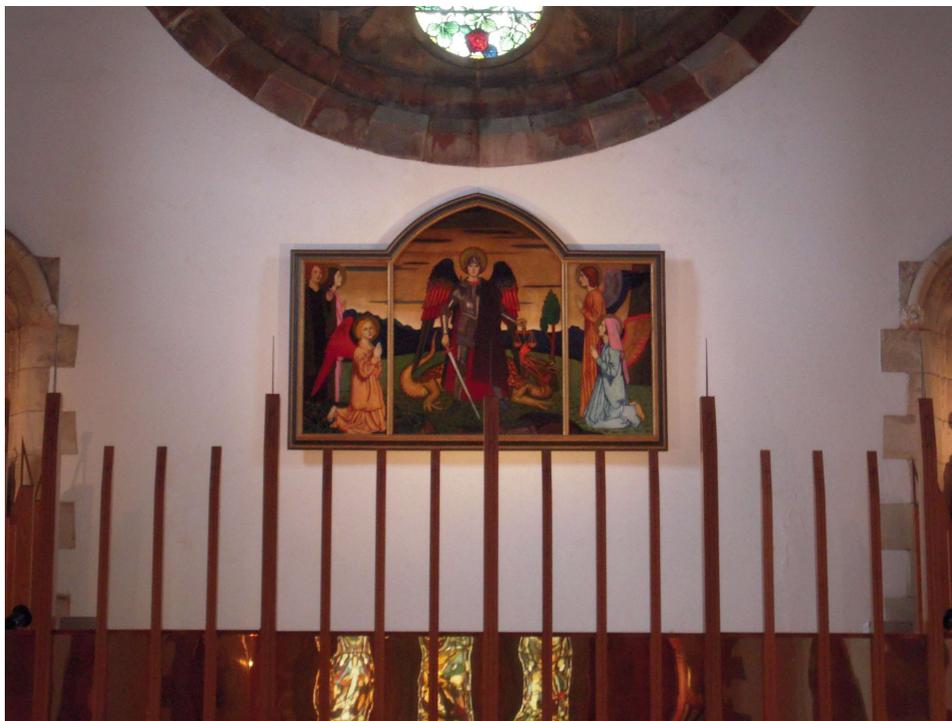


**September 2017**  
**THE MESSENGER**



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



**Service Details**

**Sunday**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship (Crèche facility available)

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
*Crèche and Sunday Clubs*

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

**Tuesdays**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite) followed by refreshments

**Thursdays**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

For dates of services please see Diary (Page 10) inside



**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH**

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

**The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway**

**Bishop: The Right Revd Gregor Duncan**

Diocesan Website: [www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow)

**Clergy and Staff**

**Rector:** **Rev. David Cook**  
16 William Street  
Helensburgh 672500

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

**Director of Music** **Vacant**

**Secretary to the Vestry.....** **Nick Davies**  
The Copse, Donaldson’s Brae,  
Kilcreggan G84 0JB 842060  
[nickandjaned@btinternet.com](mailto:nickandjaned@btinternet.com)

**Property Convenor.....** **Derek Spall**  
34 Redclyffe Gardens  
Helensburgh G84 9JJ 676264

**Treasurer.....** **Janina Duncan**  
Deepdene, 119 West Clyde St.  
Helensburgh G84 8ET 0741 256 7154

**Stewardship Convenor.....** **John Lewis**  
29 Hillside Road,  
Cardross G84 5LS 01389 841592

**Lay Representative.....** **Maggie Sheen**  
17 Millig Street  
Helensburgh G84 9LB 673149

**Children & Vulnerable ..... Persons Protection Coordinator** **John Busby**  
Innerhaven, Garelochhead  
G84 0EL 811385

**From the Rector**

Believe it or not this is being written on a warm, sunny July afternoon. However, .....

One evening last week as we ate our tea I pointed out to my wife that the first rowan berries, albeit very deep in colour, had appeared on her much-loved slim rowan tree. Then, walking through Kelvingrove Park en route to a delicious pecan-&-chocolate tart and coffee in a new, tiny eatery by Kelvingrove Subway Station, I espied a rowan tree already laden with bright red berries. To me rowan berries appearing on the tree are the first sign that autumn is on the way. My wife disagrees; for her the berries are the sign of a good summer progressing!

Even if this may be so in gentle, if not genteel, Helensburgh, don't forget that despite our proclivities to chase the sun to the Mediterranean or the Antipodes or the Far East, we have to accept that we live well up into the north-west corner of Europe.

So when you get to the very far north-west of Ireland, the far north-west corner of Ulster in the real sense of the name, with the famous waters of the Malin Shipping Forecast area and then the Atlantic Ocean in front of you if you look westwards, then by early August in the 21st Century I would assert that the very first signs of autumn are definitely to be seen and felt. Not just in the rowan trees but also in the earliest hints of brown and orange in the leaves of the beech trees and in the early-morning and dusk-time coolth of the wind blowing in off the ocean, over the gloriously-sandy beaches and up across the turf-bogs on the mountains.

By the time you read this the approach of autumn

**MESSENGER**

**September 2017**

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*October Edition*

Handing in Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Sep  
Publication Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sep

*November/December Edition*

Handing in Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct  
Publication Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct

For an email copy please contact the Editor.

**Please send your contributions to: -**

Richard Smith  
21 The Soundings,  
Clynder,  
Helensburgh G84 0QL  
Tel: 01436 831 644  
[richard.jianping@hotmail.com](mailto:richard.jianping@hotmail.com)

## From the Rector (continued)

will certainly be apparent on days when the sun is not beaming down on Inishowen. Although we do not like to be reminded that summer is drawing to a close the change of the season is inevitable, especially in Northern Europe. In another context John C. Maxwell wrote *Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.*

Change should be inevitable in the Christian context. The hymn states *Change and decay in all around I see...* The decay should NOT be inevitable in the Christian context, except the decay of sin or the decay of out-moded traditions and practices. As Christians change should be hard-wired into our DNA from baptism onwards. That is the point of the Holy Spirit being called down upon us when we are baptised, and when we are confirmed, and when we are ordained or married, or even when we simply long for and ask for a blessing of the Holy Spirit as we pray. As individual Christians, we should be changing frequently and for the better in all sorts of ways big and small. The Christian Church should be constantly changing, although given that the Church moves 'like a mighty tortoise' change comes more gradually, rather like Yeat's *peace dropping slow from the veils of the morning over Inisfree.*

Nikki Giovanni challenges us - *Everything will change. The only question is, growing up or decaying?* This is the unasked question as autumn creeps over Inishowen or Western Scotland; will the seasonal change just bring decay and nothing more next year, or will stronger, more vibrant growth occur when winter inevitably changes into the next spring? This is the very pertinent question for each Christian individual and each Christian community: growing up or decaying?

This is the question facing you at St. Michael's, Helensburgh, as another vacancy begins.

Finally, and just one more time, I must remind you that my departure is not to be marked by any collections, gifts, presentations, although my last Sunday eucharist will not be quite as I intended. There will be a baptism because, with the secrecy and uncertainty which surrounds the appointment of an interim-priest for a vacancy, we have decided to get this baptism celebrated without further ado so that it is done!

God Bless you all.

*The Rector*

## Notices

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING

This year we will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 15th October. We have much to be thankful for, as God meets our need for our daily bread. But conscious of those around us struggling with the challenges of life, we will be donating our harvest gifts as usual. Further information, including arrangements for decorating the church on Saturday 14th, will be publicised in the October Messenger.

*Kevin Boak*

### BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP NOTES

When we joined St Michael's some 20 years ago I agreed to take over the distribution of the BRF notes and have done so ever since. Unfortunately, with my present illness I cannot continue with this and am looking for a volunteer to continue with the distribution of the notes. When I took over it was a wonderful way of getting to know the family of St Michael's and I now distribute 20 copies of the notes three times a year. The distribution involves collecting the money for the year at the start of the year and paying the Bible Reading Fellowship for the books which are sent every four months. Most of the books are handed out in church but a few are handed personally and put through doors.

If anyone can be persuaded to take on this job I am happy to go through the details or I will leave a note of what has to be done. The 2018 order has to be confirmed by mid-October and I hope someone will be in place for then. The notes are well appreciated by those who receive them and when I recently asked if recipients wanted to continue the large majority did so.

I hope someone can be persuaded.

*Susan Lewis*

Ps. John has written this for me but we both want to thank you so very much for all your prayers and love, particularly at this moment. Every day is a lovely day with love and kindness and prayers flowing into our home and upholding us both. Thank you very very much. Much love.

*Susan*

### SIDESPERSONS' LEADER

We are still in urgent need of a volunteer to take up the vacant post of sidespersons' leader. We hope that an existing sidesperson or another member of the congregation will come forward. Please contact Brian for details on 01436 672 951.

*Brian Kyle*

## Notices (continued)

### SACRISTANS

A vacancy is available on the rota for Sacristans. Is this something you could do for the Church? It is an important job and involves preparing the church, the plate and the bread and wine in preparation for the Sunday morning services. It also involves washing up the communion vessels after the 10:30 service. Training and help will be given. If you would like to find out more please contact me on 672422.  
*Joan Sadden*

### HELENSBURGH CHILD CONTACT CENTRE

Helensburgh Child Contact Centre is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th September in the Helensburgh Parish Church from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon. This is in aid of funds to enable us to continue with this valuable work. All are welcome. The Contact Centre is also looking for another male volunteer and if anyone is interested please look on our Church Notice Board for the relevant information and contact details.  
*Pauline Williams*

### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

The September Coffee Morning will be held at Sheila Baker's house, 50 Campbell Street, Helensburgh at 10:30am on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. *Maureen Kyle*

## News

As Summer fades into Autumn we thank God for the Gifts he has given and pray for salvation. We are about to start a period of life in our Church without a permanent rector and it will fall to all of us to make every effort to support Kevin Boak, Nick Davies and our Interim Priest-in-Charge throughout this period. I would, especially ask you all to consider whether now is the time to take up one of the vacant lay posts (Vestry Member, Sidesperson's Leader, Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Coordinator, Sacristan, and Visiting Coordinator) in St. Michael's.  
*Richard Smith, Editor*

## Vestry Report September 2017

The Vestry met on 3rd July, this the first routine meeting since March, although there had been a meeting with the Dean on 8th May to discuss the way ahead for the forthcoming vacancy. After prayers for spiritual guidance, the meeting got down to business.

## Vestry Report (continued)

FINANCIAL. The Treasurer reported that we've paid 3 large bills recently, £1,440 on roofing repairs, £5098 on an electrical upgrade of the halls and £2045 on the external notice board (latter 2 expenditures both offset by a kind donations). We have also paid the previously agreed donations to 'The Beacon Trust' of £1,000 and to the 'Helensburgh Area Christian Youth Project' £3,000.

FUTURE EXPENDITURE. The Vestry discussed the financing of future large expenditure. The latest (and tentative) £5,000 estimate for the redecoration of the halls being a good example. The possibility of fundraising events was discussed, but it was generally agreed that after the summer would be a better time for such events to take place. The specific project of a much-needed hall redecoration was discussed, in particular the timing. Summer would be good from the perspective that hall hiring is reduced, on the other hand contractors would rather be doing outside work in the summer. An extended Christmas closure period might afford a good opportunity. There was the additional advantage that our claim for gift aid is usually paid by HMRC in November, so we'd have the funds in our account to pay. The vestry acknowledged that the halls are due a redecoration, but no firm conclusion was reached as to when.

PROPERTY MATTERS. It had been a quieter few weeks. In summary, our electrical contractor has conducted checks and given us a clean bill of health. Our new Exterior Notice Board is in place, and we have received much positive comment – but we must keep it furnished with up to date information. (this goes for all our notice boards). Church heating is currently switched off, which is good for the environment and saves expenditure – extra sweaters required on cold days!

BUILDINGS UNDER INSURANCE. Following the Insurance assessor's visit (which had gone well), we have been informed that our buildings insurance cover for reinstatement should be raised from £8,252,108 to £9,275,000. This would require an additional premium of £693.24 (on top of the £6,082.48 already paid in March). After some debate, it was generally agreed that we would have to pay, noting that reinstatement costs would probably include the substantial expense of demolishing a partly damaged building, and it is not a simple case of building a replacement church on site. It was suggested that, to offset the cost of an increased premium, we should investigate increasing our buildings excess to £2,000, and that the list of contents should be reviewed. (Post meeting note: this has now been done, and the additional premium consequently halved)

## **Vestry Report (continued)**

FONT COVER. The Insurance assessor had advised that the font cover and lifting mechanism should be tested to confirm it is safe. The insurance company had offered a contractor who would charge £341 (including the insurance company admin charge of £35). There was some debate as to whether the font should be put out of service since it is little used. The font cover has subsequently been safely secured.

FIRE SAFETY. The St Michael's 'Fire Safety Assessment' has been updated, and we are in good shape regarding fire safety. The vestry endorsed the updated Fire Safety assessment, and agreed a set of Evacuation Orders and Escape Routes which are now on display around the premises. It was agreed that we ought to hold a fire drill.

HEALTH & SAFETY. An updated Health & Safety Policy Statement, based on an outdated earlier draft, was endorsed and is now displayed on the notice board at the back of the church.

SUNDAY CLUB. We are very reliant on Joy Boak and Anne Cook plus the occasional volunteer to run the Sunday Club, with the added complication of unpredictability of numbers and variable age groups. The Vestry agreed that we need to recruit new Sunday Club leaders, as Anne will be leaving us soon and Joy has been doing the job for a long time. Thanks to a kind donation, a photocopier has been made available to support the Sunday Club's production of materials. This prompted a discussion about IT in general, and it was agreed that the ageing church laptop needs replacing. The vestry will consider this at a future meeting.

ST MICHAEL'S WEBSITE. The website has become difficult to use. We need a 'web master' and we require technical support, which is under investigation. Keeping our web page up to date and relevant is an important aspect of our external communications. There is a possible volunteer to take on the role of 'web master', and this was welcomed by the Vestry.

ORGAN MAINTENANCE. Organ tuning is required twice a year. Harrison & Harrison are the recommended contractors and they already work with Rhu and the URC. Their tuner had inspected our organ and had reported that it is in good shape. The vestry agreed to set up a contract with Harrison & Harrison.

ORGANIST ROSTER. The organist roster seems to be working well and the Vestry agreed that we would continue with the current system rather than advertise for a Director of Music for the time being.

OPEN DOORS DAY 23/24 SEPTEMBER. St Michael's had been asked to

## **Vestry Report (continued)**

participate in the local 'Open Doors Days' in September. Our doors are always open, but it was agreed that we will take part, 1000-1700 on Saturday 23rd Sep and 1400 – 1700 on Sunday 24th Sep (deconflicting with services). This will be a good opportunity to increase community awareness of St Michael's and our mission, but it was stressed that we will be presenting a living church, not an architectural exhibit. This means that exhibits from 'Eco Church' which would be displayed just prior to the open days should remain in place. Stewards will be required.

Next vestry meetings: Monday 4th September, Monday 9th October (during which we need to approve the accounts), Monday 6th November. Sunday 10th December AGM

Also, there will be a 'Special Meeting' of St Michael's congregation after the 10:30 Sung Eucharist on Sunday 8th October 2017, the first Sunday after David Cook retires, when we will discuss a draft 'Rector Profile' (the document that defines what sort of person we would like to recruit to fill our vacancy).

*N Davies – Vestry Secretary*

## **Doors Open Days.**

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September have been designated Doors Open Days by Argyll & Bute Council. Buildings of architectural interest both private and public will be available to view, many otherwise rarely if ever seen by the public.

Although St. Michaels is open most days to the public, Doors Open Days publicises our church to the wider community in our area and indeed further afield. It is an excellent opportunity to extend our Christian outreach and how we make our faith relevant to the world in which we live.

In St. Michael's we are blessed with a beautiful church, the only grade A listed public building in Helensburgh, in which to worship. It is always a privilege to share it with others, both its architectural beauty and the many practical ways in which we, the congregation, witness to our Christian faith.

The church will be open from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Saturday 23rd and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday 24th September. Volunteers to welcome visitors, answer questions and speak about the church are invited to sign up on the rota to be placed in the hall for two-hour slots.

*Nigel Allan*

# CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

## SEPTEMBER

**NB: Prayer Book Evensong restarts on September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Twelfth after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship (Last until 20<sup>th</sup> August)  
10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
6:30pm Prayer Book Evensong restarts

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
1:45pm MU Service of Enrolment

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning  
7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

9:00am Rambling Club – Balmaha

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Thirteenth after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
6:30pm Prayer Book Evensong

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

7:00 for 7:30pm North-West Regional Council Meeting in St. Michael's Church

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

September Day of Prayer for Mission Action Planning, Trinity Chapel All Day

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Fourteenth after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
6:30pm Prayer Book Evensong

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Feast-day of St. Matthew, Apostle**

10:00am MU Exploring Self Empathy  
7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Eco-Congregation Scotland Celebration.  
All day in St. Michael's Church

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

9:00am Rambling Club  
'Doors Open Day' all day in St. Michael's Church

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Fifteenth after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
6:30pm Contraflow Youth Praise (No Evensong)

'Doors Open Day' in afternoon in St. Michael's Church

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Feast-day of St. Michael and All Angels**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

10:30am-12:30pm MESSY CHURCH in United Reformed Church Hall

## Mothers' Union

PROGRAMME FOR 2017-18. How quickly the 'summer' flies by and our outing to Oban seems a very long time ago! Now we are ready to start a new season at the beginning of September. Our programme up until Christmas is laid out below - it is quite varied and I hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Please remember that MU is open to everyone and if you would like to enrol as a new member, just get in touch with me on 01436423451 or jandi21@sky.com so that you can join us in September. As you can see, Songs of Praise is returning in November and please note the date to keep it free. We will of course have other projects going on throughout the winter - emergency hospital packs, knitting, and smalls for all. I look forward to seeing you all again at the start of the season.

*Joan Thompson, Branch Leader*

DATES FOR MOTHERS' UNION MEETINGS 2017-2018

Tuesday 5 September 1.45 pm – Service of enrolment

Thursday 21 September 10.00 am – Exploring Self Empathy

Tuesday 3 October 1.45 pm – The value of Friendship

Thursday 19 October 10.00 am – Singapore, the city in a garden

Tuesday 7 November 1.45 pm – Mary's Meals

Thursday 16 November 10.00 am – Crafty Joy

Sunday 19 November 6.00 pm – Songs of Praise

Tuesday 5 December 1.45 pm – Church open day/Hermitage Primary School

Thursday 14 December 10.00 am – Christmas Party

## Eco-congregation

In the services of Morning Prayer, I sang, for the first seventeen years of my life, the canticles such as the Venite. In it are the verses: 'For the Lord is a Great God: and a great King above all gods. In His hands are all the corners of the Earth: and the strength of the hills is His also. The sea is His and He made it and His hands prepared the dry land.'

Again, in the Te Deum is the verse 'All the Earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.' and 'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and Earth are full of the Majesty of thy Glory.'

Slightly less often, but for me a great treat, was the Benedicite Omnia Opera: (I know, a bit weird for a seventeen-year-old!) 'O All ye works of the Lord, bless

## Eco-congregation (continued)

ye the Lord, praise Him and magnify Him for ever.'

This wonderful canticle goes on for thirty-two verses addressing such various aspects of the Creation as: 'O Ice and snow... O Lightnings and clouds...O ye seas and floods...O ye whales and all that move in the water, bless ye the Lord.'

Very similar sentiments are echoed in the Jubilate, and at Evensong there was the Cantate Domino, and the Deus Misereatur, in which is the verse 'Let the people praise Thee O God: yea, let all the people praise Thee, Then shall the Earth bring forth her increase, and God Even our own God shall give us His Blessing.'

If you consider that these wonderful words and images were combined with at least one of the psalms on a daily basis, it is hardly surprising if to me Christianity is duty bound to do all that is possible to rescue the Earth from the ravages of human sin and ignorance. The lesson clearly understood by all who worshipped through this medium, is that it is specifically by worshipping God in Holiness and Righteousness, that we and the Earth shall be blessed and receive salvation, and the Earth will produce everything necessary for our happiness, in abundance. We must obey the laws laid down for our benefit, but if we do not live according to His laws, death and destruction will follow, not only in human life but in all aspects of the Created order.

If you are able to come, even for a few minutes, to church on 22nd September to our Eco-Event, please do meditate on some such material as I have described above or bring your own. The day starts with a short service at 10:30am.

Thanks once again to the Horrells, I and several other members of this congregation were able to catch the new documentary by Al Gore about the latest catastrophic climate events and what is being done. It is ten years since the first film he made, called "An Inconvenient Truth" I missed that one, because my Father had just died, but this is the sequel, and is called Truth to Power. It shows the appalling destruction worldwide which the changes in climate are causing, but it also shows a good deal of the Paris Summit in December 2016, and the 140 or more Heads of State reaching their historic agreement. Remember our Eco Baton? It was there, linking St Michael's to one of the greatest world events in at least the last hundred years!

*Selina McGeoch*

## God and Creation

We hope and pray for your presence with us on

**22 September 2017**

**St Michael and All Saints Episcopal Church**  
William Street, Helensburgh



### A reflection in Creation Time

The time in the churches calendar to pray for the protection of Creation and to promote sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change

**10:30 Ecumenical Service**

**11:00 – 16:30**

### Exhibitions

- The role of the church in ecology
- Our involvement and commitments
- Local and National eco activities
- Local eco opportunities
- The work of the Sanctuary Centre
- Operation Noah
- Activities for children and school visits
- Prayer Stations

**17:00 Closing Service**

Members of Helensburgh and Lomond Eco Congregations will be there to discuss and help interpret the exhibition if required

Free entry - Tea and coffee will be provided

**For more information call: Selina McGeoch 676074 or Elizabeth Lambert 679565**

**An Eco Congregation Scotland - Helensburgh and Lomond Network Event** (Network churches include Helensburgh Parish Church, St Michael and All Saints Helensburgh, Helensburgh United Reformed Church, Alexandria Parish Church and Jamestown Church).

## Inspires Online

### THE ROLE OF THE ARTS IN THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

The second Annual Scottish Episcopal Institute Lecture – ‘The Role of the Arts in the Church of Tomorrow’ – will be delivered by the Rev Canon Professor David Jasper, Professor of Literature and Theology, University of Glasgow.

*Thursday 26th October 2017*

*Memorial Chapel, University of Glasgow*

*5.30pm Lecture followed by refreshments.*

We live in a rapidly changing world to which the Church, as an institution, often finds it hard to adapt. But even in a world that often seems driven by economic and material factors, the arts remain a powerful agent to help us understand and address changes in our culture and society. The Christian Church has always had a creative, if sometimes uneasy, relationship with poetry, literature, the visual arts and music, and we need to nurture and care for this relationship in the future as part of our intelligent and prayerful mission in the world.

## More from the Rector

This is an extract from the magazine of the Parish Church of St. George in the High Street in Belfast. It dates from April 1998. The author, Darcy Chillingworth, was Hon Sec of the Select Vestry of St. George's, and he was also a nephew of Revd. David Chillingworth, who is now (July) retiring as Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Darcy Chillingworth shows that you can get a smile even from a Select Vestry meeting in the Church of Ireland.....

'Thursday, and the fish at dinner rancid. Dismissed the cook, and good riddance! What care I for her two squalling brats? To the vestry in my second-best brown boots, and Master Churchwarden in the chair and an almighty to-do. Master Rector laid aside with the virus, and to be bled by the apothecary this night. Master Treasurer much put about by reason of the accounts, and demanding an assistant and a computer programme, is not the abacus enough? The Master Secretary revealing a might plan to draw more money out of the people "for the good of the Parish" quoth he. We shall all be ruined, who

## More from the Rector (continued)

could pay £1 per week? Next Master Architect, and the Great Plan, with the Grant Decision a mighty secret, to be revealed to none till Tibb's Eve, and the good weather passing and the builders at dice in the taverns. The Grand Concert of Words and Music to be on 14th May in the Office of the Harbour Commissioners. Who shall direct our commerce while this is going on?

The Handrail in the Chancel cannot be agreed, shall it be in the midst, or at the side, and Master Architect and Master People's Churchwarden must needs repair forthwith to the Church to survey the scene by candlelight. In the absence of Master Rector little can be done til we reach the Correspondence, and Master Secretary bowed down under letters from all and sundry. There is thanks for the Grand Concert for the Quakers, and requests for another concert and for a Flag Day. Master Orr, the Organ Scholar, hath resigned by reason of pressure of work, but mightily civil to the Parish. Then come requests for funds: first, Master Dean of Killaloe must refurbish his charge to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Brian Boru; then we must needs remember the opening of the new Adelaide Hospital in Dublin, and are admonished to do so in the name of the new Archbishop of Dublin. One of our number remarketh that when he taught them neither Master Dean nor My Lord Bishop knew aught of such things, and the matter put back for consideration to Christmas.

Other Business bringeth tales of Master Keatley's prowess upon the trumpet, and he in the brass section of Young Musician of the Year, and of his brother's achievement of Distinction in grade VIII Organ. I had thought the lads to be apprenticed to a Harness-maker or some other useful trade. Then others of the people must needs neglect their business to go to Waterford to Witness Master Barrett's Institution as Dean, and the roads foul and scarcely a decent horse in the Parish. I let it be known that my own cattle will be fully employed drawing the hay. Afterwards did find my carriage mightily impeded by the equipages of the Male Voice Choir, so to the alehouse with Master Treasurer til they should depart, and so home to bed.'

(In the style of Samuel Pepys, and I hope it may have brought a smile to the faces of some of you, in these grim days of Austerity, Trumpery, Brexitery, and Vacancy-ery!)

*David Cook*

## Paul Baxter 1944-2017

**FOREVER YOUNG.** Almost exactly 40 years ago I joined our church choir. There, in the stalls, were Marion and Michael Blake, Jan Hardy and Shaun Hoey, (all of us still in the choir today) also Roy Mackenzie and Russel Knott - and of course our rector, Alex Laing. In the front choirstalls sat all our children, including the three Laing boys, of whom the eldest, Stephen, sang the first verse of "Once in Royal" that Christmas and I've never heard it sung better.

In charge at the organ was our young, charismatic, gifted and accomplished choirmaster Paul Baxter. Understandably there was a very strong feeling of family, and musical standards rose quickly under his teaching, and with his excellent taste in church music.

But Paul was also an exceptional tenor, and a few years later he left us to sing in Paisley Abbey Choir, where later he encouraged me to join him. By that time he was one of its principal tenors. There are several commercial recordings of the solos he sang during his years in the choir, and also tapes of when we sang Choral Evensong live on Radio 3 (It was terrifying) - and he eventually became Precentor\*. He returned here to St Michael's to take up the job of Organist after around 10 years at the Abbey, and I returned also after a couple of years, and we then sang together in an A Capella group led by Roger Clegg, who had succeeded Paul when he left for Paisley Abbey.

It was very sad to receive the call from Sylvia saying he had died, after a very unpleasant illness which he bore with great courage. He had returned to sing at Lancaster Priory, where as a boy he had been Head Chorister, and here also he was held in huge respect as a person and as a musician. I have the CD he made at that time which includes "The Lark in the Clear Air" and "Go Lovely Rose". They are achingly beautiful; he paints the words with his lovely voice, perfect intonation and diction, and his inborn gift for music.

Lancaster Priory was packed for his funeral. He was totally unassuming and never, I think, fully realised the extent of his talent both as a singer and at the organ. George McPhee, Walter Blair and Roger Clegg all valued him enormously as a musician.

It was a delight and a privilege to know him. Rest in Peace, Paul; may Light Perpetual shine upon you.

*Lindsay Watkins*

\*The Precentor leads the Responses.

## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

### WALKS SEPTEMBER 2017

*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	ORGANISER
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Moderate	Balmaha	Jo Scott 01389 849145
23 <sup>rd</sup> September		TBD	Richard Horrell 01436 676936

Note that the grade (and possibly the walk) may change after a recce.

If you have an idea for a walk, or want to lead one, please contact one of the committee members, who are:

Jo Scott (01389 849145) Richard Horrell (676936) Frankie Hanmer (678490) and James Ashby (675541)

*Spirit of our Loving God  
In your mercy and compassion  
Inspire, encourage and empower us  
To live and work together  
As a Diocese  
To allow your mission for us  
To take flesh  
Through Jesus Christ  
Our Living and Eternal Lord.  
Amen*



## LECTIONARY – SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep Trinity 12	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28	2 Kings 6:24-25+7:3-20 Mark 7:1-8+14-15+21-23 Psalm 119:9-16
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep Trinity 13	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Ezekiel 12:21-13:16 Mark 7:24-37 Psalm 119:49-56
17 <sup>th</sup> Sep Trinity 14	Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Ezekiel 20:1-8+33-44 Mark 8:27-38 Psalm 119:81-88
24 <sup>th</sup> Sep Trinity 15	Jonah 3:10-4:11 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	Contraflow Youth Praise No Evensong

## READERS' LIST – SEPTEMBER 2017

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Henry Douglas	Joy Boak	Jill Braid
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Penny Johnston	Richard Smith	John Sadden
17 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Nigel Allan	James Ashby	Joan Sadden
24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	John MacCallum	Jill Braid	Contraflow

### ***Church Group Leaders***

People's Warden	Morag Carlaw	672090
Rector's Warden	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Sunday Club		
Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
Infants, Juniors Plus	Joy Boak	676852
Sidespersons	Vacant	
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)	Vacant	
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Joan Thompson	423451
Us (formerly USPG)	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/		
Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Richard Horrell	676936
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar	Judith Adams	672477
St Michael's Art Group	John MacCallum	673521
Magazine Editor	Richard Smith	831644
Collation / Distribution	Vacant	

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.