

FEBRUARY 2013

THE MESSENGER



www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

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



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

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

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway

The Very Rev Gregor Duncan

Clergy and Staff

Rector: Rev. David Cook
16 William Street
Helensburgh 672500

Reader: Kevin Boak
38 West Duhill Drive
Helensburgh G84 9XX 676852

**Director of Music, Organist.....
& Leader of the Choir** Martyn Marshall
50 Hillman Crescent
Paisley PA3 3FD 0141 889 6181

Secretary to the Vestry..... Richard Smith
21 The Soundings, Clynder,
Helensburgh G84 0QL 831087

Property Convenor..... Nick Parry
24 East Lennox Drive
Helensburgh G84 9JD 678587

Treasurer..... Trevor Quickfall
25 Redclyffe Gardens
Helensburgh G84 9JJ 679083

Stewardship Convenor..... John Lewis
29 Hillside Road,
Cardross G82 5LS 01389 841592

Lay Representative..... Margaret Gilbert
Flat 6, 3 Park Lane
Helensburgh G84 7NT 675136

**Children & Vulnerable
Persons Protection
Coordinator** John Busby
Innerhaven, Garelohead
Helensburgh G84 0EL 811385

From the Rector

ASH WEDNESDAY 13th February – Please note that this year there will be only ONE Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes each at St. Michael's and St. Mungo's.

The St. Mungo's service will be at **10:00am**.

The St. Michael's service will be at **7:00pm**.

I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Several people have asked if my Rector's Annual Report could be printed in the Messenger because they missed it for various reasons. It is reproduced below with some additional material.

Also reproduced are parts of a letter sent to me by a couple who visited St. Michael's recently. The welcome that you gave them has made a very favourable impression on them. This is something which St. Michael's folk do naturally (and without having to be 'trained' by the clergy or by a course or anything clever like that.. ..) So do consider this 'a feather in St. Michael's cap', and a compliment to you all.

"On the Sunday before Christmas we attended the morning Eucharist service at St. Michael's and were made to feel so welcome that I wanted to write and thank all of you for making our visit so special. We returned on Christmas Eve to join your celebrations at the Midnight Eucharist and, again, were made to feel very much part of your church family. We met some of your members after the Sunday service and we agreed it was one of the high points of our visit.

(Our son) is currently serving in the Royal Navy,

MESSENGER

February 2013

Contents

From the Rector.....	1
Rector's AGM Report.....	2
News.....	4
Minutes of the AGM.....	5
Calendar.....	8
In His Own Time.....	9
A Reflection.....	9
Vestry Report.....	10
Mothers' Union.....	11
Chris's Cards.....	11
Bible Craft.....	12
Like Us on Facebook.....	13
Beacon Trust.....	14
Stall in the Hall.....	14
Helensburgh Food Banks.	14
Rambling Club.....	15
Lectionary.....	16
Readers List.....	16
Bible Study Groups.....	16

March Edition

Handing in Sunday	10 th Feb
Stapling Day	20 th Feb
Publication Sunday	24 th Feb

April Edition

Handing in Sunday	17 th Mar
Stapling Day	27 th Mar
Publication Sunday	31 st Mar

For an email copy in lieu of a paper copy please contact the Editor.

Please send your contributions to:-

Richard Smith
21 The Soundings, Clynder,
Helensburgh G84 0QL
Tel: 831 087

richard.jianping@hotmail.com

From the Rector (continued)

and (our daughter) 'discovered' St. Michael's when she came to sing with the West of Scotland Military Wives' Choir. We were not entirely surprised to find people who had also had RN connections and knew our part of the world..... (We) belong to St. Mary's, Portchester..... We are awaiting the arrival of our new vicar- Revd. Ian Meredith, currently Rector of the South Ayrshire Team..... His arrival is eagerly anticipated.

(We) would like to wish all your congregation best wishes and every blessing for the New Year."

Nuff zed! as Asterix the Gaul would say. Well done, everyone!!

God Bless you all.

David Cook, Rector

Rector's A.G.M. Report 2012

Here are the basic statistics. St. Michael's has 248 members and adherents, 208 communicant members, 206 constituent members (that is, regular communicants aged 18 and over.)

During the past year there were 305 celebrations of Holy Communion, 5622 people received Holy Communion, and 72 people received Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament and taken to them by our Eucharistic Ministers Robbie Cornish and Margaret Wardil.

The celebrations of the Eucharist included the 'House Eucharists' held most months on the Rosneath Peninsula and in Cardross, and in H'burgh for Jeanette Laing. The attendance at these services ranges from 6 to 12-13. They are usually ecumenical in nature, and form an important part of St. Michael's ministry to the people of our parish or 'district'.

We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with 2 people, Phoebe Jacqueline Anne Wain and Charlotte Rose Sherwood Fraser, and welcomed them into the Christian Church.

There were no celebrations of Confirmation during the year. We celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage with 4 couples during the year, namely Gavin Ingram and Antonia Lightoller, Benjamin Wain and Rachel Gibbs, Colin McDermid and Emma Hobson, and Manuel Vidart and Louisa MacKenzie.

Funeral services were celebrated for 13 people, namely Charlotte Rooney, Gillian Packard, Margaret Hayward, Mollie Hilton, Angela Muir, Dennis Braim, Revd.

Rector's A.G.M. Report 2012 (continued)

Barbara Thatcher, George Stirling, Audrey Curtis, Peggy Grogan, Myra Taylor, John Johnston, and Edward Erskine. We thanked God for their lives, and committed them into His merciful and loving presence. May they all rest in peace.

The regular worship at St. Michael's has continued without any changes, with attendance at all services declining, although at the 08h00 Said Eucharist it is more of a 'fluctuation'. The 'Open Spirit' contemporary worship continues to engage the loyalty of the few young adults in our church and also several of the Sunday Club children. The 'Chill Times' youth group, meeting on a Sunday evening, continues to attract several young adults who otherwise have no direct contact with the Christian faith or the Church, which is why Niall Cook always includes a short Biblical reflection in the evening's programme. The Chill Times members have occasionally contributed drama to Open Spirit and the main Eucharist.

Two Bible study groups have met regularly, recently being joined by a third one on a Tuesday afternoon. There is now just one Prayer Group meeting per week, on a Tuesday morning at 09h15. It would be good for our church if some more people would commit themselves to coming to pray with us in this group.

St. Michael's has continued to participate in the monthly 'Messy Church' events, which alternate between the United Reformed Church and St. Margaret's Churchill on the last Saturday of each month. 'Messy Church' is a very informal style of church, and is specifically aimed at young families who might otherwise shy away from more formal church worship.

Similarly, St. Michael's has been one of the 3 churches - with St. Andrew's Kirk and the United Reformed Church - organising a fortnightly, and very informal, Family Service at St. Margaret's Churchill. After a fairly successful year this service is at present down to monthly following the sad death of Susan, Revd. George Vedit's wife, and the academic demands placed on Jake Tatton from the URC as she prepares for ordination.

The ordination to the diaconate of Patricia Smith from this church was one of the highlights of the past year. Pat is serving her year's diaconate at St. Augustine's, Dumbarton. She will be ordained priest in the summer of 2013.

Another highlight was the licensing to serve as Lay Reader in St. Michael's of Kevin Boak, who joined us after serving for several years in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Kevin's licensing was timeous, as I have been acting as Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. Mungo's, Alexandria, since Revd. Sally Gorton's retirement at the end

Rector's A.G.M. Report 2012 (continued)

of April. Kevin's presence allows me more flexibility in trying to ensure proper cover for services at St. Mungo's. In this respect I must offer my grateful thanks to Revd. Simon Beveridge RN, Revd. Jenny Sclater and Revd. Canon Alex Laing, for their assistance here on Sundays. The vacancy in the Vale will continue for several months, variety at the Eucharists will continue (and at St. Mungo's a reduction in Sunday services for the winter months.)

Kevin is also now able to assist with the conducting of funeral services, which will give greater flexibility in arranging them.

A third highlight of 2012 was the publication of the NADFAS survey of St. Michael's church and its contents. This publication is an extraordinarily detailed description of every item of church furniture and fittings in St. Michael's. Please do have a look at it when it is displayed in church (or ask The Rector to make it available to you.) John and Penny Johnston were the 'movers-&-shakers' of this enormous project, and it is deeply, deeply saddening that John died so soon after the publication of a work dear to his heart. Fortunately he was able to present the completed tome to St. Michael's one Sunday morning. The survey stands as a fitting tribute to a staunch (and very generous) member of our church, although as I commented at the time, if you want a memorial to John, look around you.

I have said nothing about the Diocesan Growth Strategy because at the moment work on this is almost completely stopped. This is largely because I have extra duties involving St. Mungo's, and these and my pastoral and liturgical duties here have to take precedence.

Once again I conclude by commending you all for the way in which you give a warm welcome to new-comers and visitors to St. Michael's. People often praise you for this welcome, which makes a world of difference to the way the faith of our church is perceived.

David Cook, Rector

News

A new Vestry is now in place, recruiting is over, offices are filled. As we start our Lenten fasts, be they spiritual or physical, we must now start our work. Those of us blessed with new responsibilities view with awe the achievements and commitment of our predecessors. We look for God's help in guiding us and, most especially, the support of the congregation.

Cleaning teams for the church are now much depleted so we urgently need volunteers. Please contact Morag Carlaw to join up.

Richard Smith, Editor

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on: Sunday 16th December 2012 at St. Michael's Church Hall

SEDERUNT: David Cook took the chair and was accompanied by some 47 members of the congregation. Richard Smith took minutes in the absence of a Vestry Secretary.

APOLOGIES: Morag Carlaw, Chris Packard, Rosemary and Michael Wilson, Judith Adams, Maurice and Juliet Steuart-Corry, Bob and Linda Floyd, Sarah Selman, Sophie Hamilton, Trevor and Gerry Quickfall and Khursheed Moos.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM: The minutes of the AGM held on 4th December 2011, as published in the Messenger, were approved. Proposer: Marion Blake - Seconder: Michael Blake

MATTERS ARISING: None

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS:

The number of elected members on the Vestry should be Nine. The outgoing vestry contained seven elected members, one of whom was serving an additional year at the request of the Vestry. In addition, one member was co-opted by the Vestry. There was one vacancy.

Three elected members had only served two years and will continue on the Vestry – Liz Pendleton, Maggie Sheen and Richard Smith.

Four elected members had reached the end of their terms and are due to retire – John Hanks, Judy Harbour, Geoff Mason and Maurice Steuart-Corry.

One co-opted member was required to stand for election by the congregation, Chris Packard.

Five candidates presented themselves for election to fill the six posts and all were approved unanimously by the congregation: Keith Whaley (Prop. Maurice Cornish, Sec. Brian Kyle); Chris Packard (Prop. Maurice Cornish, Sec. Brian Kyle); Sarah Selman (Prop. Marjory Barrington, Sec. Peter Semens); Marjory Barrington (Prop. Kevin Boak, Sec. Julie Semens); Kate Moos (Prop. Margaret Gilbert, Sec. Khursheed Moos).

ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVE: One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Margaret Gilbert (Prop. John Lewis, Sec. James Ashby).

ELECTION OF ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE: One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Maggie Sheen (Prop. James Ashby, Sec. Liz Pendleton)

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (continued)

ELECTION OF PEOPLE'S WARDEN: One candidate presented herself for election to fill the post and she was approved unanimously by the congregation: Jo Scott (Prop. Margaret Wardil Sec. Sophie Hamilton).

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS BY THE TREASURER: As outgoing treasurer, John Sadden prepared and presented the annual report and accounts for the year. The report was approved unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: John Sadden proposed the appointments of Clements Chartered Accountants as independent examiner for the 2013 Annual Report and Accounts. This was seconded by Maurice Cornish and approved unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Richard Smith presented the Stewardship Report and thanked the congregation for their generosity in giving during the stewardship campaign and the many offers of help received. His report was approved unanimously.

LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: Margaret Gilbert reported on the work and activities of the North-West Regional Council of the Diocese over the preceding year. Her report was approved unanimously.

TRUSTEES REPORTS: Susan Lewis moved a vote of thanks to Ann Cook for all her work on the Open Spirit service.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS: Anne Cook reported that Pauline and Ray Williams had retired after many years of faithful service. Now there are only four leaders available but this is only just enough and does not cover for holidays and emergencies. Anne requested volunteers to lead or assist at Sunday Schools.

PROPERTY: Nick Parry summarised his report by saying that the main problems recently have been in the Rectory with a power surge caused by Scottish Power causing serious electrical damage. Repairs have been carried out and Scottish Power contributed towards the cost. At present, the hot water system in the Rectory does not function and quotations are being sought for the repairs. A vote of thanks was proposed for Nick Parry for all his excellent work in maintaining the church property.

RETIRING MEMBERS: The Rector proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Vestry for all their work over the year and especially to John Sadden for his 25 years of service as Treasurer and John Lewis for his 12 years of service as Secretary. A vote of thanks was proposed to Richard Smith for his work on the Stewardship Campaign.

INTRODUCTION OF VOTIVE CANDLES: The introduction of votive candles to the church had been proposed by Ann Andrew, Trish Robertson, Ann Purdy and others. The Rector explained the purpose and use of votive candles to the congregation. He explained that, although normal in Roman Catholic churches, votive candles were normally, but not

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (continued)

exclusively, a feature of high churches in the Anglican communion. The options of candles, coin-operated and manual electrical systems were discussed. The question of whether votive candles could be a memorial to individual members of the congregation who have passed on was raised. The question of fire safety was raised and Vestry officers explained that the insurance company were happy with candles provided they were extinguished when the last person left the church. The negative aspects of holding cash in the church when not occupied were raised. A general discussion of the pros and cons was held. The Rector explained that if votive candles were wished by the congregation that this would represent a major change to the practices of St. Michael's and that an application to the Bishop would need to be made in accordance with Canon 35. This required a vote to be taken after formal notice was given. A vote was taken of the members of the congregation present and the results were as follows: In favour of votive candles: 6; Against votive candles: 34; Abstaining: 4; The Rector and the Acting Secretary did not vote. The proposal was not carried.

PRESENTATION TO PAT SMITH: Following her ordination to the Diaconate, Pat Smith was presented with a gift of a travelling communion set by the congregation of St. Michael's in token of their affection and best wishes for Pat's future as a Deacon of the Scottish Episcopal Church and her elevation to priesthood in due course.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Rector delivered his annual report to the congregation and this, with the trustees reports may be found on the church website. The Rector added to his report that the final publication of the LDFAS report on the church property had taken place and had been presented to the congregation by the late John Johnston and his co-workers. Ben Bellamy moved a vote of thanks to the Rector for the house communions conducted on the Rosneath Peninsula each month.

Richard Horrell questioned the Rector on the progress of the Diocesan Growth Strategy at St. Michael's as it was a cause of some embarrassment at North-West Regional Council meetings. The Rector explained that a combination of his own involvement with St. Mungo's since the retirement of their rector and Kevin Boak's recent serious illness had left him without the resources to fulfil the commitment to the DGS but that this would be taken up again as soon as practicable. He also noted that this had been explained to the Bishop, Dean and Ann Tomlinson.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: Ben Bellamy moved a vote of thanks to Martyn Marshall and the Choir for all their work in developing and presenting church music in St. Michael's over the past year. Susan Lewis thanked Kevin and Joy Boak for their contributions to the life of the church since joining St. Michael's. Barbara Hoey thanked the Rector for all his work over the past year.

Richard Smith, Acting Secretary

CALENDAR FOR

Sunday 3rd February – FEAST-DAY OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9:30-10:00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary Worship (Crèche facility available)
10:30-11:15am Sunday Clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche facility available)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong
7:00pm 'Chill Times' for S1 to S6

Tuesday 5th February

9:15-10:00am Prayer Group
10:30am Eucharist
11:45-12:45am Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 6th February

7:30pm Eucharist

Thursday 7th February

10:45am Monthly Coffee Morning in Lower Hall

Sunday 10th February – SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9:30-10:00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary Worship (Crèche facility available)
10:30-11:15am Sunday Clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche facility available)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong
7:00pm 'Chill Times' for S1 to S6

Tuesday 12th February

9:15-10:00am Prayer Group
10:30am Eucharist
11:45-12:45am Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 13th February – ASH

WEDNESDAY

(10:00am Eucharist at St. Mungo's Alexandria)

7:00pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes only

Thursday 14th February

11:00am – 7:00pm Diocesan Growth Strategy Day of Prayer

Saturday 16th February

9:00am Rambling Club

Sunday 17th February – FIRST OF LENT

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9:30-10:00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary Worship (Crèche facility available)
10:30-11:15am Sunday Clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche facility available)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong
7:00pm 'Chill Times' for S1 to S6

Tuesday 19th February

9:15-10:00am Prayer Group
10:30am Eucharist
11:45-12:45am Rector available in the Choir Vestry

Wednesday 20th February

7:30pm Eucharist

Saturday 23rd February

10:30am-12:30pm Messy Church at St. Margaret's, Churchill

FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday 24th February – SECOND OF LENT

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9:30-10:00am 'Open Spirit' contemporary Worship (Crèche facility available)
10:30-11:15am Sunday Clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (Crèche facility available)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong
7:00pm 'Chill Times' for S1 to S6

In His Own Time

Good morning. This is God. Today I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation you cannot handle, DO NOT attempt to resolve it. *Kindly put it into the "SFJTD" (Something for Jesus to do) box.* It will be addressed in MY time, not YOURS.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem. If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

"Because I do not sleep, nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away".

Ann Purdy

A Reflection

INCARNATION

He's grown, that Baby,
Not that most people have noticed,
He still looks the same,
Lying there in the straw, with
Animals and shepherds looking on.
He's safe there, locked in that moment
Where time met Eternity.
Reality of course is different,
He grew up, astonished people with his
Insight, disturbed them with
Ideas that stretched them into
New maturity.

Some found him
Much too difficult to cope with,
Nailed him down to fit their
Narrow minds.

We are more subtle.
Keep him helpless,
Refuse to let him be the Man he is,
Adore him as the Christmas Baby,
Eternally unable to grow up
Until we set him free.

By all means let us pause there
At the stable, and
Marvel at the miracle of birth.
But we'll never get to know
God with us, until we learn
To find him at the Inn,
A fellow guest who shares the joy and
sorrow,
The Host who is the life we celebrate.

He's grown, that Baby.

Ann Lewin

Vestry Report

The first meeting of the New Year was held in the Rector's Dining Room. Richard Smith was elected to replace John Lewis who had retired as Hon. Secretary at the last meeting of 2012. The Vestry also agreed to elect John Lewis as Stewardship Convenor to replace Richard.

Once again the Diocesan Consultation on Pension Contributions was discussed. Thanks were proposed to Brian Kyle for all his work in response to the consultation, which had been transmitted to the Diocese.

The Vestry agreed that John Sadden's 25 years of service as Treasurer should be recognised. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to give a bouquet of flowers to Joan in thanks for her support to John over these many years.

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS: The Rector welcomed the new Vestry members. Liz Pendleton and Maggie Sheen remain as elected members. Richard Smith stood down as he is now Hon. Secretary. The five newly elected members: Marjory Barrington, Kate Moos, Chris Packard, Sarah Selman and Keith Whaley took their places. Maurice Steuart-Corry was asked to continue for one more year and he graciously accepted. To make up the missing member the Vestry co-opted John Lewis. New members signed their fit-and-proper-persons declarations. Richard agreed to circulate the duties of the Vestry to all members.

The Rector announced that the blessing of the Vestry would take place on Sunday 13th January 2012 after the 10:30am service. He urged all members to be present.

Trevor presented the financial report and the Vestry reviewed wages and salaries for the coming year.

Margaret explained that the Lay Representative's Report was the same as that presented to the AGM in December.

In his Property Report, Nick Parry explained that a Contractor had been selected for the replacement of the boiler in the Rectory kitchen and approval was given by the Vestry to proceed. The Vestry also agreed a way forward for repair of the Hall Kitchen roof. Nick confirmed that the Triptych would be replaced above the porch. The Vestry discussed options for a new Church Notice Board in West Princes Street. Maurice reported on planning issues and Nick presented ideas for the style of the board.

At Liz Pendleton's request, the Vestry discussed the situation facing many elderly and single people outside Helensburgh without access to support at Christmas-tide. Maurice, Marjory and Liz agreed to explore options for church and civic action.

Finally, the Vestry discussed the question of the Military Wives' Choir wanting to use the Church for practice each week. A way forward was agreed.

Richard Smith – Hon. Secretary

Mothers' Union

In September Mothers' Union held a Bring and Buy sale with the theme of Tangible Texts. This was a revelation in the ingenuity of our members. Apart from two members who thought it had something to do with mobile phones? The rest rose to the challenge and here are a few examples.

Apples; - Like an Apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my dearest compared to other men. from the Song of Songs 2 v3

Sultana Tea Loaf: - When you walk along a path in someone else's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes (sultanas) you want , but you may not carry any away in a container. Deuteronomy 23:24

Tablet: - Let love and faithfulness never leave you: bind them around your neck, write them on the TABLET of your heart. then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man Proverbs 3:3&4

Fig Rolls: - Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised they were naked, so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3 v 7

Butter: - His speech is smooth as butter yet war is in his heart Psalm 55 v 21 There were many more. We had a good laugh at them and raised the sum of £43 .20

We then heard from Barbara Hoey about the dreadful story of babies born with HIV and who are sent home wrapped in newspapers. They are called Chip Shop babies. Barbara has supplied us with patterns for tops for these babies. Even new-borns with Aids are entitled to dignity. Trish Robertson had already knitted an example for us to see and assured us it was easy. Most of us, who are able, are going to start knitting. If you would like a pattern please contact Barbara on tel. 671718. To date she has received 35 vests and as the need is on-going, please keep up the good work, thank you. Please also remember the Mission to Seamen's request for woolly hats.

Margaret Horrell

Chris's Cards

Chris Packard produced cards this Christmas to sell for church funds. These beautiful cards show an excellent photo taken by Chris during our Harvest Festival weekend. He has managed to catch the Risen Christ in our Ruddock window, just in the right light - no easy task, as any photographer of stained glass will tell you. The picture is complemented by a wonderful harvest decoration made by Marjory

Chris's Cards (continued)

Barrington, and the complete impression is stunning, and a wonderful advertisement for our lovely church.

I have been very lucky recently to receive some advice from the distinguished Fine Arts Historian Peter Cormack. He has told me that the Risen Christ in this window was drawn by one Carl Almquist. Almquist (1848-1924) is a very interesting person. As you would guess from the name, he was Swedish. He came over to the UK in 1870 and began working for Shrigley & Hunt in 1874. In fact he was their Chief Designer for 40 years. The firm had its base in Lancaster, but in order to have a base also in the Home Counties they opened an office for Almquist in London in 1878. Shrigley & Hunt owed much of its success to him; he was a person of genius as an individual designer, and was ranked among the best of late Victorian stained-glass designers, belonging to a group following in the wake of the Pre-Raphaelites, especially Burne-Jones.

Thanks largely to him, Shrigley & Hunt's work can be found mostly in the North West of England, and the Home Counties - but also of course in Scotland. They decorated all the windows in the Baptistery in Govan Parish Church. He retired to Hove in 1920 and died there aged 76 in 1924.

I'm hoping the new revised edition of Stained Glass at St Michael's Helensburgh will be available before Christmas. The delay is due to the fact that so many people have offered their expertise, and I have had to keep on gently tugging their sleeves to obtain answers to all my questions.

Lindsay Watkins

Bible Craft

NOT JUST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

When Margaret Horrell and I went to Sweden in September we encountered so many new people and ideas that it was quite overwhelming. One idea which greatly impressed us both was a collection of figures dressed in Biblical costumes which in a number of churches in Sweden are used to create different scenes from the Bible. The group which created these scenes in Asa's church made one scene a month, accompanied by a print-out of the text and some points to ponder.

We thought it would be great to do the same in St Michael's. The vestment chest to the left of the altar could have been designed to host such scenes, and once people know about them—through our Facebook page and our up-dated website!—it would be a reason for visitors to come regularly to our church, and to

Bible Craft (continued)

have a few moments of contemplation. So if you are interested in any form of craft, why not think about joining a group to create these scenes? We now have 25 wooden figures ready to be dressed, and we will also need "scenery" and "props", eg boats and nets, rocks and trees, walls and stones, to complete the look. We are hoping that there are lots of left-over fabric scraps, and general bits and pieces lying around in cupboards and attics which could be pressed into service.

This could be another way to reach out into our community with the story of God's love, not only as people look at and think about the Bible scenes, but by inviting our friends to come and help to make them. Please contact Margaret Horrell (676936), Joy Boak (676852) or Anne Cook (672500) if you are interested.

Anne Cook

Like Us On Facebook

If that message means something to you, then you may be glad to know that St Michael's is soon to have its own Facebook page. It's surprising how many people, mature as well as young and tech-y, use this diverse on-line network to keep in touch with friends and family and to keep track of developments in groups and organisations they are interested in. When the Vestry recently discussed our use of publicity it was agreed that putting St Michael's on Facebook would provide another way for people to find us and to discover what we do. Three other Helensburgh churches currently have Facebook pages, and someone looking for a church to join may well look for information through Facebook.

Niall Cook is currently setting up a page for us, and would like contributions from church members and groups about what is happening in St Michael's. All groups should consider making a contribution. The person who comes across our page may be looking for a Bible study group, somewhere for their child or teenager to be welcomed, or a craft, eco or walking group to work with.

Facebook is a very visual place and it would be useful to have photos of events and places. If any individual or group is likely to be recognisable on the web, it is advisable to ask if people are happy with this, and to leave out anyone who doesn't want to appear. Pictures of children are subject to parental consent, and some parents have reasons for saying no, so pictures of activities or events should try not to show recognisable faces of children. Photos taken from the back, or of hands making a model, or of a finished display will be interesting, and perhaps all our groups should become aware of providing a visual record of their activities.

Like Us On Facebook (continued)

The page will only be worthwhile if we keep it up to date and make it look interesting. Words and pictures should be emailed to Niall at niallcook2009@hotmail.com so that they can be included. He also points out that if you are on Facebook yourself, you should “like” our page, so that it becomes noticeable to others. Let’s give it a try and see what God can do with 21st century communication. After all He hasn’t used tablets of stone for a few centuries!

Anne Cook

Beacon Trust

Just to let you know we are at a crucial point in proceedings with the Beacon Trust at the moment. We have received a formal eviction notice to vacate the shop on February 15th. We have still been unable to find alternative premises at the present date. There are those available but the asking price for leases are away above our heads. If you or any of the congregation knows anywhere from which we could operate from please let me know. God Bless. *Trevor McGrath, MBE*

Stall in the Hall

A very big thank you to all who supported the stall in the hall for Toybox. £170.30 was raised which is absolutely wonderful. A letter of thanks from Toybox is pinned up in the hall. *Trish Robertson*

Helensburgh Foodbank Project

As you may have seen from much recent news coverage there has been rapid expansion in food banks over the past two years. Recent reports indicate that this worrying trend of people having to rely on food banks is in response to the growing numbers of families unable to feed themselves as a result of rising living costs, shrinking incomes and welfare benefit cuts. As food and energy costs are expected to significantly rise over the next year, it is expected that many more families will find themselves pushed to the breadline as they struggle to cope.

Helensburgh Community Development Trust is seeking assistance from the local community. If you wish to help please contact Margaret Horrell, or contact food bank project coordinator Kirsteen Fraser via email k.fraser@helensburghcdt.org or feel free to call on: 07912 015748. *Margaret Horrell*

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS FEBRUARY 2013 TO MAY 2013

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	WALK	CO-ORDINATOR CONTACT
16 th February	Medium	Mentieth Hills	Marion Blake 673960
9 th March	Easy	Dalreoch to Balloch – along the Leven	John Hanks 675010
30 th March – Easter Saturday	Easy/ Medium	Day trip to Arran	Frankie Hanmer 678490
13 th April	Medium	Inveruglas – ferry to Inversnaid and walk to Rowardennan	John Hanks 675010
27 th April	Easy Medium	Keillmore, Knapdale	Frankie Hanmer 678490
11 th May	Medium	Oban to Dunstaffnage	Sue and James Ashby 675541
17 th -20 th May		Weekend in Peebles	

These walks only have an estimated severity and so may differ after recce.

Where appropriate there will usually be an easier alternative walk in the same area.

Last call for Peebles; we have 12 definite rooms so far – could do with one or two more.

The committee are John Hanks, Marion Blake, Geoff Mason and Frankie Hanmer.

LECTIONARY – DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
3 rd Feb Presentation of Christ	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	1 Samuel 2:1-10 John 8:31-36 Psalm 84
10 th Feb Sunday before Lent	Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-43	Amos 2:4-16 Mark 1:29-39 Psalm 4
13 th Ash Wednesday		7:00pm Eucharist Joel 2:1-2+12-17a 2 Corinthians 5:20b+6:2-10 Matthew 6:1-6+16-21
17 th Feb Lent 1	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Deuteronomy 6:4-9+16-25 Luke 15:1-10 Psalm 119:17-32
24 th Feb Lent 2	Genesis 15:1-12+17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Numbers 21:4-9 Luke 14:27-33 Psalm 74

READERS' LIST - DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
3 rd Feb	Patricia Eglington	Susan Lewis	Nigel Allan
10 th Feb	John MacCallum	Angus Hamilton	Roy MacKenzie
17 th Feb	Chris Sanders	Ian Hume	Angela Russell
24 th Feb	Katherine Black	James Ashby	Jan Hardy

Bible Study/Fellowship Groups

The Monday morning ladies' Bible Study Group meets on alternate Mondays at Judy Harbour's at 10:00am. The men's Group meets on alternate Thursday evenings at 8:00pm. Anyone who wishes to join us will be made most welcome. If you are interested in more details please contact John or Susan Lewis.

John and Susan Lewis

The Bible Study group hosted by Kevin and Joy Boak meets on Tuesdays at 38 West Dhuhill Drive. Starting time 2.30 pm.

Kevin Boak

Church Group Leaders

People's Warden

Rector's Warden

Sunday School

Infants, Juniors and Bible Class

Crèche

Chill Times

Sidespersons

Bellringers

Reading (Lessons) Rota

Cleaning Co-ordinator

Visiting Co-ordinator

Flowers

Intercessions Rota, Laundry, Soft

Fabrics and Chief Sacristan

Sunday Coffee Rota

BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)

Mothers' Union Branch Leader

USPG

Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/

Monthly Coffee Morning Rota

Hill walking and Rambling Club

Badminton Club

Traidcraft

Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar

St Michael's Art Group

Magazine Editor

Collation / Distribution

Contact People

Jo Scott

Susan Lewis

Anne Cook

Rosemary Rose

Niall Cook

Brian Kyle

Kitty Fleming

Nigel Allan

Morag Carlaw

Robbie Cornish

Ann Purdy

Joan Sadden

Margaret Horrell

Susan Lewis

Margaret Horrell

Marion Blake

Maureen Kyle

Jo Scott

Shaun Hoey

Jo Scott

Sophie Hamilton

& Judith Adams

Maurice Cornish

Richard Smith

Barbara Hoey

& Morag Carlaw

673430

01389 841592

672500

672164

672500

672951

676963

671875

672090

676293

672722

672422

676936

01389 841592

676936

673960

672951

673430

671718

673430

671074

672477

676293

831087

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.