

November and December 2017

THE MESSENGER



Service Details

Sunday

8:00am Communion from the Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite) or
Communion from the Reserved Sacrament (1982 Rite) or
Service of the Word (2015 Rite)
Crèche and Sunday Clubs

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesdays

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



***The Magazine of
St Michael And All Angels
Episcopal Church, Helensburgh***
www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

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

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

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From the Lay Reader

‘But this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus’. Philippians 3: 13b – 14

Last month I wrote about the Apostle Paul’s determination to strive forward toward the heavenly goal, putting aside things that had gone before. While it is right in some circumstances to forget about the past, there are other times when it is right and proper to reflect on events gone by. It is sometimes pointed out that we ignore the lessons of history at our peril. Personal or national memories can be short, and mistakes can be repeated. This has been brought to mind very powerfully since 2014, as our nation has marked the centenaries of many sombre events. Battle names redolent of appalling suffering and loss of life in the ‘War to End all Wars’ have been commemorated; this year we have observed the centenaries of the Somme and Passchendaele. While the actual events are now beyond living memory, it has been very moving to hear of people discovering relatives they knew little about, whose names appear on the memorials to the fallen of the Great War, or to read again the testimony of those who fought and suffered – many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice for King and country.

Within a generation another world conflict erupted. It is a solemn warning from history that it took the use of nuclear weapons to end the conflict in the Far East, and that it is the threat of nuclear missile activity by North Korea that is disturbing the equilibrium in the same region now. Will no one learn the lessons of the past? We need

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From the Lay Reader (continued)

to pray for world leaders to exercise wisdom and restraint.

We come again to Remembrance Sunday and think of the sacrifices made by our service personnel in many conflicts, and pray that we never again have to face a full-scale war. We should pray for our armed forces and intelligence services working to keep us safe, and for those who put themselves in harm's way to broker peace or bring relief to those who suffer from the effects of war.

Within a few weeks we will be remembering another Event of the greatest significance. Advent will soon be upon us, leading us toward the celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of God at the first Christmas. We must never forget the sacrifice Jesus made to leave the throne of heaven and to become one of us, one with us and one for us. One of us, as he became human flesh, one with us as he identified with the human lot in all its travails, and one for us as he eventually died on the cross for the sins of the world.

There may be things in the past we should forget, but the coming of Jesus and all it means for each Christian personally, as we give thanks for our salvation, is something we should always remember. Returning to our theme verse from Philippians 3, it was the recognition of what Jesus had done for Paul in the past in dying for his sins, that impelled him in his own life of faith and witness, urging him on to his objective of heaven.

Please use the opportunities of our forthcoming special services to invite a friend or neighbour to 'Songs of Praise' on 19th November, or our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols on 17th December. We will also be welcoming other local churches to worship with us at 3 pm on Advent Sunday and at 1030 am on Sunday 10th December, when members of the URC will be joining us.

Kevin Boak

News

We have lots of good articles this month. My apologies for the squeeze to get everything in and I hope that contributors whose articles have been edited to death will forgive me. Thanks to Marion Blake for taking on the organisation of Bible Reading Fellowship Notes. We still need a volunteer to take on the organisation of sidespersons. **YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**



Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas!

Richard Smith, Editor

Notices

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

The November Coffee Morning will be held at Angela Russell's house, 65 McLeod Drive, Helensburgh at 10:30am on the 2nd November tel: 678869.

The December Coffee Morning will be held at Julia Gourd's house, High Mayfield, 7 Havelock Street, Helensburgh at 10:30am on the 7th December tel: 678054.

Maureen Kyle

SIDESPERSIONS' 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

STAINED GLASS BOOKLETS

As there is no secure way of receiving payment for these in the church at the moment I am keeping them at home for the time being. If you find a visitor who would like one, please let me know at 673518.

LOST PROPERTY

Would the owners of the two ladies' watches illustrated here, left in the church some time ago, please contact either Richard Smith or Brian Kyle for their return?

Richard Smith



Vestry Report November 2017

The first part of the October Vestry meeting was chaired by the Bishop, who began by thanking us all for our prayers, which had been very effective as his recovery continues. The purpose of this part of the meeting was for the Bishop to discuss the vacancy with us.

INTERIM PRIEST: Terms of Reference for the appointed Interim Priest were issued. Rev Kenny Macaulay (St Augustine's Dumbarton) is to be our Interim Priest, and the role will be that of 'watching brief'. The Vestry Secretary & the Lay Reader have been in touch with Kenny Macaulay to discuss how he might support us.

Vestry Report (continued)

FINANCIAL: The Bishop has asked us to present a 3-year budget for his scrutiny, and specifically asked for the Vestry's formal declaration that St Michael's could afford to pay a full stipend. The Vestry confirmed that St Michael's could afford this.

VACANCY PROCEDURES: The Bishop explained the procedures to be followed during the vacancy, describing the 'Congregational' and 'Rector' profile. He was reassured that we already have draft versions of both and had held a special meeting to start the consultation process. Once St Michael's congregation has agreed them, they should go to the Bishop for endorsement. The Bishop stressed: The importance of thinking positively so that we find a priest who will 'take us forward' and; The danger of expectation that we will find 'a saint' and the importance of being realistic.

THE RECTORY: The Vestry confirmed the plan to retain the rectory. We need to assess what work needs to be done to the building to prepare it for the next incumbent. The Bishop advised us that we should see the rectory as 'the Rector's home, but our house'. He recommended close liaison with the Dean as a source of advice, and confirmed the potential availability of grants.

RECRUITMENT ISSUES: The Bishop explained that once he was happy with our 'Profile' documents, he would approve advertising for the post, which could be through the 'Church Times' and on appropriate websites. We should anticipate a bill for advertising in the region of £700. The likely timescale is for advertising in the New Year. We should expect interest from several candidates. There will be an interview process, probably in the Spring 2018 which will require careful preparation. The aim is to see what the candidates are like as people. The Bishop will be present at interviews. We might decide to invite candidates to deliver a presentation. The selected candidate will have to give 3 x months' notice of leaving current appointment. The likely timescale for our new Rector being in place will be late summer 2018.

GENERAL ISSUES: In response to questions, the Bishop explained that a Rector is 'an office holder' not an employee of the Vestry. There will be no contract or time limit to accompany the appointment of our Rector, who would be 'appointed by the Bishop at the request of the Vestry'. The Bishop stressed the importance of the Vestry retaining control of vacancy matters, and keeping the congregation informed.

The Bishop concluded by observing that St Michael's seemed in good shape to pull through the vacancy, and he then left us to continue with our routine meeting.

The second part of the October Vestry meeting considered routine business, specifically approval of the annual accounts.

Vestry Report (continued)

MATTERS ARISING from the 3rd July Vestry Meeting:

a) Halls redecoration: It was agreed that re-decoration of the church halls was needed, but that this should be deferred until we know the scale of expenditure required to refurbish the rectory. The provision of some sort of hot drinks servery in the upper hall and/or upgrade of the kitchen would similarly remain an aspiration until we are sure we can afford it.

b) St Michael's website: We now have a 'webmaster' (Henry Douglass) who is leading the improvement process for our website. We are moving to different and easier to use software which will cost around £550 payable to the IT specialist consultants. It was agreed that this will be a good investment, and will result in a welcome enhancement to St Michael's 'outreach'.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (TAR) AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: The draft TAR was presented, and approved by the Vestry with minor amendments. The 'Financial Review' section reassuringly reflects a rather more positive financial position compared to the previous financial year. Specifically, our expenditure from 'unrestricted funds' was less than our 'unrestricted income' for the first time since 2010. The biggest saving resulted from our decision to reduce charitable giving by focussing just on local charities. It was noted that, in addition to our charitable giving from 'unrestricted funds' which is now at an affordable level, the St Michael's congregation also supports other charities through special collections and activities. Our overall charitable giving therefore remains reasonably generous.

It was unanimously agreed that we would continue with our charitable giving for the next financial year, but again supporting local charities only. It was also agreed that £7,000 will be set aside from 'unrestricted funds' towards refurbishment of the rectory.

The Annual Accounts for FY 1 September 2016 – 31 August 2017 were formally approved.

The Vestry thanked Janina Duncan and John Sadden for their hard work in preparing the accounts which will now go to be independently checked prior to their presentation to the congregation at the AGM on 10th December.

VACANCY ISSUES: It was agreed that the congregational 'special meeting' on Sunday 8th October had been well received, and that we seem to be in good shape. We do need to ensure that there is a routine for visiting, possibly managed by a 'pastoral co-ordinator'.

CHURCHWARDENS: Jo Scott (Rectors Warden) and Morag Carlaw (People's Warden) have both stood down, their posts no longer being required during the vacancy. The Vestry thanked them for their service.

Vestry Report (continued)

STAINED GLASS BOOKLETS: The policy for the booklets describing the church stained glass, kindly sponsored by Lindsay Watkins, was discussed. The booklets, for which there is a charge of £5, will be temporarily withdrawn until a secure payment method can be devised. The possibility of installing a wall safe was discounted as being too expensive, but we agreed to investigate whether a lockable wooden collection box might be mounted underneath the table in the porch, incorporating a slot for payments and donations.

Dates of Next Meetings: Monday 6th November. Sunday 10th December AGM

Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union meetings will take place on Tuesday 7 November at 1.45 pm when we will have a speaker from Mary's Meals. On Thursday 16 November at 10.00 am we will meet with Crafty Joy and our Songs of Praise service will take place on Sunday 19 November at 6.00 pm. We hope everyone will support our Nativity Open Day when some pupils from Hermitage Primary School will be visiting St Michaels' and we look forward to our Christmas Party on Thursday 14 December at 10.00 am.

CRIB FEST 2017 Mothers' Union is trying something different this year – or perhaps something that was done before but has been missing for a while! We are having a display of nativity scenes round the windows of the church during Advent.

If you have a scene that you would like included in the display, please speak to Barbara Hoey as soon as possible. The display will be set up on Saturday 2nd December and removed/returned on Tuesday 11 December. It can be seen during normal church opening times which we plan to have manned. If you can help with monitoring these displays for some part of a day or days, please let Barbara or myself know as we are compiling a rota.

It is hoped that some pupils from Hermitage Primary School will join us in the church to see the display on Tuesday 5 December in the afternoon. If you have an interesting story about St Michaels that would appeal to young children, please let us have it soon. The display is aimed primarily at our own congregation, their families, and friends, but as we are hosting an Advent Service with the other local Churches at 3 pm on Sunday 3 December, the cribs should make an interesting and seasonal backdrop and may well encourage other local people to drop in.

We hope you will support us in this endeavour by contributing to and coming to see the nativity scenes.

Joan Thompson, Branch Leader

Mothers' Union (continued)

SONGS OF PRAISE There will be an evening of hymns and readings on Sunday 19 November at 6.00 pm. You may have already seen notices asking people to contribute their favourite hymn or one that means something important to them which they would like to share with others. (Please note that any contributions not being included on this occasion will be held over until the Spring). We hope that you will come and take part in this joyful service and bring your family and friends with you. The singing will be led by our own Church Choir under the conduct of Barbara Wenborn and Andrew Lochart with contributions from other artists. This is an outreach to the community of Helensburgh and district so there will be notices going out to local churches and wherever else we can get advertising. If you have a contact who could help us in this way, please let us know as soon as possible. It would be great to see a full church. There will be refreshments afterwards in the church hall. We hope to see YOU there!

Kevin Boak and Joan Thompson

REPORT ON AUTUMN COUNCIL MEETING held on Saturday 7 October at St Mary's, Hamilton. On arrival we were made very welcome with tea or coffee and biscuits. Six of us were able to attend so our branch was well represented. The service at 11.00 am was led by Rev Lucy Ireland and Bishop Gregor attended. During it, a new branch was opened at St Mary's and the branch leader and members enrolled.

The service passed very pleasantly with lovely organ music for all the hymns.

After lunch, the Council meeting began with a welcome by Jill Cameron, our Diocesan President, who told us about the planning and execution of the General Meeting in Edinburgh the previous weekend. All had gone well but the organisers were now very tired!

The Treasurer gave us his report. The membership fee has increased again this year to £20. He thanked all the Branch Treasurers who have been so good at getting monies to him when necessary.

Richard Horrell is the Action and Outreach Trustee and he wants to know what we are getting up to in every way in every branch. This information is to be collated and sent to MU Headquarters. So far, he has found it very difficult to get people to count up the number of activities undertaken, and the numbers involved each time and the number of beneficiaries. We are to keep records of everything we do for example how many emergency packs we prepare, and we should keep a photographic record.

All the Branches present gave an outline of what they were doing. I noted that we seem to hold more meetings than average, and it was a pleasant feeling to be /... 12

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2nd November

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th November

9:00am Rambling Club – Glen Fruin to Luss

Sunday 5th November – Fourth before

Advent

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Service of the Word

*No Evensong – Helensburgh Oratorio

Choir concert at Helensburgh Parish Church*

Monday 6th November

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Trinity Chapel

Tuesday 7th November

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

1:45pm Mothers' Union – Mary's Meals

Sunday 12th November – Third before

Advent – Remembrance Sunday

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (including Act of Remembrance (1982 Rite)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14th November– Feast-day of St. Margaret of Scotland

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

2:30pm Bible Study at West Duhill Drive

Wednesday 15th November

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

Thursday 16th November

10:00am Mothers' Union – Crafty Joy

Saturday 18th November

9:00am Rambling Club – Stirling Area

Sunday 19th November – Second before

Advent

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1982 Rite)

6:00pm Songs of Praise

Tuesday 21st November

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

Saturday 25th November

10:30am-12:30pm Messy Church in URC Church Hall

Sunday 26th November – Christ the King

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 28th November – Feast-day of St.

Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

2:30pm Bible Study at West Duhill Drive

Change of Timing

/DECEMBER 2017

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd December – First of Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHURCH YEAR CYCLE B

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

3:00pm Ecumenical Advent Service, welcoming members of the town churches

No Evensong

Tuesday 5th December

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

1:45pm MU Church Open Day with Hermitage School

Thursday 7th December

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

Saturday 9th December

9:00am Rambling Club – Ardkinglas

Sunday 10th December – Second of

Advent

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Service of the Word (Combined service with URC)

12:15pm Church AGM

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 12th December

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

Thursday 14th December

10:00am Mothers' Union Christmas Party

Sunday 17th December – Third of Advent

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Cont. Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday 19th December

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group

10:30am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

Wednesday 20th December

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

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

6:00pm Christingle Service at URC

11:00pm First Communion of Christmas (1982 Rite)

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

10:00am Family Eucharist

Tuesday 26th December – Feast-Day of St.

Stephen *No Prayer Group or Eucharist*

Thursday 28th December

9:00am Rambling Club – Whinney Hill

Sunday 31st December – First of Christmas

8:00am Communion from Reserved Sacrament (1970 Rite)

9:30-10:00am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

10:30-11:15am Sunday clubs for children

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

No Evensong

Mothers' Union (continued from page 9)

able to say that our branch is growing and that we are participating in many of the things suggested by the Diocese such as emergency packs, cards for prisoners, bonding squares and smalls for all.

The next council meeting is to be held in the Spring in Kilmarnock on 24 March 2018 which coincides with Lady Day. The Festival Service has not yet been arranged. The meeting closed with the Grace. *Joan Thompson*

Eco-congregation

I have to confess that I do not buy the Helensburgh Advertiser every week. As a dutiful resident, I ought to keep up with events, and this week I learnt some very valuable things.

Firstly, there is the successful application by the Community Council to play a part in the decision-making process concerning road-maintenance, signage, and lighting. This has come about under the new Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, and is a sign of things to come.

Secondly our local authority has been nominated for a GO Sustainable Procurement Awards Category because of its decision to include "community benefit clauses" in the contracts it awards for council work.

Thirdly our area has very clean air and pollutants (mainly from road vehicles) are falling steadily. This is all excellent as it strengthens the community and gives a strong base for the vital decisions which we will have to take in the future.

It has been clear for decades that the global business community and especially the fossil fuel industry has no intention of disbanding itself as a good will gesture to save the planet. Governments are paralysed with fear about tackling the global economy and are never in power long enough to make any difference even if a few lone voices seem to understand the catastrophic situation we are in.

It is the duty, therefore, of local communities to take the initiative, and to train its members in "new ritual practices of daily living in which care for the environment and the climate is honoured," Professor Northcott of Edinburgh University goes on "these include using less energy, and wherever possible using energy that is not from fossil fuels: living more lightly on the earth by eating less meat, (and only from well-husbanded animals), consuming less stuff, flying and driving much less, and only to visit family and friends; and turning down heating or air conditioning where applicable. This view of the political role of moral communities in relation to climate change is exemplified by the development of movements such as Transition

Eco-congregation (continued)

Towns and Eco-Congregations which foster local, place-based community practices such as energy conservation, self-sufficiency, renewable energy generation, local food growing, composting, and all the other features of the low consumption, low carbon lifestyle." To Professor Northcott's view, I would add that the work of the Mothers' Union and other church-based organisations and charities, working with women and families world-wide are already contributing to the sustainability programme by educating and supporting the poorest of the Earth.

At the end of a busy day of our Eco-Event, the leaders of the local network walked to the Royal Bank of Scotland to hand in their petition for the Banks to withdraw all their investment (of their clients' money!) from the fossil fuel industries, as part of a nationwide campaign. They achieved their aim and have a photograph to prove it. It all helps to draw attention to the issues at stake.

The Church through Grace and through its sacramental way of life; the eucharist, baptism and confirmation (and ordination) is the community of faith which is best able to create the bonds of family and friendship, to train people in the virtues of love and forgiveness which will ultimately see us through this critical time for the human race. Its witness to the God who creates and sustains us and whom it is our primary duty to worship in the beauty of holiness, gives Hope to the community, the country, the nation and finally to that family of nations which looks forward to the coming again of our Lord and Saviour. As Dr Ivan Draper said this morning at Harvest Festival, we can and should cultivate our spiritual lives as well as cultivating the crops which sustain our physical lives. *Selina McGeoch*

Preshal Trust

As we all know Christmas comes but once a year.....to the fortunate folk. It's a pity, but not everyone is fortunate and can look forward to the joy and love most of us expect at this special time! And that is where May Nicholson and her Preshal Trust team does a fantastic job. They distribute thousands of Christmas presents to those young people who are not expecting any gifts at all.

May Nicholson is hoping we can repeat the very large contribution of gifts to the Trust that has been achieved in the past. Gifts are required for 'tots to teenagers'. They must be unwrapped, but if possible wrapping paper to be included.

The Kyle's & Hoey's plan to take the presents to Glasgow in the first week of December. Gifts can be left on a pew at the back of the Church during November. Preferably on Sundays, or delivered to the Hoey's at 24 Kildonan Drive, but suggest a phone call first to ensure someone is at home. *Shaun Hoey 671718*

Susan Lewis, An Appreciation

It is the middle of the night: Susan wants me to tell everyone that she is lost in wonder – love – and praise. She is up there with the angels, glorifying God just as she did with every breath of her body right up until the end of her earthly life.

She is one of us – just completely herself – as God made her – there was no impediment in her that prevented her obedience to what God wanted her to do. Two of her great expressions were “job done” – and “belt and braces”. There was never anything left to chance if she and John had anything to do with it.

Her great gift was to listen. She chose to follow on her teaching career by training to be a counsellor – many, many people, men and women, boys and girls have been set free from their problems by the gentle listening from Susan. She was able to hear the real person.

In everyday life she totally identified herself with any situation which presented itself and she gave all she had to live the moment. She was intensely human, quickly assessing the needs of the moment with the God given gift of being able to handle it. She laughed, danced, walked, cooked, cleaned, served and never missed an opportunity of serving God and her neighbour. Hers was a life lived hand in hand with her maker: she looked for and found signs of His presence in her everyday life. Her married life was blessed in having John at her side. He was wonderfully supportive and unselfish in going along with all she wanted to do. What a team they were!

We are all the richer for having known her. She lives on now – not only in our hearts, as she is one who will never be forgotten but free as air, one of God’s special angels, deeply involved in the next life, as she was in this. Allelujah.

Rosemary Wilson

The Beacon Trust

It is that time of year again when I have to write the Beacon Trust report. After writing about twenty-five of them it is very hard not to repeat yourself, especially when circumstances don’t differ much from year to year.

Looking for inspiration, as you do these days, I went on line and asked Mr Google for the definition of Beacon and it came back with the following: “A beacon is an intentionally conspicuous device designed to attract attention to a specific location; a source of light or inspiration; a person or thing that illuminates or inspires:”

Have we the right after twenty-five years to call ourselves “The Beacon Trust?” Are we intentionally conspicuous to attract attention? Certainly, we were when we had the shop in Kirkmichael. The residents used to remark that we were the only shop on the estate that operated behind a non-shuttered window and how pleasant it was to see the brightness of the shop on dark winter days.

The Beacon Trust (continued)

Our present forced location is not conspicuous to most of the inhabitants of Helensburgh, being on the outskirts of the shopping area, neither is it equipped with flashy signs to attract people towards it.

Can I say are we a source of light or inspiration? I can positively say that we have a proven track record. The letters of thanks sent to the Trust from those who freely received the means to improve their lives is evidence of the impact we have had.

As for person that illuminates or inspires, I can name a few of them: Jean Butler, Andrea Bridge, Ian Trotter, Paul Allen, Scotty. Their commitment to the Trust is inspiration in itself.

We have never had the luxury of a large staff. We have always struggled to crew the van, but Jean and Andrea have together kept the shop open for a considerable number of years now. They are indispensable. Without them I do not see the Trust continuing. Why, because after all the appeals we have made over the years, nobody else has come forward to help. Is it because our Beacon is not burning brightly enough for volunteers to be noticed under?

We cannot go on forever, and without help, one day our Beacon will be extinguished. I hope when that happens we will at least leave a warm glow in people’s memories.

Trevor McGrath MBE

Church Volunteering

After the meeting on Sunday, it seemed that some people were unaware of things quietly achieved behind the scenes. There are many opportunities for church members to contribute to the smooth running of the church services and the upkeep of the church: Vestry service; Church cleaning teams; Sides-persons; Readings; Tea and Coffee Rota; Helping on Stall in Hall and providing baking or goods for it; Assisting with FairTrade stall; Choir; Intercessions; Sacristan Duty; Care of Vestments, Church Linen and Kneelers; Care of Property; and many other small tasks, some of these require training which can be made available.

In addition to the Rector, the Lay Reader and three Lay Ministers visit those in homes and take them Communion. Chaplaincy roles in Nursing homes and Parklands School are organized on an ecumenical basis in the town. There is also room for people to volunteer for the Creche rota which requires a disclosure check and I am pleased that Joy has recruited more help for the Sunday Club. What we need is more children.

The suggestion that we take a more active /obvious role in the community is welcomed and taking part in beach cleans and help in the community spaces in

Church Volunteering (continued)

Colquhoun Square is very sensible and being seen in further support to the public. Many of St Michael's already assist at the lunch club either cooking, serving/ Ordering and taxiing people to and from the lunch Club. We as a church also take our turn at the Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar and desperately need more helpers. This week Judith has taken on more duties than she should. We also donate Christmas presents to the Preshal Trust. Mothers' Union need more members male or female which to aid them in fulfilling their aims and objectives. As well as enjoying fellowship and interesting talks, there is their outreach in the wider community, supplying goods to the Women's Aid, helping in the Parish church outreach to the homeless, Supporting the Contact Centre. Donating emergency packs to RAH hospital, writing Christmas cards for prisoners. Donating towards the Smalls for All and food items to the local Food bank. To sit back and not contribute is not an option if we want to have a healthy living example of Christianity. We also need it to be known to a wider audience that St Michael's Church is an active, thriving, and welcoming Church. So, do not sit in your small corner but join in and volunteer to help. The list of contacts in the back of the magazine is your starter. Phone any of them and your name can be passed on to the relevant person.

Margaret Horrell

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 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
4 th November	Hard Easy	Glen Fruin to Luss Luss Quarry Walk	James Ashby 01436 675541
18 th November	Various	Walk in Stirling Area TBD	Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490
9 th December	Various	Ardkinglas Garden (? House) Lunch at Stagecoach Inn, Cairndhu	Frankie/James
28 th December (Thursday)	Medium Easy	Whinney Hill Balloch Park	Richard Horrell 01436 676936

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

The new committee is: Frankie Hanmer (678490); Maureen Douglass (674763) John Hanks (675010) and James Ashby (675541), who are happy to receive suggestions for walks. Maureen is looking into suitable venues and dates for the annual dinner.

LECTIONARY – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
5 th Nov 4 Before Advent	Micah 3:5-12 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12	No evensong. Choir concert in Helensburgh Parish Church
12 th Nov Remembrance	Job 19:21-27 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 John 6:37-40	Judges 7:2-22 Romans 8:31-39 Psalm 46
19 th Nov 2 Before Advent	Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	1 Kings 1:15-40 Revelations 1:4-18 Psalm 95
26 th Nov Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	2 Samuel 23:1-7 Revelations 3:7-22 Psalm 110
3 rd Dec Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	No evensong
10 th Dec Advent 2	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Philippians 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	1 Kings 22:1-28 Romans 13:11-14 Psalm 40:12-17
17 th Dec Advent 3	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28	Isaiah 5:8-30 Acts 13:13-41 Psalm 68:1-8
24 th Dec Christmas Eve	2 Samuel 7:1-16 Psalm 89:1-4,19-29 Luke 1:67-79	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14
25 th Dec Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	
31 st Dec Christmas 1	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40	Isaiah 35:1-10 Galatians 3:27-4:7 Psalm 105:1-9

READERS' LIST – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
5 th Nov	John MacCallum	Julie Siemens	David Ronald
12 th Nov	Chris Sanders	Helen Gibson	Jill Braid
19 th Nov	Selina McGeoch	Richard Smith	John Sadden
26 th Nov	Henry Douglas	James Ashby	Joan Sadden
3 rd Dec	Penny Johnston	Jill Braid	Margaret Gilbert
10 th Dec	Liz Sanderson	Trevor Quickfall	Penny Johnston
17 th Dec	Nigel Allan	John Lewis	Maurice Stuart-Corry
24 th Dec	John MacCallum	Michael Blake	Janet Hardy
31 st Dec	Chris Sanders	John Hanks	Angela Russell

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

Anon

Church Group Leaders

Contact People/Organisers

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)	Marion Blake	673960
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Joan Thompson	423451
USPG	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/		
Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	James Ashby	675541
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
Website	Henry Douglass	674763

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.