

***November December 2015***

# THE MESSENGER



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

**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**

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## From the Rector

In the first part of 2016 there will be some changes to Choral Evensong at St. Michael's. It seems appropriate to flag them up for you now because the approaching festival of Christmas is a Christian celebration of change.



Jesus Christ's birth at the first Christmas was the beginning of the greatest change that has ever taken place in human history. It was a change from an old order to a new and better order. Under the old order there was one race of people, the Israelites, who had a special relationship with God, and they were, justifiably, under the impression that God was really only concerned about them. The relationship was based on keeping The Law which God had given to them, with God promising to care for the people of Israel providing they obeyed The Law and worshipped Him through the offering of animal sacrifices and the burning of incense with their prayers. The outward symbol of this covenant God made with the people of Israel was the circumcision of all male Israelites.

The new order inaugurated at the birth of Jesus Christ was that God, in the person of Jesus, was going to come and live as a human being amongst His chosen people, the Israelites. This was to show His people just how much He loved them, and to tell them that this love was in fact unconditional and did not depend on physical acts like circumcision or animal sacrifice. The new order was to be based on reciprocal love (even though unconditional on God's part.) But equally importantly - and this really was devastatingly, and to the Jews, disturbingly new -

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Jesus Christ came to show that God's love is for all people. The birth of Jesus inaugurated a new order which was exciting and welcome for some - and has been ever since - but was disturbing and upsetting for others.



Which brings me to the changes involving Choral Evensong. On the last Sundays of January and February St. Michael's will be hosting the monthly celebration service for the Scripture Union Contraflow Project. Contraflow is the ecumenical project working with the young people of the churches and schools in the Helensburgh area. The celebration is organised by and led by the young Contraflow members. It has to start by 7.00pm. Rather than cancel Evensong I hope that we can move Evensong forward an hour to 5.30pm, which will leave time for Contraflow to begin preparations afterwards.

This change to Evensong may need to be more permanent. As part of our Mission Action Planning work the MAP-ing Team is discussing the need to try to reach out more effectively to young adults. Our Open Spirit service on Sunday mornings has not really done this, partly because we now know that younger adults much prefer an evening time for worship. Six o'clock would be the ideal time, but this would make Evensong unrealistically early. A seven o'clock service is being mooted, probably initially twice a month. To find out if we are really meeting a need we would need an experimental period of a good 12 months for this celebration service. I would suggest that, rather than keep altering the time of Evensong, it would make more sense to re-time Evensong to 5.30pm for the whole 12 months.

We do realise that this is not ideal and may cause complications. Any kind of change to established church order causes discomfort and upset. However, with a change like this the only way to discover whether or not it is the right thing to do is to try it and see. Mission Action Planning encourages us to be bold and at least try 'a new thing', even if it is not on the same cosmic scale as 'the new thing' inaugurated the first Christmas.

God Bless you all.

*The Rector.*

**Reminder! Church AGM is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December after 10.30 Eucharist**

**\*\*PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LOOK AT THE BACK COVER OF THE MESSENGER**

### **Elected Members**

This year we need to elect four new members of the Vestry to bring the number back up to nine. Vestry members are required to attend 8 to 10 meetings a year held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Rectory. Please contact Richard Smith and put your name on the list to be placed in the church for the four weeks leading up to the AGM, which follows Sung Eucharist on Sunday 6th December 2015.

## Notices

### Monthly Coffee Mornings      *Everyone is invited*

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am at Angela & Alastair Russell's 65 Macleod Drive

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am at Ann & Chris Packard's Kiloran, Glasgow St

### Vale of Leven Tea bar      **MORE HELP IS NEEDED! Please contact Judith 672477**

### Dates for Mothers' Union

These are the dates and activities up to Christmas and beyond:

Tuesday 3 November 1.45 pm Hope through Hospitality in the Middle East

Thursday 19 November 10.00 am Maureen Ann Designs

Tuesday 8 December 1.45 pm Christmas Crackers

Tuesday 5 January 1.45 pm Keeping Safe on Line

Thursday 21 January 10.00 am Self-Directed Support

Tuesday 2 February 1.45 pm Hermitage Park

Thursday 18 February 10.00 am United in Prayer

Tuesday 1 March 1.45 pm Angela's Aerobics

Friday 4 March Women's World Day of Prayer

Sunday 6 March Mothering Sunday

Thursday 17 March 10.00 am Carishea



### Preshal Trust Christmas Present Appeal

Once again there will be a collection of presents on

behalf of the above Trust. Gifts, **UNWRAPPED**, are required for toddlers through to teenagers. (*attached, seasonal wrapping paper would be appreciated*),

Presents can be handed to Barbara Hoey **on any Sunday in November**, or delivered to 24 Kildonan Dr. during the month.

( Please phone 671718) Your gifts will be taken to the Preshal Trust in Glasgow by the Kyles and the Hoeys in **the week of 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you all in anticipation.

*Barbara Hoey*

### Eco Congregation Dates

**Wednesday 4th November** Helensburgh and Lomond Network Meeting at the St Andrew Parish Church Bungalow at 10:30. (On West King St )

**Saturday 28th November.** The Climate Change Walk in Edinburgh to show support for the IPCC talks in Paris starting the following day: It starts at the Catholic Chaplaincy in George Square for a brief service at 11am before moving to its gathering point on The Meadows.

*Selina*

### Towards CHRISTMAS

29<sup>th</sup> November 6.30pm Advent Carol Service

20<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm Christmas Carol Service – Refreshments afterwards

## Vestry Reports September / October 2015

The Vestry met on 7th September and 5th October 2015 at the Rectory. After prayers for spiritual guidance the previous minutes were approved.

**NEXT AGM.** The AGM will take place on Sunday 6th December after the 10:30am Sung Eucharist. Richard Smith advised that two elected members, as well as both the Secretary and Treasurer would have reached three years' service on the Vestry. Since the Vestry is already two members short, it would be necessary for four new members to join the Vestry. In addition to this, Selina McGeoch is standing down as Eco-congregation Convener. The term of office for both the Secretary and Treasurer is three years and it would be better if these duties were rotated amongst members of the congregation. Each year at least three members of the Vestry are required to be elected. YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!!! Please read the notices and volunteer.

**DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY.** The Mission Action Planning team met on 21st September 2015 to discuss the actions and to review progress.

**CHURCH LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.** The Vestry was advised by Chris Sanders that the insurance company has now accepted the work done to improve the lightning conductors and the policy has now been issued.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Trevor presented his report. Responding to concerns by Chris Packard about the level of deficit spending, Trevor explained that the real deficit, excluding items for which funds had been specially allocated, was about £5,000. This will have to be addressed in the upcoming stewardship campaign. Requests for support from charitable trusts had not yet born fruit.

**LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:** Margaret Gilbert reported on the meetings of the N.W. Regional Council in April and August. It was noted that the Cascade document relating to same sex marriage in churches had not been distributed to congregations and Vernon undertook to obtain a copy, if available at all. At the subsequent meeting Vernon explained that the Bishop had explained the misunderstanding.

**ECO-CHURCH REPORT:** Selina McGeoch reported: This year has been a mixed one for the St Michael's Eco- Congregation group, since it is so closely tied to the other Helensburgh church members of our local network. It is now time to start the process of applying for the next stage of the Eco Award. Quite a lot of our family energy has been taken up with the hugely enjoyable Victorian Fayre, so that your Eco Representative has not been as active as she should have been with her own duties. She has long known that her gift for photographic reproduction and record is nil so that anything in that line (and there is more of this than I had expected) has fallen on other, busy shoulders. The main events have been the Annual Beach Clean which was productive of a skipful of rubbish, thanks to the dedicated work of the usual suspects. The Annual General Meeting was on Saturday 25th April entitled Preparing for Paris. The Annual Coffee Morning raised a respectable sum of money for the

Movement, which is continuing to spread across Scottish churches. It has now reached close to the four hundred target aimed at for the end of this year. Our Stall in the Hall paid our subscription and contributed to the church coffers another £50 or more. Unfortunately, a visit to a recycling centre (not the same as the waste disposal centre visited last year), had to be cancelled. I have heard recently that the membership of Eco Congregation group at the U.R.C. has dropped greatly, mostly through illness and pressure of other commitments. Also the Parish Kirk membership has dropped probably due to the lack of a permanent and stable leadership by a minister. The project which we hope to get under way this autumn is to create an organic garden on the currently rather neglected site in James St. My own efforts will be directed much more to the Theological education side, because without the full appreciation of the subject by all church leaders, and their appreciation of the spiritual and moral elements, the church itself will continue to lag behind in the battle to save the planet, instead of being a beacon of hope. I shall therefore be standing down as soon as I can persuade someone more suited to the task, and with better computer skills, to take it on. It is of the utmost importance that this group continues to flourish.

The Vestry approved a vote of thanks to Selina for all her hard work, proposed by David Menzies and seconded by Vernon Perrin. Richard is to speak to Selina about a job description to put into the messenger for a new Eco-Congregation leader.

**CHILD AND VULNERABLE PERSONS' PROTECTION REPORT.** John Busby reported: Happily no reports of any child or vulnerable adult at risk. I have nothing else to report other than to say that the process of ensuring that all who should be in the P.V.G scheme is progressing quite well. There are still a few who have not returned their completed forms to me.

**SOCIAL/FUNDRAISING REPORT:** John Hanks reported: Not solely a St Michael's event, but the annual Christian Aid tea party will take place in our church hall on Friday afternoon, 18th September, at 3pm. This year will incorporate a musical class of some kind. Not yet decided, but the social committee are hoping that the main winter social event will be a production of Tom Allison's reviews/short plays. A vote of thanks was given to all those involved in the organisation of the Victorian Fayre which raised substantial funds for the Church and its charities. Proposed by Kate Moos and Seconded by Linda Sanders.

**PROPERTY REPORT:** Derek Spall reported: External decoration work to the Rectory, lower hall and connecting stair to the upper hall, is now complete. This will leave us with only the high level guttering, down pipes and doors to the main church, left for next year to complete full external redecoration. The exterior name board and notice boards have been removed from the front of the building to allow them to dry out and be refinished; these are now back in position. Inside the church a new Rope

Hand rail is now fitted to the circular stairway to the bell ringing platform in the church tower to assist with both safety and access. We have experienced some problems with tripping of the church lighting circuits and work to rectify is ongoing. The main area for repair work remains the semi flat roof area at the foot of the stair between the upper and lower halls. We have agreed to have this section of roof and damaged joists removed and replaced with a full new section of roof, re-laid to falls, but omitting the valley gutter which gives us such problems with water ingress. The new roof will fall to a new oversize outlet outwith the line of the building; so should this overflow in the future it will flow down the outside of the building and not into the building. This work is now on order and should start around the end of September to be completed in time for the winter. The Vestry confirmed approval to proceed. The jammed lock on the tabernacle safe has been repaired by the locksmith. In the neighbouring block of buildings next to the Rectory repairs will shortly start to the gable of the building and permission has been given by the Vestry for the lime tree in the Rectory garden to be cut back by tree surgeons to facilitate this work. Trevor confirmed that funds were set aside for the new notice board to the ground at the North-East corner of the Church. Derek was given approval to proceed. Derek was thanked for the rope handrail in the Bell Tower and the refurbishment of the notice boards. Alternative quotations for maintenance of fire extinguishers are being taken to see if we can reduce this expenditure. Chris Packard kindly offered his retiring kitchen units and equipment to replace any or all of the Church Hall kitchen equipment. Derek will examine them and report back to the Vestry.

**LAY MINISTERS' DAY:** The Vestry were advised that the Diocesan Lay Ministers' Day would take place on Saturday 10th October 2015.

**RECRUITMENT OF NEW CHURCH ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:** Martyn Marshall is leaving his post at The Glasgow Academy at the end of the year to take up a new post in the North of England and he will no longer be able to play the organ and lead the choir at St. Michael's. Richard is to ask John Hanks to approach Martyn about a farewell party and tribute after the Christmas Carol Service. The Vestry expressed their thanks for the great contribution that Martyn has made to the quality of our sung services and also the work involved in special functions over the years. We all wish him success and happiness in this new phase of his career. It was agreed that the Vestry should form a sub-committee of three members to advertise for and identify candidates for the post to be interviewed by the Vestry and Rector, presented to the congregation and appointed in December 2015. Volunteers for the sub-committee were David Menzies, Kate Moos and Chris Sanders. In the meantime a rota is in operation to transport Martyn to and from Church on Sundays.

**LOCATION OF MEMORIAL BOOK:** The Vestry agreed that the memorial book should replace the prayer list on the stand at the entrance to the chapel.

**RECORDING SUNDAY SERVICES:** The Vestry considered a request from Margaret Wardil that sound recordings be made of some Sunday services to allow them to be used by members who are not able to attend. The Vestry agreed to this idea and Richard will investigate and trial methods of doing this including use of existing equipment in the church.

**HEARING AID LOOP:** It was agreed that Richard will investigate and report back to the Vestry on the costs and feasibility of replacing the loop system with a new one to ensure better reproduction and coverage in the Church. *Richard Smith, Secretary*

## Mothers' Union

### **MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY AUTUMN COUNCIL**

Running the Race Saturday 3 October 2015 Church of the Holy Name, Cumbernauld

The meeting began with tea or coffee, followed by the Eucharist at 11.00 am. This was led by Rev Moira Jamieson and the sermon was given by Rev Lucy Ireland, our chaplain. . The Treasurer gave an optimistic report and we learned that our area had topped the sales of MU goods and had been given back 10% of the total which amounted to just over £150. The new recipe books are to be sold or given free to food banks. A new banner stand for festival services has been donated, costing only the amount for the materials. All branch treasurers were thanked for their good work.

Ann Glenesk, the Diocesan President reviewed her presidency by showing slides of some of the many things she had been involved in since 2010. She reminded us of the need for daily prayer and the reading of Families Worldwide. She talked about the loss of valuable members in every branch; of the quiet days and retreats, the Commonwealth Games, and the many knitters across the diocese providing items for Malawi and local hospitals. She reminded us of the Overseas Development Fund with its emphasis on literacy and financial education, good parenting and family life, and the work of community development co-ordinators. She spoke of the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme, help for prisoners by the writing of cards and the provision of crèches. The work at Low Moss with Guide and Scout clubs and the tapestry now hanging in the multi-faith centre there was to be highly praised. MU is also a campaigning organisation especially in the areas of protecting children from commercialisation and sexualisation, human trafficking, violence against women and children and domestic abuse. Finally she spoke about the new link groups and facing the future together.

The election of officers: Jill Cameron became Diocesan President and Wendy Petrie Vice President. Trustees appointed were Richard Horrell, and Moira, Hilary, Sue and Lesley. One trustee post is still vacant and a treasurer is required to replace William who will stay in post until the end of this year.

Ann Glenesk is now the Chair of the Diocesan Committee on Genital Mutilation. She has written a thesis on Domestic Abuse.

Finally, the three visitors from Sweden, Britta, Christina and Katarina spoke of their work in the Church of Sweden, in which women play a very active role. *Joan Thompson*

# Calendar for November December 2015

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November Feast day of All

### Saints

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 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Vestry Meeting in the Rectory 7.30pm

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November All Souls Day observed**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by  
refreshments. 11.45am -12.45pm Rector  
available in the choir vestry

1.45pm Mothers' Union Meeting

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November** 10.30am Monthly  
Coffee Morning at 65 Macleod Drive

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 3<sup>rd</sup> before Advent

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 10<sup>th</sup> November**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by  
refreshments. 11.45am-12.45pm Rector  
available in the Choir Vestry

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Mission Action Planning Prayer Day.

*Prayer material in Trinity Chapel*

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00am Mothers' Union meeting

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent

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 17<sup>th</sup> November**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by  
refreshments. 11.45am -12.45pm  
Rector available in the choir vestry

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

6.30pm Prayer group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00am Mothers' Union Meeting

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Feast Day of

### Christ the King

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

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** N.W. Regional  
Council at St Mungo's Alexandria

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by  
refreshments. 11.45am-12.45pm Rector  
available in the Choir Vestry

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

# Calendar for November December 2015

## **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November Messy Church**

10.30am-12.30 St. Margaret's Churchill

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> of Advent**

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 Advent Carol Service**

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

### **Feast day of St Andrew observed**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments 11.45am-12.45pm Rector available in the choir vestry.

1.45pm Mothers' Union meeting

## **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

## **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am Monthly**

Coffee Morning at Kiloran Glasgow St.

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm Glasgow**

Academy Concert in Church

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Rambling Club (*see page 16*)

## **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent**

### **\*CHURCH AGM after 10.30am Service**

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 7<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

## **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments. 11.45am- 12.45 Rector available in the choir vestry

1.45pm Mothers' Union Meeting

## **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Mission Action Planning Prayer Day.

*Prayer material in Trinity Chapel*

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Advent**

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 15<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments 11.45am -12.45pm Rector available in the choir vestry

## **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Parklands' School Christmas Celebration in Church

1.45pm Mothers' Union Meeting

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> in Advent**

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 Carol Service in Church + Party**

## **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

10.30am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments. 11.45am -12.45pm Rector available in the choir vestry

## **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

6.30pm Prayer Group

7.30pm Said Eucharist *cont. Page 12*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
4.00pm **Children's Big Christmas Celebration**  
11.00pm **First Eucharist of Christmas**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December CHRISTMAS DAY**  
8.00am Holy Communion (*Scottish Prayer Book Rite*)  
**10.00am Family Celebration (including Holy Communion)**

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas**  
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  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December** Rambling Club  
(*see page 16*)

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### **Mothers' Union cont**

Margaret Gilbert writes –

The Mothers' Union Annual Meeting was held in Nottingham Royal Concert Hall on Friday 26 June 2015.

It was lovely to meet representatives from all over the UK – there were 20 of us from Scotland.

One of the presentations in the morning – 'Touching the cloak' by Mosaic Creative – was by two people who bring drama into schools. It was very moving.

The main speaker in the afternoon, was Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall (mother of the chef) who gave a presentation on 'From Generation to Generation' reminiscences of living and cooking from childhood, with grandparents, through wartime and to being a grandmother herself. She has written books and was autographing her most recent one in the foyer afterwards.

Reg Bailey the Chief Executive spoke humorously about his fifteen years with MU and what he plans for his future.

The next MU Annual meeting will be held in Winchester in September 2016 which will celebrate 140 years of MU.

The service of celebration was held in Southwell Minster the previous evening (Thursday 25 June) with the overflow at St Mary's Nottingham. The Acting Dean, Rev Canon Nigel Coates, welcomed everyone and the sermon was given by Right Rev Richard Inwood. It was a lovely service and it was great to hear the praise from over one thousand voices singing beautiful hymns. Southwell Minster is a beautiful Romanesque church. Some windows were of the four evangelists made by Clayton and Bell. Beneath these were four made in 1528 for a temple church in Paris. After the Revolution they were sold and found in a pawn shop in 1818 and presented to the Minster by a local antiquarian! During the civil war Cromwell stabled his horses in the Chapter house!

Saturday was our free day and twelve of us from Scotland went to Leicester where we were welcomed by the Dean and given an overview of the history of Leicester

Cathedral and then taken on a tour by the chief guide. St Martin is the saint of the church and there is a window to him and one also to St George in a chapel where those who fought and died for the Royal Leicestershire Regiment are remembered. There is also a stone and beneath it lie the remains of Richard III and we saw the beautiful pall that had been made to be used in the ceremony of his re-interment. After lunch we went to the Richard III exhibition called Dynasty, Death and Discovery which was extremely well done and very interesting with research, science, analysis and 3D technology and with high precision radiocarbon dating, and stable isotope analysis helping to establish lifestyle, environment, diet and genetic analysis. They were able to match DNA to two living people – 14th cousins twice removed through Richard III's sister. The probabilities of the remains being Richard III is some 99.9%!

We next went to Bosworth Field where we saw another excellent presentation but didn't have time to walk around the battle site as the place was closing. And by-the-way the car park in which Richard's bones were found was in fact the graveyard of a Franciscan Friary!

### **Iona October 2015**

On Monday 5 October 2015, 12 MU members and 3 Swedish ladies from the Church of Sweden in Gothenburg, set out for a short visit to Iona. Margaret Gilbert and Joan Thompson from St Michael's branch accompanied them and were fortunate enough to have the shortest journey.

The weather was changeable but the ferry crossings were calm and due to a long wait in Craignure for a bus, we arrived at St Columba's hotel rather late but still in time for a welcome dinner. The food was excellent and organically produced in the hotel's own garden. We took a short walk to the Cathedral for evening service at 9.00 pm.

Next morning saw everyone at 9.00 am service – this was interesting because at the end, one wasn't supposed to sit down but to leave the church to continue the day's work which had begun with the service. Four of the group went on the long pilgrimage which started at 10.00 am and eight (Margaret Gilbert included) went on the 'short' pilgrimage (about 4 hours in length) which started at noon. The three remaining members of the group (Joan Thompson included) ate their packed lunch in the hotel lounge and spent a peaceful afternoon looking out at the ferry boat crossing back and forth in the glorious weather. In the Cathedral on Tuesday night there was a healing service which was gentle but very moving and we were invited to join some of the members of the Iona Community for tea and flapjacks in the Refectory afterwards, where we were made very welcome.

Our final service was at 9.00 am on Wednesday morning when numbers were fewer as many people were leaving due to the season ending soon. The journey

home was uneventful and Margaret and Joan were soon able to wave goodbye to the rest of the group when the train reached Helensburgh Upper. Altogether it was a spiritual experience during which we made new friends and renewed old acquaintances. If you ever get the chance to spend a few days on this beautiful island, it is well worth doing. *Joan Thompson and Margaret Gilbert*

### **Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen) and The Solar Powered Cooker!**

And the connection is...?

..... Desert Island Discs in the church on Friday 16 October. The willing victim (castaway!) was Martyn Marshall, our church organist and Kirsty Young was played by Joan Thompson. Martyn provided us with an entertaining evening, telling how he had come to be involved in music, his likes and dislikes and his plans for the future, to name but a few. He chose 7 pieces of music and played two of them on the organ for us – the highlight of the evening! There was surprise at some of his choices of music especially when he picked out Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen as his favourite. His choice of book was about J. S. Bach and his luxury item was a solar-powered cooker.

MU thought he should have another luxury so he was presented with a chocolate cake. The evening was the brain-child of Barbara Hoey and thanks must go to the great team who put it all together. A collection was taken for Mothers' Union Overseas Fund and the total came to £300. *Joan Thompson*



### **Eco Congregation**

The gathering of Eco-Congregation in Dunblane on September 26th was a friendly affair and full of enthusiasm with some interesting input by the speaker John Ferguson, followed by smaller groups throwing ideas into the ring. These would be edited and used by all groups to study and learn from. I was reminded of an event which took place when my brother was three years old. He was seen by my Mother carrying his red beach bucket full of water from the bathroom to the nursery. She followed him, only to discover that the curtains were ablaze. The effort he had made was useful only because it had alerted my Mother to the imminent catastrophe! The situation for us as human beings is so critical and the state of planet Earth so endangered that there are only two alternative ways to go. 1. To hope that technology will rescue us and by our own inventiveness we will find new solutions at the very last minute. But it was our own supposed cleverness and greed which has got us into this mess in the first place. 2. We urgently need to consume less. A lot less. Radically less. And we need to conserve more. A lot more.' (Stephen Emmott :

'Ten Billion'). To accomplish such a radical change in behaviour would also need radical government action. But this is very unlikely to happen because no politician wants to be unpopular. The only thing the Church can do is to show that it will support any government to bring about extremely unpopular changes by setting an example of self-sacrificing behaviour.

I admit to my shame that I have never taken the step of joining a march or any public demonstration of any kind. If the truth be known I have thought it rather a vulgar and pointless activity. But if a very large number of people show their concern on a matter in this way, it shows the powers that be that they can safely act and introduce difficult legislation knowing that there is support for it. When the Second World War broke out, and German U-Boats sank most of the merchant shipping in the North Atlantic, we were only saved by the stringent rationing laws which left everyone very hungry, and by demanding the digging up of gardens and pasture land to grow vegetables. But it had to be done, and incidentally the civilian population has never been fitter than during those years.

The population ten thousand years ago was around a million. It took until 1800 to reach 1 billion. By 1960 there were three billion. During my life time so far another four billion has been added to bring it to seven billion and growing ever faster. We are using up the world's resources so fast that when we reach ten billion (before the end of this century) there will be no fresh water, very little land left on which to grow food even if the climate is still temperate. The oceans will be poisoned, and almost all species except for man and cockroaches will have died or become extinct through loss of habitat. When animals sense a lack of food they move away or stop breeding. We as a species in this anthropocene era have nowhere to move to. Christians believe that God's plan for man means ultimate salvation, and perhaps this crisis is the only way we can be forced to give up our destructive ways and cooperate with each other for the survival of all, or some, or even a very few of the wonderful variety of the species which live with us on the Earth and are utterly dependent on us for their survival. Political action with prayer and fasting is the start. *Selina McGeoch*



### Leaving a lasting legacy

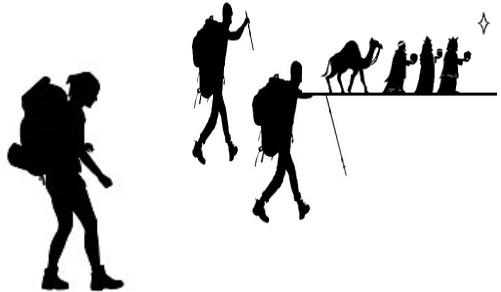
Did you know that around 15 percent of everything Christian Aid does is now made possible by legacies? In November Will Aid provides an ideal opportunity to make your Will or update your current one. Will Aid is a long established will writing scheme that benefits 9 charities, including Christian Aid. Last year around £2 million pounds was raised. It is easy to find out if there is a solicitor near you taking part, using your postcode. Go to [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) for more information or call **Jo Dallas, Christian Aid Scotland's Legacy Coordinator** on 0141 2416139. A gift in your Will, small or large, could one day help support our work fighting poverty and transforming lives. *Margaret Horrell*

# 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
7th November	Easy	Chatelherault & the Avon Gorge	John Lewis 01389 841592
21st November	Moderate	Leannach, Aberfoyle	John Lewis 01389 841592
5th December Pub Walk	Easy	Doune to Buchany	James Ashby 675541
29th December	Easy	<b>Walk off the Turkey,</b> Gartocharn & the Banks of Loch Lomond	TBD



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 –November & December 2015

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44	Wisdom of Solomon 5:1-5,14-16 Revelation 21:22-22:5 Psalm 149
8 <sup>th</sup> November	Jonah 3:1-5+10 Hebrews 9:24-end Mark 1:14-20	Judges 7:2-22 John 15:9-17 Psalm 46
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14+19-25 Mark 13:1-8	1 Kings 1:15-40 Luke 9:1-6 Psalm 95
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Daniel 7:9-10+13-14 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33b-37	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Matthew 28:16-20 Psalm 110
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1Thessalonians 3:3-9 Luke 21:25-36	Advent Carol Service
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	1 Kings 22:1-28 John 1:19-28 Psalm 40:11-17
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Zephaniah 3:14-end Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Zechariah 1:7-17 Matthew 24:15-31 Psalm 68:1-8
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1: 39-45	Christmas Carol Service
Dec.24 <sup>th</sup> midnight 8am. Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	
27 <sup>th</sup> December	1 Samuel 2:18-20+26 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end	Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 2:15-21 Psalm 105: 1-9

### **Beacon Trust**

It is that time of year again when I have to write the Annual Report for the Beacon Trust. In fact the report is later this year due to illness within our close circle of workers in the Trust. This has shown us how much we also depend on each other to get things done. First of all I would like to thank you all for your continuing support over the last year. Our main sources of help from the churches family have been yourselves and Park Church. Sadly Park Church is no longer but its legacy still lives on in the Beacon Trust. Our mainstays once again have been Jean and Andrea in the shop. We rely on them to be the

## READERS' LIST November & December 2015

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	Chris Sanders	Richard Smith	Jill Braid
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Katherine Black	James Ashby	David Ronald
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Selina McGeoch	Jill Braid	John Sadden
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	Penny Johnston	Trevor Quickfall	Joan Sadden
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Anthony Laceby	John Lewis	Advent Carol Service
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Net Lawrence	Lena Sutter	Penny Johnston
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Nigel Allan	Michael Blake	Maurice Steuart-Corry
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Liz Sanderson	John Hanks	Christmas Carol Service
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	John MacCallum	Chris Packard	Janet Hardy

**Beacon Trust Cont.** front line with our dealings with the public and other organisations. They collate the collections, deliveries and most of all they raise the funds that allow us to survive. Each month we have a challenge to survive. An income of £600 pounds must be raised each month to pay our rent. Added to this is the normal running costs associated with any shop: - Electricity, water, telephone, insurance, heating and of course the upkeep of our greatest asset and liability, our van. Without it we could not do the pickups or deliveries to keep us in business. The greatest cost is keeping the van roadworthy. So far we have kept the wolf from the door and I unashamedly attribute this to Jean and Andrea in the shop and the efforts of Billy, Willy and Scotty in the van. Donations from yourselves and other sources have enabled us to stay afloat. To increase our income, through more sales, we have extended the shop opening hours. so we open the shop on Mondays. This is proving a worthwhile venture but as yet the Monday staff have not the same skills as Jean and Andrea.

We have appealed to the church community for more volunteers but have had no response. Our Boss Above has never let us down! Help appeared from beyond the Church family. We lost our driver through a change of job and when all hope seemed gone a very willing volunteer driver appeared.

Thank you again for supporting us and we extend, as always, an invitation to come along and see us in the shop.

*Trevor McGrath*

<b><u>Church Group Leaders</u></b>	<b><u>Contact People/Organisers</u></b>	
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	James Ashby	675541
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.



### Sunday Services

<b>Eucharist.....(1970 Rite).....</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
<b>Open Spirit Contemporary Worship.....</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Sung Eucharist.....(1982 Rite).....</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Prayer Book Choral Evensong.....</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>

### Weekdays

<b>Eucharist Tuesday.....(1970 Rite).....</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Prayer Group Wednesday in the Trinity Chapel.....</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Eucharist Wednesday.....(1982 Rite).....</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>

### YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU

#### Eco-congregation Leader

Do you have a passion to save the planet? Do you love God's creation? Then we have the role for you. With Selina stepping down, we urgently need a new leader for the Eco-congregation group. Please contact Selina or Richard Smith or the Rector.

#### Vestry

The Vestry takes the burden of much of the administration of the Church. The Secretary, Treasurer and elected members are appointed for a three year period and should then be replaced. If sufficient members of the congregation stand up to take their turn then the dangers of a ruling clique are avoided and the duties never become too much of a burden.

#### Secretary to the Vestry

Can you cope with taking minutes of meetings once a month; preparing agenda for Vestry meetings; acting as a communications hub? Then a three-year spell as Vestry Secretary is definitely for you. Richard Smith is reaching the end of his three-year term of office. Please contact Richard Smith and the Rector.

#### Treasurer

Keeping the church accounts is a rewarding task which involves a fair amount of time but is not beyond the skills of most business and professional people. Former treasurers are always on hand to help guide the incumbent. Trevor Quickfall is reaching the end of his three-year term of office. Please contact Trevor Quickfall and the Rector.