

March & April 2016

THE MESSENGER



***The Magazine of St Michael
And All Angels
Episcopal Church
Helensburgh***

www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

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Diocesan Website: www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow

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From the Rector

At 10:58h last Friday the train doors opened at Helensburgh Central, and Mary-Lou Boal from Madisonville, Ky. with her husband Bob, were reunited with Anne for the first time in almost 20 years. It was a sunny morning, but the smiles out-shone the sun and the joy was palpable.

This is what we as Christians should be looking forward to, our face-to-face reuniting with Jesus Christ. The smiles will out-shine even 'the flash like a million suns' (a phrase you older ones will remember), and the joy will be indescribable. This is what we as Christians are working for, the salvation of our souls, and after life on this earth, eternity with Jesus Christ. This what Jesus Christ came to earth for, to show us that He means it when He says He offers each one of us, as a close personal friend, redemption (saving from the results of our sins) and the promise of eternal life with Him in the company of God, His Heavenly Father and ours too.

The Resurrection of Jesus on the first Easter Day, which we shall celebrate in a few weeks time, is the proof that His promise is true and trust-worthy. If Jesus can completely defeat the power of death, ie: the ability of death to consign us to an eternity of nothingness, emptiness, and darkness, then He certainly has the power and authority to welcome each and every one of us into His Kingdom., the Kingdom of God.

This is what the Christian life is all about - "rather, be glad because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). In the end all the faffing about of organised Christianity and Church life is an irrelevance, if not sometimes a hindrance. The good works that we do are a by-product of faith and not an end in themselves. Jesus calls us to follow Him because He wants to give us salvation and to welcome each of us personally, as a deeply-loved sister or brother, into His Kingdom.

MESSENGER

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Easter and Pentecost are the confirmation that God's covenant and promise are completely and utterly true and trust-worthy.

As Mary-Lou and Bob would say, 'God Bless y'all!

Rector

Notices

Monthly Coffee Mornings *Everyone is invited*

10.30am Thurs. 3rd March at Maureen & Brian Kyle's, Dolphin Lodge ,E. Montrose St

10.30 am Thurs. 7th April at Angela & Alastair Russell's, 65 Macleod Drive

Contraflow Coffee Morning Sat 5th March 10.am-12.00 - in the Parish Church Hall
P7-S6 are raising money to attend Christian Youth Events. Usual Stalls

Vale of Leven Tea bar Contact for *Judith Adams 01423 672477:*

Dates for 2016_... 16th May: 8th August: 29th October

Mothers' Union Dates for Your Diary:

Tuesday 1 March 1.45 pm (Lent) – Angela's Aerobics

Friday 4 March at 10.30 am in Helensburgh Parish Church – World Day of Prayer prepared by the ladies of Cuba.

Mothering Sunday 6 March

Saturday 12 March 11.00 am – **Commissioning Service** for New Trustee Board and Spring Council, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

Thursday 17 March 10.00 am (Lent) - Carishea

Tuesday 5 April 1.45 pm – MAP

Thursday 21 April 10.00 am – Rachel and Joy

Tuesday 3 May 1.45 pm – Sing-along-a-Song

Thursday 19 May 10.00 am – Contraflow

Saturday 21 May – Festival Service, Holy Trinity, Ayr.

Remember: anyone who believes in family life can come to our meetings, so everyone is welcome and I hope more of you will join us in our interesting programme.

Our meetings, so far, have covered a wide variety of topics from making jewellery and Christmas crackers to learning more about life in the Middle East and the development of Hermitage Park. We have learned how to keep safe on-line and what is meant by Self-Directed Support.

In all these activities we have re-enforced this year's theme of United in Prayer.

Our numbers are growing but we look forward to the pleasure of your company!

Joan Thompson Branch Leader

Vestry

The first Vestry meeting of 2016 took place on Monday 11th January. After prayers for spiritual guidance, the previous minutes were approved

Election of Treasurer & Secretary

Trevor Quickfall was elected as Hon Treasurer

Nick Davies was elected as Hon Secretary

Recording of Sunday Services & Hearing Aid Loop. Richard Smith reported that a Technician had assessed our system and produced costed options. Currently we have the best type of microphones available for long distance reception. Minor adjustments have been made, and subsequent improvement has been reported. The hearing aid loop is in need of re-cabling with larger diameter wire and should be installed at floor level (£995 excl VAT). The Lapel Microphone & Transmitter for the Lay Reader is defective and needs replacing (£260 excl VAT).

To achieve recording of services, we will need a modern Mixer Amplifier (£730 excl VAT), and a CD Recording Unit (£774 excl VAT).

If we want to record the choir and organ specifically, we'll need microphones on the Rood Screen (£529 excl VAT). A lengthy discussion took place as to whether all this expenditure is justified considering the small numbers that might benefit from state of the art recording, noting that technology will probably move away from CDs, and that St Michael's might in any case choose at some future date to adopt a different style of service requiring different and more flexible technology, for example to show videos or make recordings in other areas of the building.

It was however generally agreed that the Induction Loop and Lay Reader's Microphone ought to be replaced (£1255 excl VAT), but a final decision on expenditure should be deferred until we know what other expenses we will incur this year so that we can decide priorities and set a budget.

Sunday Club. It was reported that no volunteers to assist had been forthcoming, however one individual has subsequently indicated a willingness to help, which is an encouraging start.

State of the interior of the church. The Rector had highlighted the deterioration of the interior paintwork, and suggested we obtain quotations for a redecoration, even if we have to draw on cash reserves to pay for it. The property Manager pointed out that we have comfortably exceeded the recommended 5 yearly redecoration cycle. After discussion it was agreed that the Property Manager will invite quotations for the work.

Diocesan Growth Strategy: It was reported that the MAP Team meet next Monday to discuss the Youth Praise Services. In addition, a "consent for advertising" application has been submitted in respect of the proposed external notice board.

Boiler. John Sadden highlighted a minor correction regarding the boiler and CO2 levels, pointing out that we do have extractor fans, but the question is, are they effective? The Vestry acknowledged that upgrade or replacement of the boiler will require consideration in the near future.

New Vestry. It was agreed that there should be a “swearing in ceremony” for the new Vestry, which would take place during the 10.30am service on Sunday 24th January.

Finance: Trevor Quickfall had distributed detailed figures, and reported as follows: Notwithstanding that there are some bills to be paid, we are still £10k better off than last year, when we had all the bills associated with repair work to the rectory to pay. Our income between Sep – Dec 2015 exceeds our expenditure by £1k. Of note, income from hall hire has increased, and a welcome donation to funds has been received following a recent baptism.

Pay awards for the organist (designate), Admin Assistant, Hall Cleaner and the Rector were agreed.

After some discussion it was agreed that our investment with Barclays Wealth should be closed down and our assets moved to the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

Eco-Church: Selina McGeoch has agreed to stay on as leader of the group until another member of the congregation is able to take over, but the Sheens have kindly agreed to support her. First event is the Stall in the Hall on Sunday 7th February. The Local Network Group meet at 10.30am on Monday 7th March at Alexandria Parish Church. The Vestry thanked Selina for her willingness to continue as Eco-Church Representative.

Property: Derek Spall reported as follows: The Quinquennial Review Inspection had taken place during appalling weather in December, and although it did not appear that any major issues had come to light, the report is still awaited. The much needed refurbishment of the church toilets has been made possible by a generous gift of £10k. £2k has already been spent on minor improvements, and a contractor has now quoted £10,160 for a complete refurbishment of all the church toilets. After discussion it was agreed that the price was very reasonable and that the job should go ahead.

The church lightning conductor A contractor has quoted £180 for a 3 year contract, and it was agreed that this essential work should proceed accordingly.

The works to the roof outside the kitchen area were delayed awaiting a 5 day period of settled weather. (work is at last progressing!)

Vestry Meetings: The Vestry Secretary suggested that a meeting every 2 months should be adequate, noting that urgent decisions could always be conducted by email, and that an emergency meeting could always be convened if circumstances dictate. There was general agreement for a bi-monthly meeting, ideally to take place

on the first Monday of the month, although the vestry was reminded that more frequent meetings might be necessary in the run up to the AGM.

The Vestry Secretary agreed to create a proposed timetable of meetings for 2016.

A.O.C.B.: Recruitment of organist: David Menzies reported as follows: there have been 3 expressions of interest in the post following our advertisement. One candidate lives at some distance, the others in the Glasgow area. It was agreed that, ideally we need an organist who lives locally rather than someone who has to travel. The plan is to meet with the candidates individually to discuss the job and explore their interest and suitability. Meanwhile we continue to rely on the services of our temporary organists, to whom we are extremely grateful. Some co-ordination is required to ensure services are covered.

Diocesan Constitution Consultation: Nick Davies reported that the Diocese is reviewing the role of Regional Councils, the Diocesan Council & Bishops Staff Group and the Diocese representation to the wider Church. Our Diocese has the most complex structure in Scotland, and the idea is to streamline governance. The Rector confirmed that he had seen the consultation document, and had responded on our behalf, supporting the proposal to reduce bureaucracy and streamline procedures, which was welcomed.

The Messenger: It was reported that Marjory Barrington wishes to withdraw from producing The Messenger, although she has agreed to produce the next 2 editions. Richard Smith has volunteered to take over from the summer. The vestry were unanimous in their appreciation of Marjory's work on the magazine, and fully in approval of Richard Smith taking over.

Date of Next Meetings: Monday 7th March. Monday 25th April. 1930 in the Rectory

Nick Davies Hon Secretary

Where does the money go?

The tea/coffee money donated on a Sunday morning goes to Franciscan Aid. Last year St Michael's raised £1,332.00. Thank you.

Franciscan Aid is the Charitable Trust of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. Franciscan Aid works through local Franciscans across the developing world to relieve poverty and advance education in the world's poorest countries. When the Trust was set up, it stated in the Trust Deed that the objects of the charity "shall be to relieve poverty and advance education of deprived people from Third World Countries whose needs may not be covered by other agencies and those with whom the Franciscans are in contact and whose needs are known so that they can be aided quickly and precisely."

Franciscan Aid is run by a group of UK Trustees in consultation with the Third Order. It

is closely linked with First Order Brothers and Tertiaries working outside the UK in some of the poorest parts of the world, particularly Africa, Palestine, SE Asia, Melanesia and South America. All office holders give their time freely to keep costs to a minimum and great care is taken that gifts are monitored and used as requested and all accounts are viewed by Independent Reporting Accountants every year in line with charity law.

Here are some recent examples of where the money goes:

Computers for Hope School in Beit Jala, Bethlehem – Practical Compassion for Destitute Children has a long association with this school. Through PCDC, we have been able to support their need for new computers.

Funding an emergency fund for desperately poor families in Palestine. Members of PCDC have found families in Palestine with absolutely no food in the house. They also find students who cannot go to school because they cannot buy school uniform or pay fees. Franciscan Aid gave £1000 to be used for such emergencies.

Computers for CECON (Centro de Convivencia – Community Centre). This project is in a slum in Rio de Janeiro. The Centre opens daily and provides a shower, breakfast, lunch, chiropody and a haircut. We have already supported their Franciscan Reading room. The computers enable them to provide training to young people who then are more likely to get paid employment.

Under Tree Schools in Sudan – during the war in Sudan, children were taught sitting under trees. This meant they were able to see if militia were approaching and move. Now there is peace, the charity is trying to build permanent schools.

Delhi Brotherhood, India. This was originally a mission from Cambridge and there is still a link with Westcott House in Cambridge. They run many charitable projects in a poor area in East Delhi. These include 2 schools one of which has a hostel for boys who have no home, a night shelter for street boys, a childline, work with sex workers, a home for elders. We have bought fans, chairs, greenboards (modern blackboards) for classrooms, beds for the boys' hostel and a pressure cooker for the night shelter which means they save on gas.

Re-forestation project in Solomon Islands – the trees are used for building and fuel so it is important they are replaced.

Western style toilets in Solomon Islands for some of the many leg amputees (there is a high incidence of heart disease and diabetes) who cannot use the traditional "squatties". They had to drag themselves into the bush.

Playground equipment at the Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem – this is the only such equipment in the whole of Bethlehem. *Jo Scott*

The Traidcraft Stall

Best known for pioneering fair trade in the UK, Traidcraft comprises both a trading

company, with product sales of about £12.5 million in 2013/14, and a development charity. Unlike other charity/trading company models, Traidcraft plc does not exist to raise funds for the charity. It is a social enterprise, proving that it is possible to run a successful business on fair and ethical principles.

Traidcraft Exchange – Traidcraft’s charity – is the UK’s leading international development charity focusing exclusively on trade. Traidcraft manages programmes of development work that enable poor producers to grow businesses, find markets and engage in local and international trade. Working with a range of partner organisations, they help producers overcome the barriers that prevent them from selling their products and provide training and information services that develop their business skills.

Traidcraft plc – Traidcraft’s trading company – buys products from poor producer groups on a fair trade basis and markets these in the UK. Traidcraft Exchange benefits from the plc’s practical knowledge and experience of the needs and constraints faced by producers in developing countries. This enables them to develop more practical, appropriate and effective projects. Similarly, the plc benefits from Traidcraft Exchange’s international development experience, which helps it to provide appropriate support to its suppliers.

This unique structure provides opportunities to influence opinion and behaviour in the charitable, business and public sectors. The joint management team combines practical, commercial expertise with a deep-rooted developmental approach to trade. This makes Traidcraft ideally placed to act as a catalyst and to influence opinion and behaviour across private, public and charitable sectors.

Mission and Values Traidcraft Exchange’s Mission is to fight poverty through trade, practising and promoting approaches to trade that help people in developing countries to transform their lives.

The Foundation Principles represent the values and aspirations that are fundamental to their work and policies:

- Traidcraft is a Christian response to poverty

- Traidcraft respects all people and the environment

- Traidcraft abides by and promotes fair business practices

- Traidcraft strives to be transparent and accountable

All profit from the Traidcraft stall in St Michael's Church is donated to Traidcraft Exchange. Thank you to all my customers – I sell about £800.00 - £1,000.00 worth of products each year. Through buying Traidcraft products we demonstrate a real, positive and practical way to help achieve a fairer world for all.

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details are on the back page of the messenger. *Jo Scott*

Calendar for March & April 2016

Tuesday 1st March Feast Day of St David

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

1.45pm Mothers' Union(*see page 4*)

Thursday 3rd March 10.30 am Monthly

Coffee morning at Dolphin Lodge

Friday 4th March World Day Of Prayer in

Helensburgh Parish Church 10.30am

Saturday 5th March Diocesan Synod

Sunday 6th March 4th of Lent

Mothinger Sunday

Monday 7th March

7.30pm Vestry Meeting in the Rectory

Tuesday 8th March

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Wednesday 9th March

Mission Action Planning Prayer Day.

Prayer material in Trinity Chapel

Saturday 12th March

11.00am MU Commissioning Service &
Spring Council in the Cathedral (*page 4*)

Sunday 13th March 5th of Lent

Tuesday 15th March

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Thursday 17th March Feast Day of St.

Patrick 7.00pm Eucharist

10.00am Mothers' Union (*See page 4*)

Saturday 19th March

Rambling Club Walk(*see Page 16*)

Sunday 20th March Palm Sunday

Holy Week Begins

Ecumenical service each evening at a
different church

Maundy Thursday 24th March

**7.30pm Ecumenical service St.

Andrew's Kirk, Cardross**

Friday 25th March Good Friday

9.30am Stations of the Cross

11.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness,
starts at St. Joseph's

2.00pm Liturgy of Good Friday in Church

Evening Service at St.Michael's (TBA)

Saturday 26th March

10.30am-12.00 Messy Church in St
Margaret's Churchill

11.00pm All night Vigil for young people in
church

Sunday 27th March Easter Day

Tuesday 29th March

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Saturday 2nd April

Rambling Club (*see Page 16*)

Sunday 3rd April 2nd of Easter

Tuesday 5th April

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

1.45pm Mothers' Union (*see page 5*)

Thursday 7th April 10.30am Monthly

coffee morning at 65 Macleod Drive

**** No prayer meeting or Eucharist****

Sunday 10th April 3rd of Easter

Tuesday 12th April

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Wednesday 13th April

Mission Action Planning Prayer Day.

Prayer material in Trinity Chapel

Thursday 14th April

****No prayer meeting or Eucharist****

Saturday 16th April

Rambling Club (*see Page 16*)

Calendar for March & April 2016

Sunday 17th April 4th of Easter

Monday 18th April

Mission Action Planning in the Rectory

Tuesday 19th April

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Sunday 24th April 5th of Easter

Monday 25th April

7.30 pm Vestry meeting in the Rectory

Tuesday 26th April

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Saturday 30th April

Rambling Club (see page 16)

10.30 am- 12.00 Messy Church in URC hall

.Find days/times for all the regular Services on the back cover

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HOLY WEEK,

At the time of writing there is still a certain degree of uncertainty about some ecumenical arrangements for Holy Week. We hope to hold an ecumenical gathering in a different church each evening. The venues and starting times TBC. On Holy, or Maundy, Thursday evening we are definitely going to an ecumenical service at St. Andrew's Kirk in Cardross, by kind invitation of the new minister, Margaret McArthur. Maundy Thursday evening is a most appropriate time for an ecumenical gathering, so this is an invitation not to be turned down. I suspect it may be a memorable occasion. There will be offers of lifts to-&-from Cardross for this service.

On Good Friday evening there will be definitely be an ecumenical gathering in our own church (Time TBC), so Good Friday will be quite a busy day for us all! The service will not be a eucharist (we shall have shared Holy Communion at the Liturgy of the Day in the afternoon.)

The Youth Vigil starting at 11.00pm on Holy Saturday is a completely new venture, and will be an extension of the Contraflow Youth Praise events held in January and February. Helen Buchanan, the Scripture Union Contraflow Project Worker, and Anne Cook, are excited about this Vigil. Since it is Number One on our Mission Action Planning list of 'actions' our facilitator Gill Reynolds is also very interested in the Vigil. Please note, though, that for a variety of reasons this Youth Vigil is strictly for 'the youth' (adult supervisors excepted)!

And who knows, in 10, 20, or 30, years' time Easter Day may finally be celebrated on a fixed date, if Archbishop Justin Welby's current suggestion is acted on by most world church leaders!

Rector

Bible Study Groups

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study group continues to meet fortnightly at Kevin and Joy Boak's home at 38 West Dhuhill Drive. We have been studying the Letter to the Hebrews, finding it quite a challenge with so many references to Old Testament history and Jewish religious practices. During Lent we are meeting more regularly, studying Bible characters and passages related to Faith. We have seen examples of faith in action in the lives of Abraham and Naaman, and look forward to reading about King David in 2 Samuel. We have also thought through the importance of being counted righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, and still have the argument about faith and works (and the fact that they complement each other) in James 2 to come early in March. After a break for Easter the group will resume in April (date to be advised). For details, speak to Joy or Kevin on 676852.

The Monday Group meets every two weeks at the home of Judy Harbour. At the moment the group is made up of women since the sad death of Tony Jolly, but it is not a 'women only' group. There is always prayer at the start of any meeting, and no one is the leader during this activity. It is however an extremely supportive group and everyone has commented on how much they value the prayers of members during times of grief, crisis, or celebration. It is an accepted condition that all personal details are kept entirely within the group, so everyone can share in a safe environment. The other aspect of the group's work is Bible study. Susan Lewis has been the leader in this study, but others have recently taken some of the burden and we have all shared our insights and experience. In particular, the book of Revelation is yielding up its riches, but a suitable book for Lent study may be chosen to guide us towards Easter. One member of the group recently described this group's atmosphere of support and prayer as 'essential'. *Selina*

God's Gift for Today's Mission

It is ironic that at a time when the population of the UK is ageing – the average age is 48 – society sets such store in the importance of youth and has a tendency to write off the older generation. Have you noticed how marketing campaigns and architects' impressions usually feature young people, and even advertisements aimed at older people (like walk-in baths and stair lifts) always picture unfeasibly young models? In Bible times age brought respect and sometimes surprising challenges. Think of Abraham being called by God at the age of 75 to travel hundreds of miles to settle in a new country, or of Moses at the age of 80 being called to lead his people out of slavery and through the wilderness for the next 40 years! In contrast, today it is as if the old have been air-brushed out of the picture.

Not only do policemen seem to be getting younger, but politicians too. Today we would think it odd if we had a prime minister in his seventies, but go back a few decades and it was the norm, with elder statesmen like Churchill, Lloyd George or Gladstone. And yet we are living longer, and many are remaining active to an advanced age.

There is a danger that the Church may fall into the same trap as society at large. Yes, an ancient institution has to move with the times and be seen to be relevant to a multi-cultural generation that was not steeped in church or Sunday school attendance, or experienced traditional acts of Christian worship in school assembly. But should this be done at the expense of alienating the huge numbers of older people, with all their gifts and experience?

These thoughts have been turning in my mind recently, and were brought into focus thinking of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated at the beginning of February. Was it a young thrusting merchant who recognised Jesus in the Temple? Was it a young mum or a student? Was it a youthful priest fresh out of training? The account in Luke's gospel tells us that the anonymous little family group of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, had gone to the Temple to offer the sacrifice associated with the dedication of the first-born child to the Lord. To their surprise they were recognised by Simeon, who gathered up Jesus in his arms and praised God in the words familiar to us as the *Nunc Dimittis*. Simeon is described as someone righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel and on whom the Holy Spirit rested. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. I wonder how many years he had prayed, watched and waited? The surprise of Mary and Joseph continued when they were met by Anna, who had been widowed as a young woman and was now 84. She had also lived a life of waiting on God, including a regime of fasting and praying in the Temple, and clearly recognised the infant Jesus as the one to bring redemption to Jerusalem.

What marked out Simeon and Anna? They had obviously seen life in all its diversity, with all its tragedies and joys. They were endowed with wisdom and insight, and were praying, waiting and watching. Simeon was noted for the fact that the Holy Spirit rested on him, and Anna was known to be gifted as a prophetess. But what use is all this to us as we worry about leaks in the church roof, or where all the young people are when the pews are half empty?

The lesson seems to me to be to take courage and inspiration from the example of Simeon and Anna, and even Abraham and Moses. Age can bring time, removed from the rat-race of career. Age (we trust) brings a degree of patience, born from long experience. Age also (hopefully) brings wisdom and judgement that can be missing in the impetuosity of youth. For those who have been Christians for many

years, age also gives a different perspective in the context of eternity. We have seen and experienced much, looking back over decades of triumphs and sorrows, and have the maturity to look forward to when God considers our life to be complete and we are taken to be with Him.

Simeon and Anna had watched and waited for years and were rewarded by meeting Jesus in person. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we too have encountered Jesus, and should take heart that we can still be useful in God's kingdom while we have breath in our bodies. There is still so much potential in older folk. All that experience should never be written-off. Although the energy levels may no longer be there, we can always find something positive to be doing for God.

The Church may seem to be populated by older people (certainly in this country), but elsewhere in the world it is a different picture. We need to value the people we have and use them as God's gift to the present generation, praying all the time that younger folk will find God in the midst of their busy lives. *Kevin Boak*

Eco Congregation

You are warmly invited to this year's 'Gathering' on Saturday 23rd April, 10am to 3.15pm at St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

The theme of this year's Gathering is 'A Space for Nature in Your Congregation'.
"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"
(Psalms 24:1)

This year's Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering asks what it means to practice creation care locally. Together, we explore meeting God in God's world, marvelling at creation, and working practically to find a place for nature in our congregations.

Join us in this journey, in company with Stuart Housden, Director of RSPB Scotland, and Andy Lester, Director of Conservation at A Rocha UK

- See more at: <http://church.scot/event/eco-congregation-scotland-annual-gathering-2016-a-space-for-nature-in-your-congregation/#more->

Bishop's Lent Appeal

The Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation began life in 1960 in an old house in Bethlehem. It was originally a Leonard Cheshire home and provided care for a few physically disabled children. After it was handed over to the Bethlehem Arab Society in 1975, the work grew and, in 1990, the Society's dream came true when land on

nearby Beit Jala hill became available and the present hospital building was constructed.

Today, BASR is a non-profit non-government organization that is nationally recognised for the comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services it gives to beneficiaries from all over Palestine. The hospital is open to all, regardless of gender, age, religion or social class and is committed to enhancing the overall quality of a patient's life.

The hospital has a holistic approach to treatment with specialist departments in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and also surgery. Integration into community life is a key objective. Pilgrims from the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway visited the hospital in 2013 and 2015 and were highly impressed by the quality of care and the financial needs it has. Generous donations will indeed change lives

For more information visit <http://www.basr.org/en/>
Glasgow & Galloway Diocesan news is available on the Diocesan Website
<http://glasgow.anglican.org>

G-A Studder- Kennedy's poem describes the Lord's sorrow over our apathy

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet and made a Calvary:
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns,
red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days,
and human flesh was cheap.
When Jesus came in modern day, they simply passed him by,
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die:
For men had grown more tender,
and they would never give Him pain,
They only just passed down the street
and left Him in the rain.
Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do."
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through:
The crowd went home
and left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against a wall
and cried for Calvary.

Barbara Hoey

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

New Committee: Ethnee Ashton (676959) Richard Horrell (676936)
John Lewis (01389 841592) Jo Scott (01389 849145)

DATE	GRADE	WALK	LEADER
19 th March	Easy/Mod	Aberfoyle Area – Loch Ard	Richard Horrell 676936
2 nd April	Easy/Mod	Leven Grove Park circuit	John Lewis 01389 841592
16 th April	Easy/Mod	Chatelherault	John Lewis 01389 841592
30 th April	Easy/Mod	Kilpatrick Hills	Jo Scott 01389 849145
12/15 May		May Weekend Elgin & Forres	TBA



January 16th

Note that the grade, and possibly the walk, may change after the recce. More detail will be provided nearer the date of each walk, and easier options will normally be investigated. Detailed copies will be put on the notice board in the Church Hall.

LECTIONARY –March & April 2016

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
March 6th	Joshua 5: 9-12 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3+11b-32	Exodus 6:2-13 John 12: 1-8 Psalms 13 & 14
March 13th	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12:1-8	Exodus 7:8-24 Luke 22:1-13 Psalm 34
March 20th	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-end	Zechariah 12:9-11 + 13:7-9 Luke 19:41-48 Psalm 36:5-11
March 25 th Good Friday	Isaiah 52:12- 53: -end Hebrews 4:14-16 + 5:7-9 John 18 + 19	
March 27th Easter Day	Isaiah 65:17-end Acts 10: 34-43 John 20:1-18	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 66
April 3rd	Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1: 4-8 John 20: 19-end	Isaiah 26:1-9 + 19 Luke 24:1-12 Psalm 143:1-11
April 10th	Acts 9:1-20 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21: 1-19	Deuteronomy 7:7-13 Luke 16: 19-31 Psalm 142
April 17th	Acts 9:36-43 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10: 22-30	Ezodus 16:4-15 John 6:30-40 Psalm 81: 8-16
April 24th	Acts 11:1-18 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Isaiah 60:1-14 Mark 16:9-16 Psalm 96

READERS' LIST March & April 2016

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
March 6th	Chris Sanders	Lena Sutter	Janet Hardy
March 13th	Katherine Black	Michael Blake	Angela Russell
March 20th	Selina McGeoch	John Hanks	Jill Braid
March 27th	Penny Johnston	Chris Packard	David Ronald
April 3rd	Anthony Laceby	Tom Allison	John Sadden
April 10th	Net Lawrence	Julie Semens	Joan Sadden
April 17th	Nigel Allan	Helen Gibson	Margaret Gilbert
April 24th	Liz Anderson	Susan Lewis	Penny Johnston

(Scottish Churches Housing Action) Wellbeing Packs

These packs are for people who have been made homeless.

Reasons for homelessness are many and varied. These are just some:-

- Loss of job, leading to a downward spiral.
- Mental health issues.
- Marital or other relationship breakup.
- Fleeing domestic violence
- Impact by withdrawal of benefits /Benefit Sanctions (especially under 21s)
- People leaving the Services, unable to cope with civilian life.

Each pack -ladies' and men's - costs £15 to produce. Even the pack bag has been much appreciated. A contents list can be found pinned on the wall in the church hall. You can donate 'in kind' (box near the church entrance) or by giving money. Each year more than 100 packs are distributed. During 2015: Carr Gomm-20, Women's Aid-40, Housing dept -6, Food bank -6, Helen Martin (vulnerable people) -16, Fiona Johnston-16.

The packs are made up and distributed by a committee of people from Helensburgh churches. On 13th February, our fundraising Coffee Morning in the Parish Church Hall raised £360.41, despite the appalling weather! Thank you.

Thank you very much for your support over the years and 'Thank you' from the homeless people who have benefited from your generosity. *Marjory*

<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	Joan Thompson	423451
Us (Formerly USPG)	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/ Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Richard Horrell	676936
Badminton Club	Shaun Hoey	671718
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar	Judith Adams	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.



Service Details

Sundays

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

6.15pm Prayer Group in the Trinity Chapel.

7.00pm Said Eucharist ...(1982 Rite).

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

