

March & April 2015

THE MESSENGER



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The Magazine of St Michael
And All Angels
Episcopal Church
Helensburgh

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway

The Very Rev Gregor Duncan

Clergy and Staff

Rector:	Rev. David Cook 16 William Street Helensburgh G84 8BD	672500
Reader:	Kevin Boak 38 West Duhill Drive Helensburgh G84 9AW	676852
Director of Music, Organist..... & Choir Master	Martyn Marshall 50 Hillman Crescent Paisley PA3 3FD	0141 889 6181
Secretary to the Vestry.....	Richard Smith 21 The Soundings, Clynder Helensburgh G84 0QL	831087
Property Convenor.....	Derek Spall 34 Redclyffe Gardens Helensburgh G84	676264
Treasurer.....	Trevor Quickfall 25 Redclyffe Gardens Helensburgh G84 9JJ	679083
Stewardship Convenor.....	John Lewis 29 Hillside Road, Cardross G82 5LS	01389 841592
Lay Representative.....	Margaret Gilbert Flat 6, 3 Park Lane Helensburgh G84 7NT	675136
Children & Vulnerable Persons Protection Coordinator	John Busby Innerhaven, Garelochhead Helensburgh G84 0EL	811385

From the Rector

In our Holy Communion service at St. Michael's Church I say the words attributed to Jesus at His last meal with His friends before His arrest and crucifixion: "This is my blood....it is poured out for you and FOR ALL, that sins may be forgiven." Those words "poured out for you..and FOR ALL, that sins may be forgiven" are some of the most important words to be heard in our church worship.

Many people assume that the Christian church is an exclusive club for those-&-such-as-those who are good-living, morally-upright, Bible-reading, 'Holy Willies', and that Jesus Christ came to live on earth for 'good people'. Jesus Christ actually intended His church to be the exact opposite, an inclusive club for ALL humanity, but particularly the sort of people we know He identified with and reached out to - poor people, those rejected, ignored, despised by society, those who know they have done wrong and are 'sinners', and perfectly ordinary people who are just getting on with their lives. In other words, Jesus intends His church to be for ALL people, including me and YOU!

This why the Good Friday story, when we remember that Jesus Christ was murdered in a most horrible way by hanging on a cross, is so extraordinary. Jesus voluntarily went through extreme suffering to show ALL humanity how much God loves us all. When He died on the cross in excruciating pain He did it to show all humanity that He has taken responsibility on Himself for all the wrong things - the sins - in the world God created. We still have to take responsibility for our wrong actions, and probably face human justice of one kind or another for them, but Jesus' death on the cross means that God, His father and our creator, will not hold our sins against us, if we will do one simple thing. What Jesus did on the cross was a gift to us. If we will accept His gift, of taking responsibility to deflect God's justice for our sins, and if we can say sorry for what we have done wrong, then God says to us that He will wipe the slate clean so that at the end of our earthly lives we go to be with Him in the place we call Heaven.

MESSENGER

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May/June 2015 Edition

Copy Deadline 12th April

Stapling day 22nd April

Publication day 26th April.

For an email copy in lieu of a paper copy please contact the Editor. (address below)

Please send contributions to:-

jm.carroll40@gmail.com

Marjory Barrington

Tel: 820484

Cover photo: Trinity Chapel

On the first Easter Day in Jerusalem Jesus came back to life and escaped from the tomb, the Resurrection. Jesus' resurrection underlines and confirms that He has the power from God to forgive our sins if only we will accept this gift, because as Son of God He also has power to defeat death. That is why Easter Day, which falls on April 5th this year, is SUCH a celebration in the Christian church. We are celebrating the start of an amazing new life, the power of which still resounds around the world.

Would you like to join us in one of the Christian celebrations in Helensburgh this Easter Day? You will be made to feel very welcome! You will know that Jesus wishes to include YOU! God Bless You

David Cook

Vestry Reports

January 2015

The new Vestry met for the first time on 5th January 2015 at the Rectory. After a prayer for spiritual guidance the previous minutes were approved.

DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY. The Rector advised that Gill Reynolds had given an Oxfam cow on behalf of the congregation as a Christmas present. Next meeting of MAP team is Monday 19th January at 7:00pm.

CHURCH LAPTOP AND IT POLICY. Richard reported that John Sadden had advised him that he had previously registered St. Michael's with the Information Commissioner but that it had proved to be unnecessary. The vestry agreed not to proceed with the registration and amend the notices accordingly.

CHURCH WEBSITE. The Vestry commended the new Church website. More photographs and the Facebook page were requested, both of which are in hand and the photo of the Military Wives' choir is to be removed.

APPEAL FOR AL-AHLI HOSPITAL IN GAZA. Trevor reported that he had finally managed to remit the funds and they will all go to the Hospital.

STALLED PROJECTS. The Vestry discussed the list of stalled projects. The new website is complete; the new notice board next to the Bell Tower is on hold pending any new lightning earth rods/plates which may be required under that location; Improved notice board at West entrance delayed because of water ingress; problems with drainage in the passageway outside the crèche room unlikely to go away due to the location of the burn.

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 7TH DECEMBER 2014: The minutes were placed before the Vestry for comment before being put forward to the Congregation for approval at the next AGM.

MATTERS ARISING: New Vestry members, Morag and Derek were welcomed by the Rector. Richard explained Church documents relating to Vestry membership and arranged for the declaration form to be completed. Richard explained the rules for retirement of Vestry members as incorporated in the constitution of the Church. Living Giving – Trevor will provide a list for the division of Living Giving based as closely as possible on one third each to local, Scottish and international charities whilst Vernon will seek out small international charities for our support.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Trevor presented his report. He explained that there had been a

decrease in utility bills in December. A long discussion followed concerning deficit spending. The proposal to form a sub-committee for this purpose was not agreed. Nor was a proposal to carry out an early stewardship campaign. It was agreed that the MAPPING Team should address this issue as a part of its remit. Trevor felt that the expenditure on fabric was likely to be less over the coming year. The Vestry agreed that the proper way to deal with any shortfall was through growth.

LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Margaret's report to the AGM is still valid and a revised schedule for reports will be proposed by Richard.

PROPERTY REPORT: Derek Spall made his first report as follows: I have now taken over the files and the mantle from Nick Parry and am in the process of trying to understand the role and my involvement. Other than replacing Lighting in the main church and the (skilled !!) job of holding the ladders for Shaun Hoey to carry out repair work to the Rood Screen, my physical involvement as yet is very limited. Nick before handing over, arranged for the roof and gutters to be checked, the lightning conductor to be tested and the lower floor cracked toilet to be replaced, this work is all complete but with some ongoing problems. Following the very heavy rain just prior to Christmas we experienced some incoming rain above the organ loft access door. I have contacted our roofing contractor and asked them to inspect the problem which appears to be at the junction between the tower and the roof; this they will get to on their return from the Christmas / New Year break. The test on the Lightning conductor is still giving an unsatisfactory set of figures. The company involved are to send Nick a proposal for 2 additional conductor cables running down the tower to new ground plates, but they do not appear to confirm that this will still get us the results we need due to ground conditions. As the other churches in the area must have similar problems we intend to talk to the other property managers to find out their experiences. As Nick is on holiday as I write this report, I am not sure if he did any work on this and must await his return before moving forward. Unfortunately over the Christmas period we have experienced problems with the toilet adjacent to the church. The Rector was able to contact our plumber and get him in to review the problem. This toilet operates on a 'Sani flow' type unit as we have no adjacent main drainage. Users appear to be putting articles down the system which it is unable to cope with. Replacement of the complete unit is necessary, and is going ahead.

Ongoing maintenance for the property: there are a number of areas I believe we may need to revisit :1. The almost flat roof above the lower Kitchen- we need to remove the valley gutter or any way that this can back up and flow inside (major works) 2. The ventilation to the boiler room- from time to time we get a build-up of Co2 gas when the outside air is still. extra ventilation may be required (major Works); 3. Upper hall is now showing its age. This space needs redecoration, relighting and reheating.(Major Works). I am sure there are many other areas members of the congregation know of that I have not yet seen and help and advice will always be appreciated.

STIPENDS, PAY AND ALLOWANCES 2015: The Treasurer's report and proposals were considered and approved.

HELENSBURGH ADVERTISER: The Vestry agreed to stop the regular weekly church notice in the Helensburgh Advertiser and only put a notice in for Easter and Christmas. Enquiries will be made of the Community Advertiser as to whether they will accept Church Notices. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Although already noted in Church the Rector will make special mention of all those who were responsible for the Christmas decorations. DOG CLUB: The Vestry was asked to consider whether the Hall may be used by a dog training club. The Vestry agreed to this.

February 2015

After a prayer for spiritual guidance the previous minutes were approved.

DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY. The Rector advised that the last meeting was cancelled due to lack of numbers but that the next one would take place on 9th February 2015.

CHURCH LAPTOP AND IT POLICY. Richard amended the notices and the Rector signed them. Richard to laminate for display.

FINANCIAL SHORTFALL. The Vestry had a detailed discussion about the financial shortfall facing the church. It was agreed that the Diocesan Growth Strategy would show real results only after a number of years. As a result of this it was reluctantly agreed that Chris Packard, Trevor and Derek would have a look at the accounts to try and identify the problem more clearly and any obvious solutions. It was recognised that significant work had already been undertaken to reduce expenditure and improve income in recent years.

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 7TH DECEMBER 2014: The minutes were placed before the Vestry for comment before being put forward to the Congregation for approval at the next AGM. The Vestry made no comment on these minutes.

LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: AGM of North West Regional Council held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at All Saint's Church, Bearsden. The minutes of AGM held at Drumchapel Mission on January 23rd 2014 were accepted – there were no matters arising.

The Regional Council Elections were decided: Convenor – Rev Kenny Macaulay; Vice Convenor – Rob Smith; Secretary – Tim Rhead; Boundaries – Rev David Cook; Diocesan Council Elections: 1 clergy – Rev Kenny Macaulay (David McCarthy has gone to Corstorphine); 1 clergy alternative – Rev Kirstin Freeman; 1 lay – David Brown (All Saint's, Jordanhill); 1 lay alternate – Jean Kerr (Drumchapel). General Synod Election: Clergy – Rev Kirstin Freeman (James Milne has gone to St Paul's, London); Lay – Graeme Hely; 4 alternatives – Rob Smith, Sue Brough, Kevin Boak

AOCB: Letter from Bishop about Regional Councils and Regions; laity on Regional Councils and comment and initial recommendations; Celebration of Ascension Day – St Andrew's, Milngavie, 14th May, 7.30pm; £20 one off from all congregations in region – if 'annson't will get back to congregations – Tim Heald will be in touch – N W Region will carry out; St Mungo's and St Augustine now linked charge. Rev Alison Jones, formerly part time associate priest is on two years sabbatical to decide if she wishes to continue in Ministry. Rev Liz O'Ryan has taken the position. Next AGM – 20th January 2016, possibly at Jordanhill.

SOCIAL/FUND RAISING REPORT: John Hanks reported as follows: There are no events fixed at the moment by the social committee beyond this Saturday's party. A longer term project in its early planning stage is to produce a revue using material that Tom Allison has offered, both from mini-plays that he has produced at St Michael's, and events that he and Kate produced going back even further. Angela Russell has indicated an interest in producing this revue, which would probably take place next winter time.

PROPERTY REPORT: Derek Spall made his report as follows: We have some water ingress around the tower, the west corner of the main church and the ceiling of the link to the main hall, but all are not too bad. Arrangements have been made to have these areas and some minor roof slate slippage corrected together with replacement of missing guttering above the lower floor exit door, but overall I think we have done well in spite of the stormy weather. There is a more serious water ingress at the foot of the stair above the door into the lower hall, from the semi flat roof. This is an area we will need to re-investigate once the weather gets a little better, but will, I fear, be a rather expensive solution. We will probably have to remove the existing sheeting, increase the valley gutter, form a seamless lining across the full roof and then possibly replace the metal covering. Professional help and advice will be needed to confirm the best solution. The review of the Lightning conductor is still ongoing, but discussions with St. Andrew's Church indicated that they do not comply but will upgrade with their new church hall. The URC do not know if they comply. Derek also reported that the boiler is leaking and seems to have some electronic problems. The Central Heating is due for servicing. The quinquennial Architectural Review is due before September. Richard explained the technology underlying the leaking roof area. Richard and Derek will undertake a detailed survey of the roof and gutter once the weather warms up.

SPRING EVENT AT THE WILSONS' HIGH AUCHENSAIL FARM: The Vestry considered the request from Rosemary and Michael to hold a different form of fund-raising event this year instead of the usual daffodil tea. This was agreed and further details will be given in due course. The date of the event will be Saturday 27th June 2015.

CALENDAR FOR ROUTINE REPORTS: Richard issued a revised calendar for routine reports to fit in with North-West Regional Council meetings and adjust the number of reports to three each month.

VALE OF LEVEN TEA BAR: Richard updated the Vestry on the situation regarding Sophie Hamilton's resignation. Due to the reduced number of congregations in Helensburgh, the rota week comes around more often than before making organizing the rota more difficult. Sophie has suggested that the Vestry contact St. Joseph's and Bethesda to seek assistance. The Rector will talk to St. Joseph's and Richard will contact Revd. Gordon Weir at Bethesda. [Post-meeting note: Karen Brabendar will take over the task of organizer assisted as before by Judith Adams].

CHARITIES LIST: Vernon is continuing the search for suitable overseas charities for Living Giving support. Trevor will present his proposals for Living Giving next month.

Richard Smith, Secretary

Notices

Monthly Coffee Mornings *Everyone is invited*

March Coffee Morning is 10.30am **Thursday March 5th** at Jill Braid's, 41 Charlotte Street

Please Note:- April Coffee Morning is 10.30am **Thursday April 9th** at Maureen & Brian Kyle's, Dolphin Lodge East Montrose Street

Dates for Mothers' Union

Friday 6th March, 10.30am, Rhu and Shandon Church - World Day of Prayer Service prepared by women of the Bahamas - an ecumenical opportunity – everyone welcome

Thursday 19th March 10.30am - Meeting cancelled

Please Note Future meetings will be organised by the committee and will be held on the

Third Thursday of the month at 10.30am. If you haven't been before, do come along,

you will be made very welcome. More information at www.mothersunion.org Sarah

Eco Congregation Dates for your Diary

4th March Local Network Meeting URC Hall

25th April **Eco Congregation Annual General Meeting**

20th May Local Network Meeting URC Hall

24th May Beach Clean at Kidston park (Fun annual event)

13th June Coffee Morning at the URC Hall 10am -12pm.

Selina

The Vale of Leven Tea bar Revised dates for 2015

As a result of the amalgamation of Park Church with St. Andrew's Kirk the weeks of Tea Bar Duty for St. Michael's have been revised. It is now as follows:

May 25th-29th

August 17th-21st

November 9th-13th

Could you please make a note of these in your diaries. Karen Brabendar will be helping Judith with the Tea Bar Rota . It helps if volunteers can communicate their availability via email – it saves a lot of chasing around or phoning – and is much appreciated! *Sophie*

Mothers' Union A Thank You from Margaret

Dear Members of Mothers' Union,

very much indeed, you who have supported me over the years and so very kindly gave me a lovely plant and a very generous gift of Garden Tokens. I followed in the footsteps of previous leaders and only hoped that I lived up to their example: Hilary Geddie, Robbie Cornish, Jean Carter and Trish Robertson. They all worked hard to give St Michael's church a Mothers' Union to be proud of. You are the people who make it great and give hope to all other Members in this Diocese, and throughout the world, by your prayers, work and dedication. God Bless you all

I would like to thank you all

Margaret Horrell

"Olivet to Calvary" J.H.Maunder (1858 - 1920)

Our Director of Music, Martyn Marshall is pleased to announce that there will be a performance of 'Olivet to Calvary' by J. H. Maunder in **St. Michael's Church on Good**

Friday -3rd April 2015 -at 6pm You may recall that we were going to perform this Sacred

Cantata a year ago, but ill health resulted in a very late cancellation.

Organ - Martyn Marshall Conductor - Brian Temple

Soloists: Jonathon Hawkins (Baritone) & Sean McGettigan (Tenor). (*Glasgow Academy*)

The church choir will be enhanced by local singers and could number 20 voices.

There is no admission charge. We hope you can partake with family and friends for what should be a very moving performance. It is in fact an act of worship. *Shaun Hoey*

Christian Aid Week 10th – 16th May

It's worth having a look at this year's Christian Aid Week video on the CA website, (<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/films.aspx>). This year it features Christian Aid's work with the Borena people in Ethiopia, and especially with the women, who shoulder the main economic burdens of life in this desperately poor community. Two women find themselves on the fringes of society because their husbands are either absent or have died. One walks vast distances every day to collect and sell firewood, which barely keeps her family from starvation. Another now has a small amount of livestock, which gives her nutrition, status and trading opportunities. But a cow costs £150, totally out of their reach without help, and it's this help from Christian Aid, and its supporters in churches across the Country, that is highlighted this year. The video portrays a harsh way of life in beautiful surroundings. It could be a story straight from Biblical times, - except, of course, that it's a 21st Century story. *John Hanks*

Dates for this year are,

Friday 24th April – Quiz Night

Saturday 9th May – Christian Aid Fayre

10th – 16th May – House to House collection

16th May – Street Collection

Another date for your diary

On Saturday 27th June there will be an open **family day at High Auchensail Farmhouse**, Darleith Road, Cardross (exactly a mile up from the main A814). There will be coffee available at 11.00, soup and sandwich lunches and afternoon tea (to include the celebration of Judy Harbour's special birthday) ending at 5.30 pm.

There will be a treasure hunt for young children, croquet on the front lawn, an opportunity to play ping pong (does anyone have a folding table we could borrow?) and possibly a guided walk up the hill. Various stalls of interest will add to the fun: all in aid of St. Michael and All Angels church and its charitable giving. Please come along and bring your friends, children and grandchildren to enjoy a different day out. This is an opportunity for all the different groups in the church to get together socially.

However we will need a lot of carefully organised help. Might it be possible for each church group to be responsible for a stall or activity of your choice, selling unwanted items - household goods, nearly new clothing, jewellery, bric a brac, books, pictures, baking, home preserves and crafts etc. Start collecting now! Please could we ask each group to select two people to run a stall and then ask him/her to contact me (Rosemary) on 01389 841297 or Susan on 01389 841592.

We look forward to hearing from you

Rosemary Wilson & Susan Lewis

Calendar for March & April 2015

Sunday 1st March 2nd in Lent

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 2nd March

7.30pm Vestry Meeting in the Rectory

Tuesday 3rd March

9.15am Prayer Meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 4th March

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Thursday 5th March

10.30am Monthly Coffee Morning at 41 Charlotte Street

Friday 6th March

10.30am **World Day of Prayer** in Rhu & Shandon Parish Church

Saturday 7th March

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

Sunday 8th March 3rd in Lent

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 10th March

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.

12 noon-12.45pm Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 11th March

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Sunday 15th March 4th in Lent

Mothering Sunday

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 16th March

7.00pm M.A.P. Planning Team meeting in the Rectory

Tuesday 17th March

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 18th March

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Saturday 21st March

Rambling Club (*See Page 16*)

Sunday 22nd March 5th in Lent

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30am-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 24th March

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 25th March

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Saturday 28th March

10.30am-12.00 Messy Church in URC Hall

Sunday 29th March 6th in Lent

Palm Sunday

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children

Calendar for March & April 2015

10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Holy Week Begins

Evening Ecumenical Services in the Baptist Church

Tuesday 31st March

9.15am Prayer Meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 1st April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion (with hymns & sermon) followed by the Vigil to Midnight

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

9.00am Stations of the Cross in Church
11.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness starting from St. Joseph's
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy in Church
6.00pm **Music for Good Friday - "Olivet to Calvary"** J.H.Maunders

Sunday 5th April EASTER DAY

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 6th April **NO vestry meeting**

Tuesday 7th April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.
12 noon-12.45pm Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 8th April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Thursday 9th April

10.30am Monthly Coffee Morning at Dolphin Lodge, E. Montrose St.

Saturday 11th April

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

Sunday 12th April 2nd of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist(Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14th April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.
12 noon-12.45pm Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 15th April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Thursday 16th April

10.30am Mothers' Union

Sunday 19th March 3rd of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist(Crèche)

NO Choral Evensong

Tuesday 21st April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments.
12 noon-12.45pm Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 22nd April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

Friday 24th April

Christian Aid Quiz Night

Saturday 25th April

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)
10.30am-12.00 Messy Church in St. Margaret's Churchill

Sunday 26th April 4th of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary
worship (Crèche)
10.30-11.30am Sunday Clubs for children
10.30-11.30am Sung Eucharist(Crèche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 27th April

7.30pm Vestry meeting (April/May) - Rectory

Tuesday 28th April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist followed by
refreshments.
12 noon-12.45pm Rector available
in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 29th April

7.30pm Said Eucharist

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Maggie Sheen Writes (continued from Jan/Feb issue)

Father John's challenge, "I have work for you to do so please come and see me this week at the Rectory".

Father John himself was also new to the living at King's Cliffe. The Bishop had sent him to All Saints and Saint James to: "Get out there and stir it up!". So Father John told Vernon that he needed people who would give him support. As Vernon commented: it was the first time anyone had ever asked him to help with the re-ordering of the church. This was serious stuff! You may recall from Part 1 that Vernon had found himself mentored by both Father John and also by Father David from the Catholic Church who was Dee's priest. Father David became a friend and from him Vernon's faith grew after many evenings over a whisky! Father John showed Vernon how faith could be put into practice and how to go out to the community. Both the fathers had made the same point about needing to make a decision. No longer could he leave church on the outside but he must put God as central to his life. It was as a result of that decision and Father John's request many things happened.

Father John explained that he wished to make the church more part of the community thus raising its profile. He didn't want a "plan" so much as seeking a pathway being led by God which would quite possibly take surprising routes, a pathway that would require the whole Church to step out in faith. As Jesus had chosen his disciples, so Father John would be choosing people who had things to offer, and his search would not be confined to the church but also he would look to the wider community. Father John spoke to a young accountant: "We need you". This young man, not a churchgoer, became their volunteer Treasurer and in due course became a church member and later their Churchwarden. This was repeated in many different ways. Vernon was a bell-ringer, and agreed that there was a need to recruit a team of bell-ringers from outwith the church. One such was an experienced ringer, a mother with a young family, who was appointed tower captain. People doing community service were invited to work for the Church, installing a toilet facility and creating an open area at the west end. Father John encouraged the workers to take a pride in their work, not because it was an old building but "work for God" and in this way their lives were touched. It was

not unusual for the workers to return to see the projects through even when they had completed their allotted hours of work. Whether they came to faith was not the purpose it was that people from outside the Church were asked to do something for the church. So this was pathway A such as it was; there was to be no fall back route, thus the Church stepped forward in FAITH.

Things just evolved over time taking with them the congregation old and new. With the church finances all the funds were transferred to a single fund so monies were not held over in special pockets such as "roof repair fund". Spending was based on need not want. It all felt very risky especially when entirely new initiatives required financial resources. It was this new approach that enabled the Church to purchase an 18 seat minibus with All Saints and Saint James emblazoned on the side. A contract with the local council to take local children to school was secured, the driver being employed by the council. In the available hours the bus became a community bus. No hiring fee was charged, but a diesel top up and voluntary contribution by the users was always forthcoming. The Scouts took the bus with them to scout camp, and the local football team used it too. Church outings were always fully subscribed on their trips to France, or to the local beer festival. A favourite trip, 'The Cheese Run', to Melton Mowbray took place every year just before Christmas. Stocks of Stilton Cheese and Melton pork pies were purchased. On the return journey visits to several pubs would be made, people would ask who we were and what we were doing. They made it easy to share the good news of Christmas with them. Needless almost to mention that room was always made for non Church members too. Financially the bus paid its own way and a replacement bus was purchased from time to time. As an outreach, evangelising asset the bus was priceless.To be continued in the next issue

Vernon

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Constituent Members of the Congregation held on Sunday 7th December 2014 in St. Michael's Church Hall

SEDERUNT: David Cook – chair. Also present, some 33 members of the congregation.

APOLOGIES: Richard and Margaret Horrell, Angus and Sophie Hamilton, Liz Pendleton, Nigel Allan, John Sadden, Chris and Linda Sanders, Marjory Barrington, Derek Spall.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM: The minutes of the AGM held on 8th December 2013, as published in the Messenger and amended as described hereafter, were approved.

Proposer: Barbara Hoey - Seconder: Margaret Wardil. In Item 3.1 replace the date "4th December 2011" with "16th December 2012".

MATTERS ARISING: None

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS: The number of elected members on the Vestry should be between Six and Nine. The outgoing vestry contained eight elected members, one of whom was retiring. There were two vacancies. One elected member will retire from the Vestry – Marjory Barrington. No candidates presented themselves for election to fill the two posts.

ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVE: One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Name: Margaret Gilbert - Proposer: Ann Packard – Seconder: Kate Moos.

ELECTION OF ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE: One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Name: Maggie Sheen - Proposer: Trevor Quickfall – Seconder: Jo Scott.

ELECTION OF THIRD LAY REPRESENTATIVE: There was no candidate for this post.

ELECTION OF PEOPLE’S WARDEN: Susan Lewis has retired as Rector’s Warden and Jo Scott has agreed to take up the post so the post of People’s Warden stood vacant. One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Name: Morag Carlaw - Proposer: Trevor Quickfall – Seconder: Margaret Wardil.

The Rector moved a vote of thanks to the retiring member of the Vestry, Marjory Barrington for all her excellent work over the years. A further vote of thanks and wishes and prayers for her health were given to Susan Lewis whose work with Jo Scott to ease interaction between the congregation and the Rector is greatly appreciated by all.

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS BY THE TREASURER: The Treasurer, Trevor Quickfall prepared and presented the annual report and accounts for the year. Trevor explained that the accounts show a deficit again between income and expenditure. Trevor explained that maintenance of the property of the church will continue to be a drain on resources but there is nothing much can be done about that. All other expenditure is strictly controlled. Trevor thanked the congregation for their generosity. The Rector thanked Trevor for his work. Joan Sadden, on behalf of John reiterated the point from the previous year concerning the division of the 10% of unrestricted income. Richard explained that he had gone back through the old minutes and that the one third portions of the giving had not been minuted although it was clear that this would probably be the preferred position. A discussion on this followed. The Rector, Richard and Trevor explained that, although this would always be kept under review, the position of the mission work to children in the Helensburgh area was precarious and quite depended upon the support of St. Michael’s and that this tended to skew the balance of giving towards local charities.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Trevor Quickfall proposed the appointment of Clements Chartered Accountants as independent examiner for the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts. This was approved unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: John Lewis presented the Stewardship Report and thanked the congregation for their generosity in giving during the year. John explained that losses of elderly members of the congregation were not being made up by new members. John asked the congregation to consider the possibility of a Stewardship campaign in 2015 to make up the difference. John asked that everyone consider whether they could give a little more. The Vestry will consider this in the New Year. Members of the congregation are asked to let Vestry members have their opinions on this. John’s report was

approved unanimously. The Rector thanked John for his work.

LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Margaret Gilbert reported on the work and activities of the North-West Regional Council of the Diocese over the preceding year. Her report was approved unanimously. A copy is attached to these minutes. The Rector thanked Margaret for her work over the year.

TRUSTEES REPORTS:

PROPERTY: Nick Parry presented his report and went on to report that the Gas and Electricity consumption was now fully monitored. Gas frost protection circuits have been tweaked and consumption halved between November 2013 and November 2014. LC Roofing are doing the roofing and gutter work previously carried out by John Sanderson who has now retired. Lightning conductor upgrades have been recommended but with no guarantee of success. More study will be undertaken of the other churches in Helensburgh before completion of these works. Rectory painting and pointing are now largely complete and the remaining small areas are to be completed in the Spring.

This was Nick Parry's last duty as Property Manager and he has handed over his duties to the new Property Manager Derek Spall. A vote of thanks was expressed by all to Nick Parry for his devotion to the church property over the past years of his tenure.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS: John Busby presented his report. He explained that the new PVG scheme requires that all persons must be registered within the next year. All those involved on a regular basis with regulated work must join the PVG scheme even if previously disclosed. Those helping on an occasional basis do not need to register. Everyone on the rota of the Sunday Clubs must join, but those standing in as replacements do not need to. John reported that there had been no reports of abuse during the year. Thanks were expressed to John for his work.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS: The report is included in the Trustees Annual Report. Anne Cook stated that Sunday Clubs only work if the parents come to church. A suggestion was made that the Eucharist might be updated. A problem seems to be attracting young adults to the church on Sundays.

RETIRING MEMBERS: The Rector proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Vestry for all their work over the year. The Rector and congregation thanked Marjory for her work as an elected member; Nick Parry was thanked for his great efforts as Property Manager over the years and; especial thanks and prayers for her recovery were directed to Susan Lewis.

MESSENGER: Now that the Messenger has been reduced to a bi-monthly edition and Tom Marshall of St. Mungo's Church (who previously did the copying) is now seriously ill, it was proposed by Trevor and Marjory to use Admin Systems to print the Messenger. The Congregation were generally in favour but Vernon Perrin asked the Vestry to consider using St. Augustine's Church facilities. The Vestry to consider.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Rector delivered his annual report to the congregation and

this, with the trustees reports may be found on the church website. The Rector added to his report thanks to Kevin Boak and Jenny Sclater for their support and also to Richard Smith.

Richard Smith, Secretary

The Bishop's Lent Appeal

This year, all seven diocesan bishops have agreed that, in their Lent Appeals, they wish to support the training and formation of those entering the ordained ministry or licensed lay ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church. In commending my 2015 Lent Appeal to you, I do so alongside each of my fellow bishops in their respective dioceses. 2014 was a year of significant change in the Scottish Episcopal Church. It saw the creation of the new Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI), which replaces the former Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC).....

Changes in provincial structures, to create a new body called the Institute Council, to act as the governing body of SEI, received initial approval at General Synod 2014 and will come for final approval later this year. Once that process has been completed, SEI will be formally launched. Already, we are encouraged by the numbers of potential younger candidates exploring vocation and, funds permitting, we hope to be able to offer full-time training as a possible pathway for some in the future.

General Synod 2014 received the proposals regarding SEI with enthusiasm and the Bishops also indicated then that we would act in concert with our Lent Appeals in 2015 *Fuller information is in the leaflet entitled 'Bishop's Lent Appeal 2015'.*

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS FOR March & April 2015

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	Description	Leader
7 March	Moderate	Loch Venacher & Hidden Lochan	James Ashby 675541
21 March	Moderate	Loch Humphrey	John Lewis 01389 841592
11April	Moderate	Knock Hill Circular (Largs)	Sue Hume 675358
25 April	Moderate	Carron Valley / Meikle Bin	Pete & Ethnee Ashton
9 May	Hard	Hidden Valley (Glencoe)	Jim McCulloch 831664

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

***'Away Weekend' is 11-15 May. Hotels in Kinlochbervie & Tongue are filled. For other accommodation contact James**

More information will be provided by the leaders shortly before the walk; please contact the leader if you want to know more

The new committee is: Sue Hume, Ethnee Ashton, John Lewis and James Ashby.

LECTIONARY –March & April 2015

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
1 st March	Genesis 17:1-7+15-16 Romans 4:13-end Mark 8:31-end	Numbers 21:4-9 Luke 14: 27-33 Psalm 74
8 th March	Exodus 20:1-17 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Joshua 1:1-9 Ephesians 6:10-20 Psalms 11+12
15 th March	Numbers 21:4-9 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Micah 7:1-20 John 12:1-8 Psalms 13+14
22nd March	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Lamentations 3:19-33 Matthew 20:17-34 Psalm 34
29th March	Isaiah 50:1-9 Philippians 2:5-11 The Passion according to Mark	Zechariah 12:9-11+13:7-9 John 12: 9-19 Psalm 36: 5-11
2nd April Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-8+11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15	
3rd April	Good Friday Liturgy . Readings available in Holy week	
5th April	Isaiah 25:6-9 Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8	Revelation 1:12-18 John 20: 11-18 Psalm 66
12th April	Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Daniel 6:1-23 Mark 15:46-16:8 Psalm 143:1-11
19th April	Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24: 36-48	No Evensong

26th April	Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Ezra 3:1-13 Luke 19:37-48 Psalm 81:8-16
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READERS' LIST –March & April 2015

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
1 st March	Penny Johnston	John Lewis	Joan Sadden
8 th March	Anthony Laceby	Lena Sutter	Janet Hardy
15 th March	Nigel Allan	Michael Blake	Angela Russell
22 nd March	John MacCallum	John Hanks	Margaret Gilbert
29 th March	Chris Sanders	Chris Packard	Penny Johnston
5 th April	Katherine Black	Tom Allison	Maurice Steuart-Corry
12 th April	Selina McGeoch	Julie Semens	Maureen McCormack
19 th April	Penny Johnston	Helen Gibson	Jill Braid
26 th April	Anthony Laceby	John Lewis	Kate Moos

Psalm 34: 4. 'I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.' Lord, where did they go, those worries that seemed all but life threatening? You threw them into the shredder and flicked the switch: no retrieving. Thank you Lord. If I forget to offload my next fears on you, please nudge me Lord. The road of worry is wasted mileage, and I've only so much fuel in my tanks.

J. Critchlow. Page 116 the Daily Service Prayer Book.

Susan Lewis

<u>Church Group Leaders</u>	<u>Contact People/Organisers</u>	
People's Warden	Morag Carlaw	672090
Rector's Warden	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Sunday School		
- Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
- Infants, Juniors and Bible Class	Anne Cook	672500
Sidespersons	Brian Kyle	672951
Bellringers	Kitty Fleming	676963
Reading (Lessons) Rota	Nigel Allan	671875
Cleaning Co-ordinator	Barbara Hoey	671718
Visiting Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Flowers	Sue Ashby	675541
Intercessions Rota, Laundry, Soft Fabrics and Chief Sacristan	Joan Sadden	672422
Sunday Coffee Rota	Margaret Horrell	676936
BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)	Susan Lewis	01389 841592
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Vacant	
USPG	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/ Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Church	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	James Ashby	675541
Badminton Club	Shaun Hoey	671718
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar	Sophie Hamilton & Judith Adams	671074 672477
St Michael's Art Group	John MacCallum	673521
Magazine Editor	Marjory Barrington	820484
Assistant Editor	Richard Smith	831087
Collation / Distribution	Barbara Hoey	671718

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.



Sunday Services

Eucharist.....(1970 Rite).....	8:00am
Open Spirit Contemporary Worship	9:30am
Sung Eucharist.....(1982 Rite).....	10:30am
Prayer Book Choral Evensong.....	6.30pm

Weekdays

Eucharist Tuesday.....(1970 Rite).....	10:30am
Eucharist Wednesday.....(1982 Rite).....	7:30pm

Tuesday at 9:15am to 10:00am. Prayer Group in Choir Vestry