

April 2014

THE MESSENGER



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The Magazine of St Michael

And All Angels

Episcopal Church

Helensburgh

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

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway

The Very Rev Gregor Duncan

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From the Lay Reader's desk

'Body missing – tomb raiders at work?' The authorities must have breathed a sigh of relief when the body of the latest crucified troublemaker was laid to rest in the tomb, the heavy stone rolled over the entrance and an armed guard put in position. Nothing stirred on the Sabbath, but early on that Easter morning, when the women who had prepared spices to anoint the body of Jesus arrived, they were stunned to see that the stone had been rolled aside and the guards were lying unconscious. Looking inside the cave there was no sign of a body. Instead they were astounded to be greeted by two angels asking them a question that has resonated down through the centuries: 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?'

Matthew's gospel records that the authorities attempted a cover-up by bribing the guards to say that the disciples had come during the night and stolen the body. Just like today we enjoy a good rumour or conspiracy theory, and many were duped into thinking that somehow the body had been buried elsewhere and all the resurrection appearance stories were just that – stories. But if that was the case, surely someone somewhere would have spilled the beans about where the body was? No one has ever been able to point to such a grave. Yet, all the gospels attest to a wide variety of people in considerable numbers witnessing the risen Jesus, from disciples sharing a meal with Jesus after the walk on the road to Emmaus, the appearances in the locked upper room in Jerusalem, to the disciples having breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was in the locked room when Jesus came for a second time to the disciples there that Thomas' memorable encounter took place. Like we would probably be in his position, Thomas was a sceptic about the resurrection. Was it imagination or wishful thinking that Jesus had risen from the dead? Unless

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May Edition

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he actually saw Jesus he would not believe. Then Jesus came and knew precisely the proof Thomas was looking for – to touch the very wounds on his hands and side. Thomas fell down in worship. 'My Lord and my God.' Jesus replied, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

We find ourselves in that position of blessing. We have weighed the evidence and placed our trust in the truth of the resurrection. We rejoice in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit given as our Comforter and Advocate, and try to put into practice the great commission to make disciples of all nations, at least in our own context of being salt and light in our corner of the world. In an unsettled world, we praise God for the hope of the message of Easter. The cross represents the sacrifice God made through Jesus to bear the sins of the world and to offer forgiveness to all who believe. The empty tomb points to the resurrection and the proof that he succeeded.

He is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Kevin Boak Lay Reader

Vestry Report

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

DIOCESAN GROWTH STRATEGY. It was agreed that the Vestry should take up the work at the point where it was left off. Richard is to recirculate the Stage 1 conclusions. The Rector is to approach the Dean to request a new facilitator. The strands to be pursued are Numerical Growth and Imaginative Outreach into Communities.

John Hanks reported that: Other than the concert on Friday 7th March, the only event at the moment on the Social Calendar is the 'daffodil tea' hosted by the Wilsons at High Auchensail on Sunday 23rd March from 2.30 to 5.30. Rosemary is very confident that the daffodils will be out by then! The Christian Aid week quiz will be held this year at St Michael's on Friday 25th April.

The report on the current financial status was approved by the Vestry.

THE NORTH-WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL: Please see NWRC report on page 6

PROPERTY REPORT: The required improvements to the lightning conductors have been carried out. Two temperature recorders have been bought and fitted to continue the investigation on the central heating system usage. Suitable contractors are being sought to conduct repairs/maintenance on Rectory windows. GEM lifts have been contacted to arrange the six-monthly lift inspection. Colin Spy has been contacted about the Main Hall door to see if a solid wood door might be better and more cost effective in long term.

The Vestry agreed that, for the present, historical entries to the Memorial Book shall be limited to Church Members who passed on after January 2000.

John Lewis put forward a suggestion that wheelchair access be provided to the Lower Hall. Various possibilities were considered but the Vestry concluded that such an access would create more problems than it would resolve. The Rector noted that the Trinity Chapel, which has wheelchair access and can seat 22, is available for the use of groups which include persons with a disability.

The Vestry considered the matter of the use of the Church computer, data security and an IT Policy to comply with data protection legislation. It was agreed that Richard would discuss the matter with the Diocesan Secretary and Marjory would look into suitable IT Policies.

In accordance with the diocesan decision, the Vestry agreed to fund one third of the cost of Kevin's attendance at the Biennial Lay-readers' Conference.

Richard Smith (Secretary to Vestry)

Notices

This year there will not be the traditional solemn Good Friday Liturgy in the afternoon.

Instead we shall be having a more informal, hopefully ecumenical, Good Friday worship based on previous Open Spirit services. This service will be participatory and the songs contemporary. It will last about 40 minutes. We are having something different in line with our Diocesan Growth Strategy commitment to 'imaginative outreach'. If you wish to attend a Good Friday Liturgy I am sure that either St. Mungo's or St. Augustine's will have one.

The Rector

Monthly Coffee morning: This is not just for ladies - All are welcome!

Thursday April 3rd^h 10.30am at Jill Braid's 41 Charlotte Street

The monthly coffee morning in its new format is proving to be most enjoyable and popular. It's lovely to have a 'catch up' with everyone. Many thanks to our team of loyal bakers and hostesses. To go on the rota, contact Maureen. Donations after buying tea/coffee will go to our Mothers' Union branch.

Maureen Kyle

Mothers' Union Dates for your diary

April 7th Monday 2pm - Packing hospital bags for emergency admissions

April 24th Thursday 10.30am - Maxine Gow will speak to us about her work at Low Moss Prison

May 22nd Thursday 10.30am - Trip to Ardardan Estate

Advance notice Shandon Gardens Opening Sunday May 18th 2pm-5pm

more information in the May issue

WASTEWATCHERS! P 1-7 Easter Holiday Club – April 7th – 10th. 10.0am-12noon

Park Church Hall Free, Register on the day. For info. Call Elizabeth on 679565

Christian Aid Week is 11 - 17 May.'

This year St Michael's is hosting the CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ on Friday 25th April at 7.30pm. *More information in the May issue*

Vale of Leven Hospital Tea bar Rota

The chart for Tea Bar duty for the week 19th-23rd May is on the Notice Board in the Hall. Please could volunteers put their names on the slot they can manage so that when I come back from holiday towards the end of April I have practically nothing left to do!! If there is anyone who has not volunteered before and who would like to do so, please talk to either Judith Adams or me. We really welcome new volunteers. Helping at the Tea Bar is not difficult and we always make sure that new volunteers are accompanied by someone experienced.

Sophie Hamilton – 671074 or Judith Adams – 672477.

'Olivet to Calvary' on Good Friday at 6pm.

Martyn Marshall presents 'Olivet to Calvary' by J.H. Maunder in St. Michael's Church on Good Friday, 18th April 2014 at 6pm. Martyn is the Choir Master for an enhanced local choir of 23 singers with two male soloists from Glasgow Academy. At the performance Martyn will be playing the organ and we welcome Brian Temple as the Conductor.

'Olivet to Calvary' is very similar to Stainer's 'The Crucifixion', but is not performed as often. It is a moving piece of music and the choir are enjoying learning, what for most of us, is a 'new work', even though it was written at the turn of the twentieth century.

Shaun Hoey

North West Regional Council report

AGM Drumchapel Mission, 23rd January 2014

Minutes of AGM held in St Augustine's, Dumbarton on 23rd January 2013 were adopted

Matters arising: The Bishop said a group wanted to take over Holy Cross building, with use for the community

Drumchapel Mission: The hall at the URC church, Drumchapel, had a dedication service and clergy are willing to take occasional eucharists, otherwise members will take services themselves. A quarterly interest from £30,000 goes to the church.

It was agreed that £5 from each charge will go towards the new NWRU secretary's expenses.

Regional Council elections took place and also Diocesan Council Elections, and those for General Synod and Provincial Boards.

There will be a eucharist for Ascension Day at St Mungo's on May 29th (it was hoped the Bishop would be present, but he will be elsewhere)

St Augustine's & St Mungo's are to be linked charges, with Rev Kenny McCauley and

Rev Alison Jones as part time rectors

There is to be a Training Day for facilitators trying to collate Strands for Action Plan, this will be at All Saint's Bearsden, with a representative from St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane

The Diocesan website is being revamped – the MAP is password protected

The new secretary for NWRC is to be Tim Rhead

TREASURER REPORT ~ Living Giving Funds

Around this time every year we give 10% of our annual income to charities which is discussed and agreed by the Vestry. This money has been set aside in our current account and is distributed by cheque to the relevant charity. Once received, their thank you letters are displayed on the Church Hall notice board.

If you have a charity that you would like to nominate for Living Giving funds next financial year (September 2014 - August 2015), please contact either a member of the Vestry or myself with the details including the address.

This years' Living Giving funds of £8500, which has been agreed by the Vestry, will be forwarded to the following recipients:

| | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Helensburgh Area Christian Youth Project | SC027973 | £3,200 |
| Support to St Mungo's Church Alexandria | SC011770 | £400 |
| SEC Missionary Association | SC002555 | £1,800 |
| The Beacon Trust | SC023059 | £400 |
| SEC Community Fund | N/A | £850 |
| Scottish Churches Housing Association | SC02214 | £250 |
| St Rollox Community Outreach | SC035587 | £400 |
| Preshal Trust | SC033632 | £500 |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund | N/A | £250 |
| Bishop's Lent Appeal | No: 234518 | £100 |
| Emergency Reserve Fund | | £350 |
| TOTAL | | £8,500 |

Trevor Quickfall Honorary Treasurer

Mothers' Union

At our meeting on 20th February at 10.30am, we welcomed Elizabeth Henderson to speak to us about her trip to a Giant Panda reserve in China in 2012. This was a working holiday organised by Earthwatch, an international non-profit making organisation founded in 1971 in Boston. Elizabeth and her co-workers were based at Chengdu at a nature reserve in the hills, 7000 feet above sea level. Elizabeth illustrated her talk with slides of the pandas and their living conditions and was able to give us a fascinating insight into their habits, feeding and struggle for survival. 150 pandas live in this damp

mountain environment; Elizabeth's duties included observing and recording panda behaviour, which involved coding their actions every minute on the minute. This could prove quite tedious since pandas eat bamboo for 12 hours a day and sleep a lot! As the captive pandas must not get too used to humans, the volunteers were not allowed to wash in the mornings and had to wear panda suits while observing! Elizabeth and her co-workers were also kept busy producing large quantities of soya cakes to supplement the pandas' diet, feeding the baby pandas and cleaning out the enclosures. There are only 1500 Giant Pandas left in the world, owing largely to their narrow diet of bamboo, which they have to eat constantly (a male panda eats 20 kg of bamboo a day) and the destruction of their habitat by man. Elizabeth explained that if the bamboo plant flowers, it dies and germination takes 10 years so that it is very difficult to ensure that sufficient stocks of the pandas' food source exist. Although captive female pandas do not make good mothers, the reserve has bred 134 pandas. They are the most immature of mammals when born, about the size of a rat, and totally dependent on their mothers, so often they need to be separated and cared for away from their mother, particularly in the case of multiple births. We all enjoyed Elizabeth's informative and interesting talk, which prompted much discussion at the end, and we very much appreciated her taking the time to share her trip with us.

Sarah Beveridge (Secretary)

On 3rd March the Mothers' Union was pleased to welcome to their meeting Alison Gildea from Argyll Voluntary Action speaking about 'Grey Matters', a group for the over-60s whose title, it seems, has more to do with the little grey cells than with hair colour! Grey Matters provides a social forum for people in Helensburgh who wanted to be more actively involved in the community, to be part of a group and to campaign to get things done. It now has over 120 members, at least 35-40 of whom meet each week in the Brownie Hall in John Street. Alison's enthusiasm and passion were obvious as she described not just the social activities but also the campaigns that the group have successfully initiated. For example, making pavements safer for people by persuading the council to level the tarmac, drop kerbs, install bus-stops. Alison has obtained funding from Health and Wellbeing for coach trips to Edinburgh and Oban and from Waitrose for a Christmas party. The aim of the group is to Empower, Enrich and Enliven, which it does by means of an emphasis on fun, friendship, campaigning and exchange of skills, such as computer skills. Members have successfully campaigned for better podiatry provision in Helensburgh and for self-referral for health services rather than having to rely on GP referral. They are also involved in health events, for example a programme of person-centred care based on a Swedish model, the Esther Project. Grey Matters has been in existence now for two years and it was wonderful to hear how much had been achieved in such a short time and the plans for expanding in the future. We were all very grateful to Alison for sharing her work and vision with us.

Sarah Beveridge(secretary)

The Beacon Trust

Problems with the Van.... It ended up a garage job in which the complete steering rack had to be replaced at a cost of £735. Thankfully the van is once again back on the road. The van is an integral part of the Beacon Trust's operation. With our rent of £600 per month we are not making the same profit but we are managing. Our long term helper on the van, Eddie, has managed to get regular employment -we will miss him. We welcome Duncan Gillies who has fitted in perfectly with Steve and Billy. *Trevor McGrath MBE*

A Concert Given by Four Choirs from Glasgow Academy

Friday March 7th 2014 in St. Michael's Church

Glasgow Academy Pupils and Friends presented a varied and lively programme: -everything from the Deo Gracias by Albrecht & Althouse to a selection from Les Miserables.

The Prep. 7 Tour Choir, on their first outing, seemed to enjoy the selection from Abba and 'Like an Eagle' by Strommen almost as much as the audience did. They sang beautifully.

The Academy's Chamber Choir is a talented group. Their part singing and tuning was excellent and the balance was perfect. So many choirs have almost to bribe young tenors and basses to sing, and ask sopranos to join the waiting list; not so with this group, probably thanks to the Senior Boys Choir. Conductor Jonathan Hawkins and the other highly professional staff in Martyn Marshall's music dept. have obviously made it 'cool' to sing in this group. The sound that Changed Voices make is quite unique. Their performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's March of the Peers was not only spine-tingling but highly entertaining.

The soloists from all of these choirs were outstanding as was the accompanist.

Another choir on its first outing was the Glasgow Academy Singers –a group of parents and friends of the Academy. They sang two sets, including Fields and Coleman's Rhythm of Life – a sparkling performance.

The concert ended with 'Les Miserables Selection'. Very dramatic from the first solo notes! The audience just loved the whole of this selection and would have listened to it all again.

The retiring collection was split between the School Music Tour to New York and St. Michael's church

If you were unable to be at this concert, look out for their future dates in Helensburgh; you will not be disappointed. *Marjory Barrington*

Calendar for April 2014

**Lent Courses continue on
Mondays, Tuesdays and
Thursdays, until Thursday April
10th**

Tuesday 1st April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Eucharist

Wednesday 2nd April

7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 3rd April

10.30am Monthly Coffee Morning
at 41 Charlotte Street

Saturday 5th April – Feast-day of St.
David

9:00am Rambling Club

Sunday 6th April Second of Lent

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

Monday 7th April

2:00pm Mothers' Union meeting,
packing Hospital Emergency Bags
7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

Tuesday 8th April

9.15am Prayer Meeting
10.30am Eucharist
11.45am-12.45pm Rector available
in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 9th April

7.30pm Eucharist

Sunday 13th April – PALM SUNDAY

Blessing and distribution of Palm
Crosses
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

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

**Monday to Friday (inclusive) Ecumenical
Services in St. Andrew's Kirk at 8.00pm**

Tuesday 15th April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Said Eucharist, Trinity Chapel,
followed by refreshments
11.45am - 12.45 Rector available in the
Choir Vestry

Wednesday 16th April

7:00pm Said Eucharist, Trinity Chapel

Thursday 17th April – Maundy Thursday
8.00pm Sung Eucharist,
followed by 'The Vigil to Midnight' in
Trinity Chapel

Friday 18th April – Good Friday

9:00am Stations of the Cross in church,
followed by hot-cross buns in Hall
Walk of Witness later in morning, details
tba.
2.00pm Ecumenical and contemporary
Good Friday worship in church.
6.00pm 'Olivet to Calvary' Maunday in
church.

Calendar for April 2014

Sunday 20th April – EASTER DAY

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

Tuesday 22nd April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Eucharist
11.45am–12.45 Rector
available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 23rd April

7.30pm Eucharist

Thursday 24th April

10:30am Mothers' Union meeting
Speaker Maxine Gow

Saturday 26th April

9:00am Rambling Club
10.30am Messy Church at St.Margaret's
Churchill Square

Sunday 27th April – Second of Easter

8.00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9.30-10.00am 'Open Spirit'
contemporary worship (Crèche)
10.30am-11.30am Sunday Clubs for
children
10.30am-11.30am Sung Eucharist
Guest speaker from the Preshal Trust,
(Creche)
6.30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong
Monday 28th April - Feast-day of St.
Mark, Evangelist

Tuesday 29th April

9.15am Prayer meeting
10.30am Eucharist
11.45am-12.45pm Rector available in
the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 30th April

7.30pm Eucharist

An interview with Khursheed Moos

Born in 1934 at Beckenham in Kent, Khursheed's father was a Parsee* from India who graduated in Botany from Mumbai (Bombay). His mother was Dutch and a Liberal Catholic, from a Unitarian family background**. From early on they had Theosophical interests which influenced their son.

In 1939, not long after the outbreak of war, Khursheed's mother with the two children were evacuated to a large house in mid-Sussex where they lived in a single room. Memories linger of having to adapt to life amongst rough London east-enders. They got back home only just in time for Khursheed to win a Kent county award to Dulwich College (C.of E. public school) as a day boy. Although the school was progressive, it was could not prevent a boy who was vegetarian and of mixed race being called names and bullied. While at that school Khursheed discovered his joy in

music and sang in the choir. He also developed an interest in science where his first love was plants – botany. He recorded the school 'flora' of plants in their extensive grounds. Second came chemistry but physics and maths he found more difficult. It was through medical friends visiting his father, that Khursheed first became aware of medicine as a possible career.

When the school put Khursheed forward for medicine at Oxford he was offered a place but not the one and only scholarship. Because his parents were not in a position to support him, the opportunity had to be turned down. By that time he was too late to apply for medicine in London, so the school and a school friend suggested dentistry. He got a place at Guys Hospital. There he discovered that, being reasonably good with his hands in practical work, surgery interested him. To pursue this further he really needed to study dentistry jointly with medicine which was a possibility at that period. However, his application was refused. So, after leaving Guys, he became a senior house officer in Brighton which was linked to the maxillofacial unit at East Grinstead. There he also found time to help out in the local casualty department. Although the job paid 'peanuts' with only one weekend off a month, it offered a wealth of experience.

Still seeking medical qualifications Khursheed then enrolled on a short preclinical Medical course at University College, London. Just after starting that he was called up to do National Service and, instead, found himself posted to a large Military hospital in Woolwich. There, at least, he was able to do some surgery. During this time he met Kate, a Q.A. Nursing Officer on her way to Germany, whom he later married in 1962; she was the daughter of an Anglican Vicar.

Having finished his national service, Khursheed finally enrolled as a medical student at Westminster Hospital. He managed to fund this by doing dentistry at night while Kate was nursing at Brompton Hospital. On qualifying, he was delighted to be offered the professorial surgical house officer post but, with just two nights off in 6 months, hard on Kate now with first-born son Chris! The general surgery done in that post was to stand him in good stead later on. After that followed an excellent medical job in Warwick before returning to London for two years as an Oral & Maxillofacial Registrar at Mount Vernon Hospital. That offered the opportunity to learn the rudiments of research methods, publish a paper and, practically, work with much trauma and deformity surgery - essential for any aspiring surgeon in that speciality. Hilary, their daughter, was born during this period.

Those years of dedicated commitment had become an established way of life. When a new dental school opened in Cardiff, Khursheed was appointed as a senior registrar. John, their third child, was born in Cardiff. After two years Khursheed applied for and was appointed to a new consultant post in South Warwickshire. While a more senior post, it was serving a smaller population and was without cover for him. With huge numbers of visitors to nearby Stratford the trauma incidents in summer doubled so the workload was unrelenting! Philosophically Khursheed commented that he certainly learnt a lot about how to manage and organise his work! After five years, regional

re-organisation left that position out on a limb.

Again, time to move on but this time to the new West of Scotland Plastic & Maxillofacial Regional Unit. Now at last those earlier setbacks were behind Khursheed and he could specialise in his preferred field, which also came with academic status. This was a wonderful opportunity but presenting yet another huge upheaval for Kate and the children.

The new post at Canniesburn Hospital was part of centralised services for Plastic and Maxillofacial surgery for 3.5 million people. The Unit was one of the largest multidisciplinary facilities of its type in the UK with certainly the largest trauma load and, for Khursheed and his colleagues, great opportunities for research, innovation and teaching. In addition, there were exciting possibilities for collaboration with colleagues in allied disciplines and also overseas. As a result of their pioneering work on craniofacial deformity many patients came from the the rest of the UK, North West Europe and the Commonwealth. Initially Khursheed's team worked closely with the plastic surgeon, Ian Jackson, on the facial reconstruction of the boy David from Peru. This work attracted worldwide publicity; perhaps a bit too much for their liking. When it came to innovation and introducing new equipment, much of that had to be sponsored or was charity-funded. Time for fund-raising had to be found beyond working hours. Unlike plastic surgery which more readily attracts sponsorship, support for the underpinning reconstructive side of innovation were harder to win.

Khursheed's pioneering clinical work and academic achievements at Canniesburn and then the Glasgow Dental Hospitals led to his Honorary Professorship in oral and maxillofacial surgery from Glasgow University. Here it is not appropriate, even feasible, to even begin to summarise Professor Moos's special contribution over his forty years in Scotland. His CV runs to some 50 pages covering research output, specialist book chapters, papers and international collaborations in surgery (medicine) and dentistry! Much of this can be found on the internet. He has received honorary fellowships, prizes, and an OBE.

Teaching and training have barely been alluded to so far. With team-building they are a further passion of Khursheed's. He has sought funds to bring people here on scholarships and he has set up and supervised postgraduate training overseas. When Khursheed was president of his national surgical association he was involved in discussions internationally as to how best the developing world could be helped; he decided UK's commitment should be to the Commonwealth and former Empire Countries. Khursheed's father's home had been in Hyderabad so it was natural early on that he would take the Indian subcontinent under his wing, but later extending this work to the Middle East and Egypt, Malaysia Singapore, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand!

Courses and, later, examinations with involvement of the Royal Colleges were organised overseas either at no cost or minimal cost by taking keen young UK Consultants with him. Only recently, on inheriting the family home in Hyderabad,

Khursheed is in the process of selling it to establish a trust fund for trainee scholarships. He says that if those he has trained are not better than he is, then he would take this as a mark of his own personal failure!

But if that were not enough, there is more to say about this unassuming man. Having been a patient under Professor Moos in Canniesburn, I have observed his gentle, respectful yet persevering manner with the most trying of patients. Patient care, never mentioned by him in this interview, is central to his way of being.

Although officially retired some years ago his efforts never cease - he has only recently stopped examining and consulting. Khursheed admitted himself that all this has been a great burden on Kate especially when bringing up the family and taking normally only two weeks holiday out a six week allowance.

Both Kate and Khursheed have and still do spend much of their lives in service to others. Wishing to reflect upon faith and philosophy, it was not surprising to find Khursheed with a very open mind about finding universal truths in many religions; he believes that, beyond Christianity, meditation and Buddhism in particular, have much to offer. Doing good in this world is the practical aspect but the preservation of traditional forms of worship such as in the Scottish Episcopal Church, is important he feels. Music is still part of his life and he looks forward to more of that, reading his many books and, weather permitting, tending the plants in his garden and the flowers he loves.

* An adherent of a monotheistic religion of Zoroastrian origin (upon which Judaism drew inspiration), the practitioners of which were driven out of Persia by the Muslims in the eighth century AD. It is now found chiefly in western India.

** Belonging to a Christian, episcopal church rejecting later doctrines of Rome and inclined towards St Augustine of Hippo in recognising mystical experience common to all the great religions of the world.

Maggie Sheen

On Friday 7th March St Michael's Church hosted the World Day of Prayer Service.

People from the churches in Helensburgh took part in the worship which had been organised by the Christian women of Egypt. Costumes, props and artifacts were provided by Joy & Kevin's family and Sarah Beveridge, who had also acquired an Egyptian flag. Ann Packard made arrangements from various foliage fronds donated by the congregation. The introduction was read by Sarah Beveridge who acted as leader for the whole service. The service continued with a procession of ladies and gentleman dressed in Egyptian clothes, with an accompaniment of cymbals and other instruments played by the congregation. Readers from various local churches participated in the service. Kevin Boak, standing in for Rev. George Vidits who was indisposed, delivered a wonderful address. The offering was £335 which was a local record. After the service tea / coffee was served in the hall, where there was a display of Egyptian art and artifacts donated by Khursheed and Kate Moos. There was baking, various foods, fruits and produce from Egypt to enjoy. Richard Horrell also showed interesting pictures of Egypt and a video.

Margaret Horrell

Eco congregation Report on Fracking

On 28th February, the local network was addressed by Adrian Shaw from the Edinburgh Headquarters, on Fracking as a way of extracting gas from shale. Several members of the group initially approached the subject from a hostile point of view. Friends of the Earth, who campaign against it, have a formidable set of arguments to show governments how dangerous and undesirable it is as a means of obtaining energy. By the end of the talk however, I was fairly convinced that fracking was by no means the worst option. Many problems and difficulties arise with its extraction, but many more serious problems will remain if we do not use it as part of our energy needs. 80% of domestic fuel in Scotland is gas. Recent political events have shown clearly how precarious is reliance on Russia. A disturbing conclusion was also reached by our group, in that faced with the energy requirements which we have, and the desperate need to reduce our carbon footprint, it seemed that nuclear fuel was an option, although opposed by the Scottish Government. The difficult decisions which must be taken by those in power, need all our prayers at this time.

Earth Hour is on 29th March at 8:30pm. If you possibly can, turn off everything electrical that you can do safely, just for an hour in solidarity with others world wide. Or join others at the U.R.C. also at 8:30pm for a candlelit dramatic reading of the second half of St Mark's Gospel.

The Climate Change Road Show.

The weather on Thursday was truly awful, but by the evening was just about dry enough for a good number of brave souls to venture out to St Michael's. I commend their fortitude. After a slightly late start, there was an introduction by Diane Green, on what Christian Aid was doing, along with other charities such as Tear Fund, to help the poorest in the world to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change in their regions. Droughts which once occurred every ten years now came every three or even less. When the rains came they did so quite unpredictably, so no reliable pattern of sowing and harvesting can now be seen to work. Western aid and knowledge can be of help, only if it is given in humility; listening to those who have experience of local conditions. The introduction of a foreign species of animal or plant, for example, might do more harm than good.

The workshops were quite fun and the quiz about the carbon footprint of different types of food might have been useful for those who needed to give this subject some consideration. Thanks to Ann Packard's baking, and the hard work by many others, the evening ran fairly smoothly. Overall, the actual content was disappointing, with the outcome and conclusion less than satisfactory. Let us now concentrate on what we can do in our own lives and do politically, to make our Western lifestyle less damaging to the planet. It will be a great challenge but let us pray that we have God on our side. When planning changes in your gardens this season, please remember to make them Bee friendly. Useful tips come from Friends of the Earth Bee Cause. We cannot survive without bees and they are dying.

Selina McGeoch

Baptism Times

I know that some of you are perplexed as to why some baptisms are now being celebrated outwith the 10.30am Sung Eucharist. Here is an explanation.

After having been Rector of St. Michael's for just over 10 years I have come to realise that the long, traditional, 10.30am Sung Eucharist is not a suitable arena in which to celebrate the baptism of children of unchurched families. To these families it is such a completely strange environment that it detracts from the enjoyment of the family celebration.

Imposing a large group (sometimes 60--70) of unchurched folk onto our usual 10.30am congregation also upsets the dynamic of the eucharistic worship. I notice this from my position of presidency at the front, and the comments I often receive afterwards from church members indicate that some of you feel it too.

One person in our church has already commented adversely, saying it is a shame to exclude the St. Michael's family. True; but you are welcome to return into church for a 12.15pm baptism; it is not a private service. However, if, as I have done, you look back through the Baptism Register, which covers many years, you will realise that, despite the warm welcome baptismal families receive at our church, and despite on-going contact through anniversary cards from Mothers' Union members, very few return with their children. Even fewer commit themselves to regular worship with us (including some who even claim membership of our church.) There will be various reasons for this absence, but it is serious enough for me to know that we should at least try to offer a more flexible approach.

I have decided that we need a new approach with obviously unchurched families. This is to try to make them feel more at ease in church, and hopefully to make the baptism celebration relaxed and enjoyable enough that their experience of church will be positive, and some people might just consider returning, perhaps for the Children's Christmas Celebration.

We tried this approach with our grand-son Max's baptism, starting at 12.15pm, and only having the Baptism Rite, plus a few worship songs. The service met with a very positive response, both from the large number of unchurched people as well as from our own family. We tried it again on March 9th with almost completely unchurched families, and once again met with very positive responses (although in future I may omit any singing.) The Baptism on March 16th, on the other hand, was celebrated within the Sung Eucharist because one family occasionally attends St. Michael's and Alexander's parents asked for the 10.30am service (and they were all here for his parent's marriage service 18 months ago.)

For the future, parents enquiring about baptism will be offered either the Open Spirit, the Sung Eucharist, or a mid-day time, but to some extent I will make a final decision case-by-case. They will be encouraged to attend the first 2 options (as Ashton's parents did) to help them decide.

A final reason for this new, flexible, approach, is that this, too, is an attempt at 'imaginative outreach' as per one strand of Stage Two of our Diocesan Growth Strategy

response. It will, of course, be several years before we might notice any definite benefits to St. Michael's from this more flexible baptismal policy. *The Rector*



Please Note : The Diocesan Newsletter is available to read on The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Website.

editor

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS FOR APRIL/MAY

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

| Date | Grade | Description | Leader |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5th April | Medium | Glen Finglas / Brig o' Turk | Geoff Mason 671251 |
| 26 th April | Medium | Greenock / Kelly Cut | Jo Scott 01389 849145 |
| 10 th May | Medium /Hard | Cort-ma-Law | James Ashby 675541 |
| 31 st May | Hard | The Tarmachan Hills | James Ashby 675541 |

Definitions of grades (these are estimations and may alter after a recce):-

Easy – Flatish with mostly good walking surface.

Medium – Some ups and downs with tracks/paths; if no close 'easy' option the slower people might go part way.

Hard – Hillwalking with significant ups and downs and/or distance.

(An easier walk will, hopefully, be available)

The Committee is Frankie Hanmer, Geoff Mason, Sue Hume and James Ashby who will be pleased to receive suggestions for walks.

The May Weekend is the 16th-19th, based at Lower Largo, Fife. We have filled the Crusoe Hotel with 30 of us. Any more interested parties please make your own accommodation arrangements. Any queries to Frankie, Sue, Geoff or James

LECTIONARY – APRIL 2014

| Sunday | Eucharist | Evensong |
|--|--|--|
| 6 th Apr 5 th Lent | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45 | Exodus 7:8-24 Luke 22:1-13 Psalm 34 |
| 13 th Apr Palm Sunday | Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 | Zechariah 12:9-11+13:1+7-9 Luke 19:41-48 Psalm 36:5-11 |
| 17 th Apr Maundy Thursday ***8:00pm*** | Exodus 12:1-14 (Psalm 116:1-2+12-19) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17+31b-35 | |
| <p>NB: This year there will be no traditional solemn Good Friday Liturgy in the afternoon. Instead we shall be having more informal, ecumenical, Good Friday worship based on 2 Open Spirit services celebrated on Sunday mornings earlier this year. This service will be participatory and the songs contemporary. It will last about 40 minutes. We are having something different in line with our Diocesan Growth Strategy commitment to 'imaginative outreach'. If you wish to attend a Good Friday Liturgy either St. Mungo's or St. Augustine's will have one. <i>The Rector</i></p> | | |
| 20 th Apr Easter Sunday | Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18 | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 66 |
| 27 th Apr 2 nd Easter | Acts 2:14a+22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 | Isaiah 26:1-9+19 Luke 24:1-12 Psalm 143:1-11 |

READERS' LIST – APRIL 2014

| DATE | 8:00am | 10:30am | 6:30pm |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 6 th Apr | Penny Johnston | Tom Allison | Angela Russell |
| 13 th Apr | Anthony Laceby | Julie Semens | Janet Hardy |
| 20 th Apr | Nigel Allan | Helen Gibson | Margaret Gilbert |
| 27 th Apr | Patricia Eglington | Susan Lewis | Penny Johnston |

| <i>Church Group Leaders</i> | <i>Contact People/Organisers</i> | |
|---|---|------------------|
| People's Warden | Jo Scott | 01389 849145 |
| Rector's Warden | Susan Lewis | 01389 841592 |
| 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 | Morag Carlaw | 672090 |
| 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 | Margaret Horrell | 676936 |
| USPG | Marion Blake | 673960 |
| Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/ Monthly Coffee Morning Rota | Maureen Kyle | 672951 |
| Eco Church | Selina McGeoch | 676074 |
| Hill walking and Rambling Club | James Ashby | 675541 |
| Badminton Club | Shaun Hoey | 671718 |
| Traidcraft | Jo Scott | 01389 849145 |
| Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar | Sophie Hamilton & Judith Adams | 671074 672477 |
| St Michael's Art Group | John MacCallum | 673521 |
| Magazine Editor | Marjory Barrington | 820484 |
| Assistant Editor | Richard Smith | 831087 |
| Collation / Distribution | Barbara Hoey & Morag Carlaw | 671718 672090 |
| Ask how to join or help. Perhaps bring new ideas for new activities. You will be welcome. Please let the editor know if any changes are needed. | | |



Sunday Services

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Eucharist.....(1970 Rite)..... | 8:00am |
| Open Spirit Contemporary Worship..... | 9:30am |
| Sung Eucharist.....(1982 Rite)..... | 10:30am |
| Prayer Book Choral Evensong..... | 6:30pm |

Weekdays

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

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