

May & June 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

Bishop: The Very Rev Gregor Duncan

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

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	Vacant	
Secretary to the Vestry.....	Nick Davies The Copse, Donaldsons Brae Kilcreggan G84 OJB nickandjaned@btinternet.com	842060
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.....	Maggie Sheen 17 Millig Street Helensburgh G84 9LB	673149
Children & Vulnerable	John Busby Innerhaven, Garelohead G84 0EL	811385

From the Lay Reader's Desk

Promises, promises

In the next two months we have two dates on which we can cast our votes. We are fortunate to live in a democracy, to be given the responsibility to weigh the merits of opposing arguments and have the freedom to vote for whichever party or referendum choice we choose. As elections approach we sometimes see the rather uncivilised attempts by politicians to outbid each other with, frankly, unrealistic promises. Subsequent failure to deliver on these promises can then be put down to a variety of reasons. In all walks of life words are seen as being cheap – a promise broken, seen perhaps as a temporary embarrassment to be brazened-out and then conveniently forgotten. Not so with the Bible. Earlier in the year one of our Old Testament readings came from Genesis 15, where God made a solemn promise with Abraham that he would become the father of a great nation. (And in Genesis 22 we are told that through him all nations would be blessed). He was shown the night sky full of stars and promised he would have numberless descendants. To ratify this covenant God commanded Abraham to kill a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtle dove and a young pigeon. To split the animals down the middle and place the divided carcasses in a line on the ground. To modern eyes this was indeed a very odd thing to do, but it was continuing in an ancient sacred tradition of the parties to a treaty or promise walking between halved animals as a sign that their agreement was irrevocable.

Abraham was not called to walk between the carcasses, but at nightfall a smoking fire-pot and flaming torch miraculously passed down the middle, signifying that God had permanently

MESSENGER

May & June 2016

Contents

From the Lay Reader's desk.....	3
Notices	4
Mothers' Union.....	5&8
Vestry.....	6
Bishops Easter message.....	9
Calendar.	10
Calendar notes.....	11
Review holy week.....	12
Eco Church..St. Michael's.....	3
Poem.....	15
Rambling Club.....	16
Lectionary.....	17
Readers List	18
A revealing conversation.....	18
Regular Service list.....	20

July & August 2016

Edition

Copy Deadline

June 12th

Publication day 26th June

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

Please send contributions to:-

Richard Smith

Tel.831087

e-mail

richard.jianping@hotmail.com

ratified the covenant, known to us as the Old Covenant or Testament. Abraham witnessed this strange sight, and it symbolised the generosity of God in making a promise only He could keep. This promise remained for hundreds of years until the coming of the Messiah.

Having recently celebrated Easter, we have witnessed another greater promise made as the Son of God hung on the cross and humankind looked on. Through the power of the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit as proof of the permanence of this New Covenant, God's promise to the world became public and all-embracing. The endless cycle of Old Testament sacrifices had come to an end because the death of Jesus was sufficient for everyone for all time. We live in a period of grace when God's love and forgiveness continues to be freely available. Luke's version of the Great Commission records Jesus as saying, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem'. (Luke 24: 46 & 47). We follow in the footsteps of the apostles who proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ, and as recipients of God's blessing, we can trace our spiritual ancestry right back to Abraham and the time of God's first covenant.

Living now in a time of great uncertainty, we trust ourselves to the unchanging, permanent, precious and bountiful promises of God. We pray for a lost and needy world, and for our nation and the electorate that we might make wise decisions in the days ahead.

Kevin Boak, Lay Reader

Notices

Reminder: Please send all copy for the Messenger to Richard Smith
(see page 3)

Monthly Coffee Mornings ***Everyone is invited***

10.30am Thurs. 5th May at Jill Braid's 41 Charlotte Street

10.30 am Thurs. 2nd June at Jean Thornley's Glenarn, Rhu

Evensong

On Sundays 29th May and 26th June there will be no Choral Evensong

There will be a Contraflow Youth Praise Service instead.

Vale of Leven Tea bar

Dates for 2016...

Contact for *Judith Adams 01423 672477:*

16th May: 8th August: 29th October



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016 - 15th to 21st May

Sunday 1st May URC 7-00 p.m. Christian Aid Concert

Helensburgh Chamber Orchestra

conducted by David Bruce and led by Christine Sinclair

will perform works by Handel Mozart and Haydn

with soloists Louise Burnet (flute) and Megan Garrity (Harp)

Entry by donation Suggested £8 (£5 concession)

Sunday 15th May United Christian Aid Service Helensburgh Parish Church 7pm

All are invited for an evening of praise, prayer and reflection focusing on the work of Christian Aid.

Thursday 19th May Sponsored Swim Helensburgh Swimming Pool 6pm - 8pm.

Raising Money for Christian Aid,

(swimmers need to be able to swim lengths confidently.)

Sponsor forms available from local schools

Saturday 21st May Christian Aid Grand Fayre Entry:- adults £2 children 50p.

Helensburgh Parish Church, Colquhoun Square 10am - 12 noon

Usual stalls including Home baking, Jewellery, Books, Plants, Traidcraft, Toys, and Gifts. Entrance includes tea/coffee (St Michael's stall is 'unused gifts')

John Hanks

Mothers' Union Dates for Your Diary:

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.

'This session of MU is drawing to a close. The final two meetings are on Tuesday 3 May at 1.45 pm when we will be having Sing-A-Long-A-Song and on Thursday 19 May 10 10.00 am when Helen from Contraflow will be telling us about this important work. If you haven't come along to any of our meetings before, please try us for size at these two events. Marital status and gender don't matter - we will make you very welcome!'

Joan Thompson

Eco Congregation Dates for your diary

Monday 9th May Helensburgh and Lomond Eco group meeting at Helensburgh Parish church at 10:30 am.

Sunday 15th May (Pentecost) The Annual Beach Clean 2-4pm at Kidston Park.

Saturday 21st May Mid Argyll Network Gathering in Oban (details to follow).

Saturday 4th June Helensburgh and Lomond Annual Coffee Morning with Stalls and Competition for Primary Schools, Helensburgh Parish Church

West of Scotland Military Wives Choir Concert

West of Scotland Military Wives Choir concert is on Saturday 11th June
in St Michael's Church
(look out for posters nearer the time)

Bishop's Visitation

Bishop Gregor is making a Parish Visitation to St Michael's on Wednesday 25th May.
Eucharist in the evening followed by refreshments. (See page11)

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on Monday 7th March 2016 at the Rectory. After a prayer for spiritual guidance the previous minutes were approved.

Spending priorities and setting a budget: The Property Convener had presented a list of property projects requiring consideration this year, and a further list for the next 3 years. Estimated costs were included, which generated the question of affordability. Discussion therefore started with a statement of our financial position.

Financial Report: In the absence of the Treasurer, John Sadden kindly gave the summary of our financial position. After routine expenditures, only 9% of our unrestricted income is available to spend on other things (e.g. charitable giving, improvements to the buildings) or to rebuild our depleted reserves to provide a better cushion against substantial repairs being urgently needed.

There is however £22,800 in the Conservation Fund. This was left at the end of the Conservation Project and is set aside as a dedicated reserve against the risks of major work being needed in the church during the next decade. This balance in the Conservation Fund could be regarded as making up for the shortfall in the General Fund, but not for much longer.

In summary:

:-The challenge is striking a balance between maintaining the state of the church and building and retaining reserves.

:-We need to increase our income.

The possibility of another Stewardship Campaign, with the objective of increasing our income, was mooted. Almost 50% of our income comes from only a few families. The key message is that we all need to increase our giving. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that we will have a Stewardship Campaign this year.

Property projects requiring expenditure.

Hearing Aid Loop: There have been a number of reports indicating that the Hearing Aid Loop works better now that it has been maintained. Quality is still subject to where you are sitting, and it works less well if you are kneeling, nonetheless Vestry

members agreed that, in the light of positive reports, expenditure to upgrade the system was less justified at this stage, although the defective Lay Reader's microphone should be replaced. The possibility of conducting a survey was discussed, but without coming to a firm conclusion. It was agreed that the system should be maintained annually, and Richard Smith agreed to look into this.

Property Projects committed: Derek Spall explained that we have already committed expenditure on most of the property projects on the list for this year, notably:-

1. Replacing of the semi flat roof at the foot of the stairs to the lower hall. This is largely complete, but there is still a leak, and the builders are looking into it.
2. Refurbishment of toilet areas. This is made possible because of a generous gift, and work has started.
3. Architect fees for the Quinquennial Review. We have not yet received the report.

Property Projects uncommitted: There is some flexibility on the following projects:

1. External decoration of gutters, downpipes, church doors. This is part of a rolling programme and could be deferred. Following the Property Manager's recommendation, the Vestry did however agree that repairs to the guttering, specifically replacing the missing gutter at the back of the hall and fixing a dubious downpipe near the tower should go ahead.
2. Refurbishment of the external noticeboard. There was some doubt about the funding for this project, and it was agreed that this should be clarified before work is sanctioned.
3. Replacement of the elderly kitchen water heater. It was agreed that this should go ahead.
4. There will be the usual general maintenance and repairs such as replacing missing roof slates, electrical repairs etc. which will need to be tackled as they arise.

Property Projects for future consideration: The Vestry considered a list of projects proposed for the next 3 years:

1. Estimate for the internal redecoration of the church. The Rector had put this as a high priority, and the Vestry were reminded that we have already exceeded the recommended time scale for the work to be done. It was agreed that we should get this done in the next year or two, and we could possibly draw from the Conservation Fund to finance it. We should obtain quotes.
2. Estimate for a boiler upgrade. The heating boiler is old, but remains serviceable. The Vestry acknowledged that we will need to consider replacement in the next few years, but the requirement is not immediate.
3. Leaking stained glass windows. The small windows at the south side of the church bend inwards in the wind, and there is water ingress. We could either protect each one with an acrylic outer screen, or have a proper, and expensive, re-leading job. There is potential for a grant application. It was agreed that advice would be sought

from the Diocese.

4. Upgrade of Main and Lower Halls, and lower ground floor rooms. It was agreed that this would need doing, but is not an immediate necessity. Some DIY using a working party might be a cheaper redecoration option. Derek Spall pointed out that the electric heaters, when they fail, cannot be repaired and will need replacing.

The meeting then returned to the Agenda: Matters Arising:

Investment Portfolio. The Treasurer has been authorised to transfer our investments into the Unit Trust Pool.

Sunday Club: The Vestry noted the report submitted by Anne Cook, in which she stated that a small core group of children continue to attend regularly and seem to enjoy and learn from the experience.

St. Michael's Brochure: Richard Smith presented a draft brochure which was an updated version of the one created in 2011 but not taken forward. It will be a publicity leaflet which will raise our profile.

Insurance Chris Sanders requested Vestry approval to renew our Insurance policy with the same Insurer as before. It was agreed unanimously that our insurance should be renewed on that basis.

Scottish Church Census: There is to be a Census of all Scottish Churches on Sunday 8th May. Details are expected shortly, but it is expected that each individual attending church that day will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. The Vestry agreed that St Michael's would take part.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th July

Nick Davies secretary

MU Spring Council Meeting

Margaret Gilbert, Margaret Wardil and Barbara Hoey attended the MU Spring Council meeting on Saturday 12 March 2016 in St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

The meeting began with a service led by Rev Moira Jamieson from Cumbernauld and the MU Chaplain Rev Lucy Ireland. Three New diocesan leaders were commissioned – Jill Cameron, Moira Jamieson and Wendy Petrie.

After lunch there was a discussion on the following subjects: the difficulties of finding leaders and the sharing of ideas .

The Provincial Celebration and Commissioning is to take place in Perth on 30 April.

The Festival Service is to be held in Ayr on 21 May.

Our diocese is to feature in the July issue of Families First.

As regards accounts: subscriptions to branches and to Families First were down and there is a deficit of £2255.

Hilary Moran told the meeting about the new E-news. Information about MU will be e-mailed throughout Scotland bi-annually.

Richard Horrell asked for reports from branches about action and outreach.

Christmas/Easter/Birthday cards should be sent to household members and each branch should take responsibility for this.

If there are honorary members, the branch should pay on their behalf.

Sue Brough will continue with the prayer cycle.

Mid-day prayers can be found on the MU website.

In the branches: Livingstone collects new underwear for children and women.

These items are sent to contacts for families in Africa. Hats and angel pockets and blankets are knitted for the Glasgow neo-natal unit. Small cardigans go to social services.

The Ardrossan branch is closing as no leader has been found.

Margaret Gilbert

From Bishop Gregor's Easter Message

What kind of faith does the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead make possible? Above all, a baptismal faith: renouncing evil, turning away from wrongdoing, becoming good news and sources of blessing in the world, seeking what is just and peaceful and caring for God's creation, playing our own part in the worship, prayer, faith and action of all God's people. It is the baptismal form of faith that is always most powerfully celebrated at Easter either at Baptism itself or in the renewal of Baptismal promises.

And there is a particular Easter dimension of this faith. Because the raising of Jesus from the dead makes faith that the last word about things is not ours, but God's, possible; makes faith that human capacities to do ill, to be destructive, are not the be all and end all, possible; makes faith that doing justice, loving mercy and waking humbly with God among his people is what is required of us now and is the way to share Christ's resurrection in all its fullness, possible.

The people who got rid of Jesus believed quite reasonably that they had seen him off once and for all. But they were hopelessly wrong. As Peter said, they put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but – the biggest “but” of all time really – God raised him from the dead. Theirs was not the last word, God's was, and is and always will be, a word of imperishable life to make faith in an imperishable life possible.

- See more at: <http://church.scot/2016/03/26/bishop-gregors-easter-message-2/#more-1>

Calendar for May & June 2016

Sunday 1st May 6th of Easter

7.0pm Christian Aid concert in URC

Tuesday 3rd May

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

Thursday 5th May Feast day of Ascension of the Lord

10.30am Monthly coffee morning at 41 Charlotte St.

Sunday 8th May 7th of Easter

Monday 9th May

Eco group meeting in Parish Church

Tuesday 10th May

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Thursday 12th May

Rambling Club Weekend (*see Page 16*)

Sunday 15th May Pentecost

Afternoon Annual Beach Clean

7.00pm Christian Aid Service in Parish Church

Tuesday 17th May

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Thursday 19th May

10.00am Mothers' Union

6.00pm Christian Aid sponsored swim

Saturday 21st May

MU Festival Service Holy Trinity Ayr

10.30am-12.00 Christian Aid Grand Fayre in Parish Church

Mid Argyll Eco Network gathering in Oban

Sunday 22nd May Trinity Sunday

Tuesday 24th May

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Wednesday 25th May

Bishop's Visitation and signing of MAP document.

Eucharist followed by refreshments

Thursday 26th May

6.15pm Prayer group as usual

No evening Eucharist

Saturday 28th May

10.30am-12.30pm Messy Church in URC Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

Sunday 29th May 1st after Trinity

6.30pm Youth Praise service

No evensong

Tuesday 31st May

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Thursday 2nd June 10.30am Monthly

Coffee morning at Glenarn, Rhu

Saturday 4th June

Helensburgh & Lomond Eco Coffee

Morning with stalls at Parish Church

Sunday 5th June 2nd after Trinity

Tuesday 7th June

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Saturday 11th June

Rambling Club (*see Page 16*)

Concert -West of Scotland Military Wives Choir

Sunday 12th June 3rd after Trinity

Tuesday 14th June

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Calendar for May & June 2016

Sunday 19th June 4th after Trinity

Tuesday 21st June

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

Saturday 25th June

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

10.30 am- 12.00 Messy Church at St.

Margaret's Churchill

Sunday 26th June 5th after Trinity

6.30pm Youth Praise service

* No Evensong*

Tuesday 28th June

Feast day of Saints Peter & Paul the apostles (usual said Eucharist)

11.45am Rector available (choir vestry)

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

.....

NOTES TO MAY CALENDAR.

The Bishop is making another of his Visitations to the parish on WEDNESDAY MAY 25th. Hopefully he will spend part of the day on the Peninsula including attending a House Eucharist. Before a Eucharist in the evening, at which he will preside and sign our Mission Action Planning document, he will wish to meet the Mission Action Planning Team. This meeting will last for a good hour, and will probably start at about 5.30pm. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE MAP-ING TEAM ATTEND THIS MEETING. If you are a member of the MAP-ing Team would you please make every effort to keep the late afternoon and evening of the 25th May free so that you can be present at the meeting. Thank you for your co-operation.

There will be refreshments after the evening Eucharist and the Bishop will hope to meet as many church members as possible and talk with them. So you are all warmly invited to attend.

As a result of this activity on the Wednesday the usual Said Eucharist on the Thursday evening will be cancelled, but the 6.15pm Prayer Meeting will still be held.

YOUTH PRAISE SERVICES. These events, held in conjunction with the CONTRAFLOW Youth Project, will continue on the last Sunday of each month, ie: May 29th and June 26th. On these Sundays there will NOT be a service of Choral Evensong.

Rector

Looking back at this year's ecumenical Holy Week services

The sudden death of Rev. Stephen Brown came at a time when regular meetings of the church ministers in the town had recommenced and plans were being laid for a series of ecumenical services during Holy Week. David Cook took the lead in ensuring these plans came to fruition. I am sure Stephen would have been pleased with the support these services received, as well as the variety of worship we experienced, each using some of the set readings from the lectionary.

On the Monday evening we met at the United Reformed Church for a thoughtful service led by Rev. Paul Jupp, based on readings from Isaiah 42 and John 12 (Jesus' feet being anointed with costly perfume), interspersed with piano music provided by Anne Binnie. Tuesday saw us meeting at St. Michael's for a complete contrast in worship style, based on the passage from later in John 12 where Greeks came looking for Jesus. Using a video of two teams passing a ball to fellow team members, the two halves of the congregation were challenged to count the number of passes between the members of just one of the teams. When asked, 'Did you spot the gorilla?', most of us had to concede we had not seen someone dressed in a gorilla costume walking across the screen and waving. This had a serious message. Jesus was contrasting the approach of the Jews (adherence to the Law) and the Greeks (interested in high-flown philosophy) with the simplicity of what Jesus was saying about a seed needing to die (referring to his impending death) before a multiplication of new life could occur. Concentrating on their own obsessions they missed the crucial point of what Jesus had come to earth to do. Another contrast on Wednesday saw us meeting at Helensburgh Baptist Church for worship led by Rev. Neil Allison. Gordon Weir from Bethesda Christian Fellowship gave a passionate address based on the reading from Isaiah 50, which prophetically describes some of the suffering the Messiah was to face, and applying it to our own need to respond to the love of God expressed in the sacrificial death of Jesus. Befitting the need to reflect on the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, we met at Cardross Parish Church to experience a Church of Scotland Communion service led by Rev. Maggie McArthur. In an unusual approach to the reading from John 13, Maggie spoke of Jesus removing his outer garment in order to take on the servant's role of washing the feet of the disciples. Sometimes our garments are layers there to protect us, like a defence against hurt or other people. Sometimes these garments are an impediment when serving the church and the cause of the gospel. We need to peel back these layers to open ourselves to what God wants to do in our lives, and to make us ready for action.

Good Friday saw a well-supported Walk of Witness take place between the churches in the town. David, as the longest-serving member of clergy in

Helensburgh, very helpfully introduced the more recent arrivals: Monsignor John Hughes at St. Joseph's, Rev. Neil Allison at the Baptist Church, Rev. David T. Young at Helensburgh Parish Church (with the temporary support of Rev. Tina Kemp), and Rev. Maggie McArthur at Cardross. We were blessed by good weather and efficient police support in crossing the roads.

Finally, we met at Rhu and Shandon Parish Church for a service led by Rev. David Young, at which Rev. Tina Kemp spoke. Each given a nail as we entered the church, we were invited to imagine the pain these inflicted on Jesus' hands and feet and, individually, to bring the nails to the sanctuary to represent our own prayers and thankfulness.

We look forward to future opportunities to share in worship with the other Christian traditions in the Helensburgh district, and I would encourage you to support these efforts to draw us together in greater unity. Stephen Brown would be gratified to see the success of this revitalisation of the sharing in worship across different traditions.

Kevin Boak, Lay Reader

Eco-Church St Michael's

The moral case for Eco-church has already been well made by Selina in recent articles. Eco-church aims to develop collective action by christian churches where each member church is tasked to undertake projects.

Choosing a project is not easy. Perhaps we would be looking for something that, given the effort we can put in, offers some tangible gain. Beach cleans do exactly that. But is that the limit of our ambition? Could we do more than that? At the very least we should try to understand more about environmental issues where our personal decisions can have an impact on the environment and our projects do more than tick a box.

Your eco-team have decided that one step in justifying our accreditation should be to better inform our whole congregation. Through the "The Messenger", we will bring to your attention aspects affecting the environment that you may not have been aware of and Selina will keep you up to date with the wider Eco Church activities.

Let's begin with a few concepts which not everyone may be familiar with but which help with getting a measure of eco-issues. The "Tragedy of the Commons" you may well have come across but really should be: the tragedy of FREEDOM in a Commons. If there is a piece of land with shared grazing rights,

what is there to stop a herdsman increasing his herd by putting an extra animal to graze on that pasture? If everyone else did that then the pasture would be overgrazed and the land unusable. A familiar pattern but a principle that could be extended to cover any number of situations including overuse of our National Parks, loss of Greenbelt land, the need for preservation of wilderness and agricultural land.

In a reverse way the tragedy of freedom in the commons reappears in problems of pollution. The pollution issue is a consequence of population and levels of consumption. Unlike land which can be fenced off for specific uses, air and the waters surrounding the land cannot be fenced off in a similar manner. Regulations attempt by legal means to restrain undesirable consequences such as the pollution from cars and planes, factories and power generation. But regulation is far from a perfect tool and is readily influenced by powerful lobbies.

We are all polluters in one form or another but does it really matter if we use our car for unnecessary journeys? Surely there is a scale problem here and one needs to keep things in proportion. Well yes and no! We also need to be aware that eco means eco-system. The whole world is an eco system where even small changes can sometimes have profound effects. The weather is a perfect example where the the flapping of a butterfly's wings in the Himalayas has the potential to affect the weather patterns across the globe. On a slightly more reassuring note our climate appears to be in a quasi-stable state which means changes that do occur are not catastrophic. However, quasi also means that going beyond a certain level of change would precipitate unexpected and irreversible catastrophic change. No-one knows what those limits are.

Eco-issues are certainly complex, many faceted and systemically messy (in other words a complicated unholy mess!) and politically controversial. With so much gloom and doom around us, please don't be discouraged before we really get underway. The challenges we face will certainly test the creativity of humankind. We aim to offer an interesting read, and a perspective, and if you have relevant topics to offer or questions, then get in touch:

maggiesheen@btinternet.com .

Dare I add, we are all in it together!

Maggie Sheen

Peace starts with a smile

Rambling Club Weekend

A large number of St Michael's Rambling Club members will be going up to Moray staying at the Knockomie Hotel in Forres on May 12th, others have found other places to stay. While there, we hope to climb Ben Rinnes (840m) south of Elgin and go on many other walks if the weather is kind to us. A few of the committee have been up there recently to check out the list of walks compiled by Nigel Sclater. On Sunday 15th we have all been invited to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Elgin, which is where Jenny and Nigel Sclater live.

*With best wishes for the Rambling Club's weekend
and a Scottish spring and summer, such as this, for us all...*

Yesterday in Laggan

It was such a day
of sunshine wall to wall,
of heat haze and the year's first frogs,
of blue hills stretching yonder.

It was such a day
of spring sun melting snow,
of fool's gold blazing off warm rocks,
of joy to be alive.

It was such a day
of hinted rainbows and dissolving light,
of fragile silences
flooding towards infinity

that I wished to be nowhere else,
doing nothing else,
in company of no one else,
and I wanted it to be forever.

*Gordon Jarvie
From the Scottish Poetry library
Editor*

The Good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,
but female midges come close!

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
12/15 May	MAY	WEEKEND Elgin and Forres	Richard Horrell 676936
28 th May	Mod	Ochils	Jo Scott 01389 84914
11 th June	Easy/Mod	Braeval	Ethnee Ashton 676959
25 th June	Mod	Tinto Hills	John Lewis 01389 841952



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 –May & June 2016

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
1 st May	Acts 16: 9-15 Revelation 21:10+22-22:5 John 14:23-29	Revelation 3:14-22 Luke 22:24-30 Psalm 45
8 th May	Acts 16:16-24 Revelation 22: 12-14+16-17+20-21 John 17:20-26	Isaiah 61:1-11 Luke 4:14-21 Psalm 147:1-11
15 th May	Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17+25-27	Ezekiel 36:22-28 John 20:19-23 Psalm 139:1-12
22 nd May	Proverbs 8:1-4+22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16: 12-15	Ezekiel 1:4-10+22-28a Mark 1:1-13 Psalm 104:1-9
29 th May	1 Kings 8:22-23+41-43 Galatians 1:1-12 Luke 7:1-10	No Choral Evensong
5 th June	1 Kings 17:17-24 Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 7: 11-17	Jeremiah 6:16-21 Acts 22:22-23:11 Psalm 37:1-11
12 th June	2 Samuel 11:26-12:10 +13-15 Galatians 2:15-21 Luke 7:36-8:3	Jeremiah 7:1-16 Acts 23:12-35 Psalm 39
19 th June	Isaiah 65:1-9 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39	Jeremiah 10:1-16 Acts 27:1-12 Psalm 49
26 th June	1 Kings 19:15-16+19-21 Galatians 5:1+13-25 Luke 9:51-6-end	No Choral Evensong

READERS' LIST May & June 2016

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
May 1st	Chris Sanders	Richard Smith	Maurice Steuart- Corry
May 8th	Selina McGeoch	James Ashby	Maureen McCormack
May 15th	Penny Johnston	Jill Braid	Jill Braid
May 22nd	Anthony Laceby	Trevor Quickfall	David Ronald
May 29th	Net Lawrence	John Lewis	John Sadden
June 5th	Nigel Allan	Lena Sutter	Joan Sadden
June 12th	John MacCallum	Michael Blake	Margaret Gilbert
June 19th	Chris Sanders	John Hanks	Penny Johnston
June 26th	Selina McGeoch	Chris Packard	Maurice Steuart-Corry

A Revealing Conversation

While walking back home from the station with my two grandchildren, Millie, aged 9, and Holly who is six, Millie suggested we play "I Spy".

Holly did pretty well but we were both flummoxed by Millie's "something beginning with G". We gave up!

"It's for 'God'!" Millie said triumphantly.

"But I can't see 'God'," I protested!

"But he is EVERYWHERE," Millie said.

"I know He is," Holly said, "we learned all about Him at school."

Maggie Sheen

Note:

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the teaching of Christianity in Religious & Moral Education in Scottish Primary Schools, you can look this up on the Net:-

Curriculum for Excellence/ Religious & Moral Education/ Christianity/ Beliefs etc

From Pre school to S2/3 there is a progression of learning under the headings of: Beliefs, Values and Issues and Practices & Traditions.

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	Richard Smith	831087
Assistant Editor	Vacant	
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

