelled. I am sorry; this will unavoidable.

\*\*\* NB: there IS wheel-chair access for all Sunday and Tuesday services. \*\*\*

Please keep a copy of this page with its details to hand during Jan/Feb 2017. I DO apologies for the disruption and changes, but as I have pointed out, they are unavoidable - and we DO have a civic as well as ecclesiastical responsibility to care for the church structure to the best of our ability.

Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation and understanding. *The Rector*

*Spirit of our loving God  
In your mercy and compassion  
Inspire, encourage and empower us  
To live and work together as a Diocese  
To allow your mission for us to take flesh  
Through Jesus Christ, our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen*



## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

### JANUARY

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Feast-day of the Naming of Jesus

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
 9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship  
 10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
 Crèche and Sunday Clubs  
 6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

#### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite) followed by refreshments

#### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Feast-day of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
 9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship  
 10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
 Crèche and Sunday Clubs  
 6:30pm Choral Evensong–Plus!

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January

**\*\*START OF USE OF URC FOR SERVICES\*\***

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite) in URC

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

NO day of Prayer for Mission Action Planning

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January

NO Evening Eucharist

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

9:00am Rambling Club Dinner Walk  
 10:30am Local Eco Network Meeting  
 Alexandria Parish Church with Martin Docherty MP

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Second of Epiphany

8:00am Said Eucharist in St. Michaels' Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 \*\*11:00am Joint worship in URC with guest speaker from USPG\*\*  
 \*\*5:00pm Choral Evensong in URC\*\*

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC

#### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY STARTS**

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January

NO Evening Eucharist  
 10:00am MU AGM  
 12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January

12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January

12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Third of Epiphany

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 \*\*10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC\*\*  
 5:00pm Choral Evensong in URC

#### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC  
 12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

12 noon WPCU ecumenical meeting URC

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January

NO Evening Eucharist

#### Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January

9:00am Rambling Club  
 10:30am-12:30pm Messy Church in URC Church Hall

## /FEBRUARY 2017

#### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Fourth of Epiphany

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC  
 6:30pm Contraflow Youth Service in St. Michael's

#### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC

### FEBRUARY

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning  
 NO Evening Eucharist

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Fourth Before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC  
 5:00pm Choral Evensong in URC

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC  
 1:45pm MU History of Waverley

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

NO day of Prayer for Mission Action Planning

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

NO Evening Eucharist

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Third Before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC  
 5:00pm Choral Evensong in URC

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February

10:00am MU Riding for the Disabled  
 NO Evening Eucharist

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

9:00am Rambling Club

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Second Before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC  
 5:00pm Choral Evensong in URC

#### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

7:00pm Mission Action Planning meeting in Rectory

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February

10:30am Said Eucharist in URC

#### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

NO Evening Eucharist

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

10:30am-12:30pm Messy Church at St. Margaret's, Churchill

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday Before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel  
 9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall  
 10:00am Sung Eucharist in URC  
 6:30pm Contraflow Youth Service in St. Michael's

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

\*\*10:30am Said Eucharist in URC with Observation of Ash Wednesday and distribution of ashes\*\*

### Notes:

\*\* shows when there is a change to the service schedule from the previous week.

Please ignore the services schedule on the back cover of the MESSENGER

## Mothers' Union (continued)

The Council meeting began with a welcome by Jill Cameron, our Diocesan President, who told us about her visit to Swanick and that she had been present at the celebration of 60 years MU membership for Hilary Moran's mother. She also told us that next year's MU AGM is to be held in Edinburgh and that our Diocese will have a big part to play in that.

The Treasurer gave us his report. Unfortunately, MU membership in our diocese had dropped from 182 to 164, mainly due to the closure of the Ardrossan branch. The main item of expenditure this year had been a new laptop for the Diocesan President but unfortunately fees would have to go up £1.50 next year to £19.50. He thanked all the Branch Treasurers who have been so good at getting monies to him when necessary.

A new MU Constitution is being prepared which will be half the size of the outdated, no longer fit for purpose one. The Constitution was last up-dated 25 years ago, and there have been many changes. The existing Constitution covers the UK and Ireland but now needs to be applicable worldwide. It needs to be flexible, easy to understand and give more freedom to individual branches. The final document is to be ready in March 2017 and so a briefing pack will be sent out to every branch which requires a response by 31 January 2017.

A report was given on the forthcoming 16 Days of Activism. Gender violence is an unrecognised pandemic. All branches are encouraged to attend a service at noon on Friday 25 November to light a candle in support of this. Everyone should also wear something white that day. We can look online for campaigns against gender violence such as ABAAZ and Change.org. There is also a good book on the subject called Scars Across Humanity by Starkey.

The Smalls for All campaign continues. In Zimbabwe, having underwear leads to better health and hygiene and is a status symbol by which women feel safer and that someone cares about them. It also means that young girls can go to school every day of the month. So far 462 pairs of pants and 270 bras have been sent from our Diocese.

We were asked to support TARA – trafficking awareness raising alliance – which is funded by the Scottish Government and through the Action Churches Together Committee. This organisation provides spiritual support and befriending for women trafficked; crisis accommodation; legal advice; liaison with the police. There is a pilot scheme in Glasgow for training which has its first meeting on Thursday 19 January 2017. Trafficking is widespread and covers

## Mothers' Union (continued)

people who are transported forcibly from one town to another and can be local people as well as immigrants.

The Prayer Circle is to be expanded to cover non-MU people. It has to be sent in on a monthly basis from now on instead of rolling over from month to month. A Prayer Chain Co-ordinator is needed for each branch and anyone can give them a name at any time to be added or removed from the list.

The MU Catalogue now includes vouchers as presents and suggests several ethical gifts. Christmas Cards were available to be written for Low Moss Prison and to be returned by the second week in December. It was suggested that MU members could leave a gift to the MU in their will.

Richard Horrell is the Action and Outreach Trustee and he wants to know what we are getting up to in every way in every branch. This information is to be collated and sent to HQ in March 2017. We are to keep records of everything we do eg how many emergency packs we prepare and we should keep a photographic record.

We were told how some members knit bonding squares for neo-natal units and encouraged to join in this concept. As many as 30 sets of squares can be needed in a month by some units.

The next council meeting is to be held in the Spring in Dumfries on 25 March 2017 which coincides with Lady Day. The Festival Service is to be held in Lenzie on 13 May and the Autumn Council next October probably in St Marys Hamilton.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

*Joan Thompson, Branch Leader*

## Rector's Annual General Meeting Report 2016

Here are the basic statistics. St. Michael's now has 200 members and adherents, 190 communicant members, 174 constituent members (that is, regular communicants aged 18 and over.) During the past year, there were 225 celebrations of Holy Communion, 6,497 people received Holy Communion, and 169 people received Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, taken to them by our Eucharistic Ministers Margaret Gilbert, Margaret Wardil, Helen

Gibson, and occasionally by Kevin Boak the Lay Reader. The increase in communions from the Reserved Sacrament is because of the increased number

## Rector's AGM Report 2016 (continued)

of church members now in residential care; for instance, 4 each in The Argyll Care Centre and in Northwood House. The increase in the total number of communicants reflects the fact that in the previous year some Eucharists were cancelled whilst the Rector was ill.

The celebrations of the Eucharist include the 'House Eucharists' held most months in the Rosneath Peninsula and in Cardross. The attendance at these services ranges from 6 to 12-13. They are usually ecumenical, and form an important part of St. Michael's ministry to the people of our parish or 'district'.

We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with Fraser Manderson and welcomed him into the Christian Church. There were no celebrations of Confirmation during the year. We celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage with one couple during the year, Michelle Fitzsimmons, and David Faulkener.

Funeral services were celebrated for 6 people, namely Barbara Mortimer, Gordon Melvin, Philip Preston, Peter Logue, David Elliott, and Janette Laing. We thanked God for their lives and committed them into His merciful and loving presence. May they all rest in peace.

The regular worship at St. Michael's has continued without any alterations, although that will change temporarily early in 2017 whilst we decamp to the United Reformed Church during the redecoration of the church interior. Our church is a Grade A-Listed structure, so we are REQUIRED to care for it. It is extremely generous of the people of the URC to make their church available for us to use.

The small numbers of baptisms, weddings, and even funerals, should act as a warning signal to us. The traditional Christian Church in this part of Scotland is becoming less and less relevant in the lives of ordinary people, even at death. Geoff Knott asks, "If your church closed would anybody notice?" This is why it will be so important that when you choose my successor she or he must be a priest who can lead you into reaching out much more effectively into the local community to encourage ALL sorts of people to come and join St. Michael's. Please bear in mind these words from a past rector of Saints Paul & George Episcopal Church in Edinburgh: "More of the same will mean more of the same. We need to do church differently if we are to arrest the decline".

The 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship continues to engage the loyalty of the few younger adults in our church and also most of the very small number of

## Rector's AGM Report 2016 (continued)

regular Sunday Club children.

Two Bible study groups continue to meet regularly and some church members attend an ecumenical meditation group. The meetings of the Church Prayer Group have now ceased, due to lack of support. This is not good for the future of St. Michael's. It would be good for our church if some more people would commit themselves to coming to pray regularly so that the Prayer Group can restart. If people do not meet regularly to pray for all aspects of our church life, then St. Michael's will not flourish.

St. Michael's has continued to participate in the monthly 'Messy Church' ecumenical events, which alternate between the United Reformed Church and St. Margaret's Churchill on the last Saturday of each month. 'Messy Church' is a very informal style of church, and is specifically aimed at young families who might otherwise shy away from more formal church worship. There is a core of loyal families supporting us! Several church members helped run the Messy Church 'hands-on stall' at the Royal Navy's 'Fair-in-the-Square' (Churchill Square) in the summer. A lot of families/children visited the stall, and it once again gained approval for being the only free activity at the Fair!

St. Michael's has now become the venue for the monthly 'Youth Praise' run by the Scripture Union CONTRAFLOW Youth Project, which takes the Good News of Jesus to young people of our schools and churches. I believe that St. Michael's also makes the largest financial contribution by a local church to supporting the work of CONTRAFLOW, which is very commendable.

St. Michael's has become actively engaged in the renewal of ecumenical activity between the different church denominations in Helensburgh. This centres around a monthly church leaders' breakfast! This too is commendable.

We have finally started work on Mission Action Planning, which is the practical aspect of the Diocesan Growth Strategy. A separate MAP-ing report gives you the details of what is happening and what has been achieved over the past year. As Kevin Boak's PowerPoint presentation to Vestry members and to a Sunday morning congregation showed, the MAP-ing Team has had a productive first year, ranging from a Youth Easter Vigil to installing a variety of new notice-boards inside and outside the church! We are blessed in having as our MAP Facilitator Gill Reynolds from Lochwinnoch, who is trying hard and with a sense of humour to keep the minds of the Team focused on the task.

## Rector's AGM Report 2016 (continued)

Martyn Marshall left his post as Director of Music after Christmas 2015, and by all accounts has settled well into the rather rarified atmosphere of Britain's top Jesuit boarding-school at Stoneyhurst in Lancashire's Ribble Valley. A variety of locum organists served us well for many months, one of them becoming a member of our church in the process and Barbara Wenborn making Choral Evensong very much her own. Eventually James Reed forsook the un-rarified atmosphere of the dead Nottinghamshire coal-field around Worksop to join us as our new Director of Music. James keeps the Rector very much on his toes regarding planning for the liturgical music!

Once again, I conclude by commending you all for the way in which you give a warm welcome to new-comers and visitors to St. Michael's. People often praise you for this welcome, which makes a world of difference to the way the faith of our church is perceived. Also, praiseworthy are the contributions the members of St. Michael's make to a variety of community activities within Helensburgh, particularly involvement with the week-day Lunch Club at the United Reformed Church and the food-bank at the Red Cross Centre, and also for your continued material and regular support for the work of the Glasgow City Mission.

*David Cook, Rector*

## Eco-congregation

In 1996 I bought a book called the Environment and Christian Ethics, written by an Episcopalian priest who was a lecturer at Edinburgh University's Divinity Faculty, New College. I thought that this was a sign that the church had finally understood the fundamental link between our sinful way of life and the threat to life on the planet, by our scandalous exploitation of the world and its resources, the destruction of the rain-forests, and our poisoning of the oceans. I was stuck in Suffolk looking after aged parents and an uncle with learning difficulties, but I assumed that those free to do so would be bringing back the Old Testament teaching about our duties under the Creator God, our responsibilities to those in the parts of the world already suffering the devastating effects of global warming, and the link between God's Law for the Natural World and the Moral Law for his People. The two aspects of the Law of God are brought together under His Sovereignty, and neither can be neglected. Furthermore, after the saving work of Christ in his death and resurrection, the 'whole Creation shares in the transformation to a New heaven and a New

## Eco-congregation (continued)

Earth, into the Peaceable Kingdom.

In 2007, I bought the next book by the same author, A Moral Climate. He had now been given the Chair of Christian Ethics at New College, Edinburgh, and was acknowledged as the world authority in the subject. His previous book (see above) was regarded as definitive. "Despite scientific evidence and pressure from grassroots movements, the threat of an ecological crisis for a long time failed to achieve prominence in church or political circles. And yet it is the biggest moral dilemma of our time". I hoped that somehow his message would get across.

In 2013 I moved to Helensburgh, and thought that the Scottish Episcopal Church must be really tackling this problem head on with such a world renowned priest and professor teaching the subject to generations of theologians and ministers of religion. The following year while on eco-congregation business in Edinburgh, I picked up his latest book which had just been published (2014). This book is a wake up call. We do not have much time left, and I believe Professor Northcott when he says that only a return to the Virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude, Faith Hope and Charity) combined with a much more widespread belief in God the Creator of the Divine Law, can save us. They say a prophet is never accepted in his own country. When listening to the pathetic irrelevancies of some discussions at General Synod, poor Professor Northcott must need to summon all his patience and faith to go on preaching the gospel, with his vast range of knowledge of subjects from Christian (Anglican) spirituality to the life of cuttle fish, the workings of the global economy, and the fossil fuel industry, Western and Eastern philosophy, modern global politics, and many other subjects both ethical and political. He has given a lifetime to this subject, and we should pay attention to his teachings, and see the Christian faith as the answer to all our problems. We should be repenting of our sinful use of the planet, during Advent, and proclaiming our message of Hope to the World in the New Year 2017.

### Date for the diary.

Friday 13th January 10:30 Meeting of Local Eco-Congregation with Martin Docherty MP at Alexandria Parish Church. This meeting was originally scheduled for earlier this year but had to be postponed. *Selina McGeoch*

# ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

## WALKS JANUARY TO 2017

Walks are on Saturdays and start outside St Michael's Church at 9 am unless otherwise indicated by the leaders of the individual walks.

DATE	GRADE	WALK	ORGANISER
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Easy	Dinner Walk – Hillhouse to Rhu and return	Pete Ashton 01436 676959
28 <sup>th</sup> January		TBA	
18 <sup>th</sup> February		TBA	
11 <sup>th</sup> March		TBA	
1 <sup>st</sup> April		TBA	
22 <sup>nd</sup> April		TBA	



The grade (or the walk) may change after a recce. There will normally be an easy(ish) option.

Further information will be sent out nearer the time of each walk and copies put on the notice board in the Church Hall.



The committee members are now: James Ashby 01436 675541, Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490, Richard Horrell 01436 676936 and Jo Scott 01389 849145.

If you would like to lead a future walk or to suggest one, your committee would be delighted to hear from you.

## LECTIONARY – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21	Genesis 17:1-12a+15-16 John 16:23b-30 Psalm 8
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 52:7-10 Matthew 12:14-21 Psalm 2
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany 2	Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Ezekiel 2:1-7 Matthew 8:5-13 Psalm 145:1-12
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan Epiphany 3	Isaiah 9:1-4 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Titus 2:1-8+11-14 Psalm 113
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan Epiphany 4	1 Kings 17:8-16 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 2:1-11	Genesis 28:10-22 Mark 1:21-28 Psalm 71:1-6+15-17
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 4 Before Lent	Isaiah 58:1-12 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	Amos 2:4-16 Mark 1:29-39 Psalm 4
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb 3 Before Lent	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Amos 3:1-8 Mark 1:40-45 Psalm 6
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2 Before Lent	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-34	Amos 9:5-15 Mark 2:1-12 Psalm 10
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb Sunday Before Lent	Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	2 Kings 2:1-12 John 12:27-36a Psalm 99

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
*Philippians 2:9-11*

## READERS' LIST – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Selina McGeoch	Julie Siemens	Maurice Steuart-Corry
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Penny Johnston	Helen Gibson	Maureen McCormack
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Nigel Allan	Susan Lewis	Janet Hardy
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Liz Sanderson	Richard Smith	Angela Russell
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	John MacCallum	James Ashby	Contraflow
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Chris Sanders	Jill Braid	David Ronald
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Selina McGeoch	Trevor Quickfall	Jill Braid
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Penny Johnston	John Lewis	John Sadden
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Nigel Allan	Michael Blake	Contraflow

## The Beacon Trust

Once again, the Beacon Trust has hit another crisis point. Due to illness, we have lost our only remaining driver/lifter. This means that without a replacement soon we will no longer be able to keep our van on the road, and without this facility we will cease to function. Without the van operating we are unable to generate an income. It is with regret that I have had to put a time limit on volunteers coming forward to help us. When this time has expired due to our existing funds and our expenses in rent etc. we will have to close.

I make this appeal for one last time, if you know anybody who is willing to help please direct them to the shop. We live in hope.

*Trevor McGrath MBE*

### **Church Group Leaders**

People's Warden  
 Rector's Warden  
 Sunday School  
     Crèche  
     Infants, Juniors and Bible Class  
 Sidespersons  
 Bellringers  
 Reading (Lessons) Rota  
 Cleaning Co-ordinator  
 Visiting Co-ordinator  
 Flowers  
 Intercessions Rota, Laundry, Soft  
 Fabrics and Chief Sacristan  
 Sunday Coffee Rota  
 BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)  
 Mothers' Union Branch Leader  
 Us (formerly USPG)  
 Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/  
 Monthly Coffee Morning Rota  
 Eco Congregation  
 Hill walking and Rambling Club  
 Badminton Club  
 Traidcraft  
 Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar  
 St Michael's Art Group  
 Magazine Editor  
 Collation / Distribution

### **Contact People/Organisers**

Morag Carlaw                   672090  
 Jo Scott                         01389 849145  
  
 Pauline and Ray Williams 673944  
 Anne Cook                     672500  
 Brian Kyle                     672951  
 Kitty Fleming                 676963  
 Nigel Allan                     671875  
 Barbara Hoey                 671718  
 Vacant  
 Sue Ashby                     675541  
  
 Joan Sadden                   672422  
 Margaret Horrell             676936  
 Susan Lewis                 01389 841592  
 Joan Thompson               423451  
 Marion Blake                 673960  
  
 Maureen Kyle                 672951  
 Selina McGeoch               676074  
 Richard Horrell               676936  
 Shaun Hoey                   671718  
 Jo Scott                         01389 849145  
 Judith Adams                 672477  
 John MacCallum               673521  
 Richard Smith                 831644  
 Vacant

Ask how to join or help. Perhaps bring new ideas for new activities  
 You will be welcome. Please let the editor know if any changes are needed.