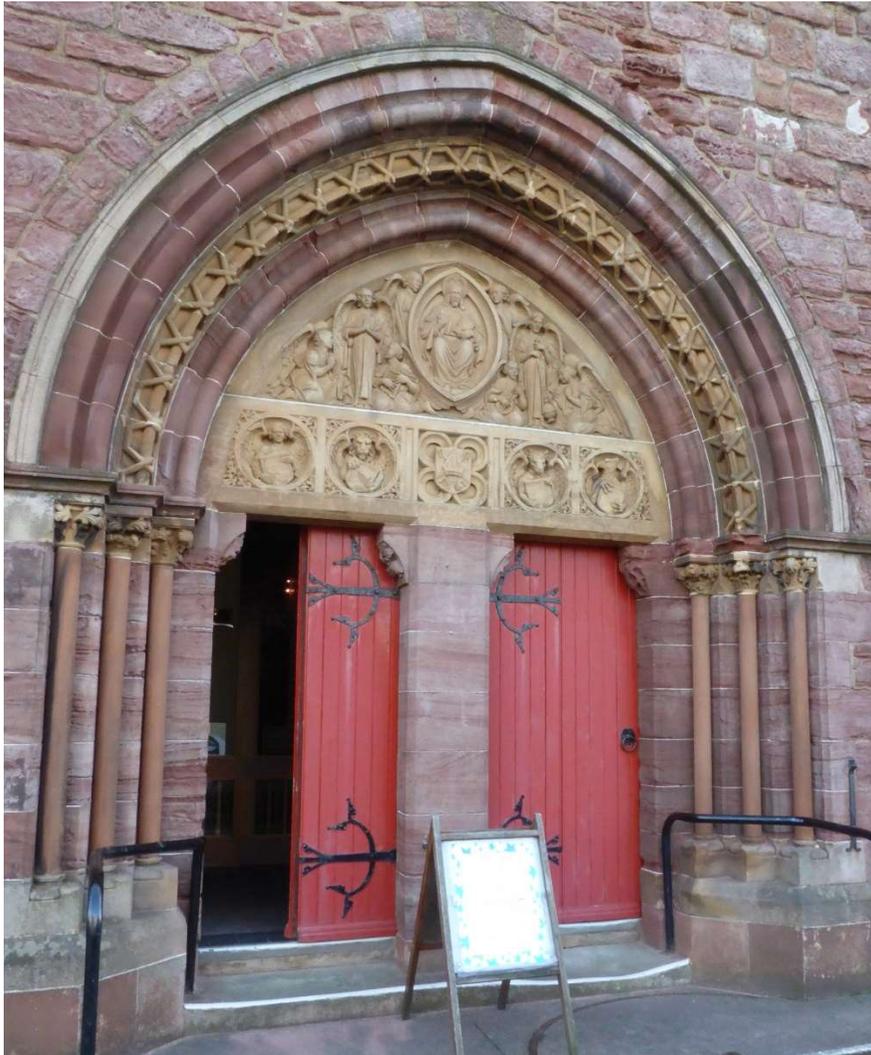


March and April 2017

THE MESSENGER



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



Service Details

Sunday

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

9:30am Open Spirit Contemporary Worship

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 full details 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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From the Rector

First of all, I wish to publicly and in writing offer very grateful thanks to our friends at Helensburgh United Reformed Church for their very generous hospitality to us whilst the interior of St. Michael's is being repainted. It is so very good when churches have close enough relations that we can feel happy enough to use each other facilities. Among other things it is a good sign to the community in which we live and witness that we get along this well. I am particularly pleased that we have been able to continue our Tuesday morning Eucharists and that our URC friends have made provision for us to have refreshments after the service, which is a very important part of the 'Tuesday morning experience'! Providing all goes well with the repainting, our use of the URC finishes with a shared Holy Communion service at 11.00am on Sunday March 5th.

I would like to flag-up the 'Quiet Day Prayer Retreat - Finding God in Daily Life' on Saturday March 18th at St. Michael's. It will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm (with tea/coffee from 10.00am so that we can start promptly) and will be facilitated by two members of the Ignatian Spirituality Team from Glasgow. Please do sign-up for this Day Retreat (ie: tell The Rector!), and invite friends from other churches to join us; the Ignatian Team have specifically asked if we could issue an 'ecumenical invitation'. You will be asked to bring your own lunch and tea/coffee will be provided. I think that the cost for each person will be by donation.

Now for a quote from a recent publication called 'Speaking from Within' written by Kieran O'Mahony. I include this because it touches on several themes we have met in recent Sunday

MESSENGER

March/April 2017

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For an email copy please contact the Editor.

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From the Rector (continued)

readings or which are pertinent to our church life at present:

God of compassion, you await the sinner's return and spread a feast to welcome home the lost. Save us from the temptation that leads us away from you, and draw us back by the constancy of your love, that we may take our place in your house-hold and gladly share our inheritance with others. (From The Tablet 'The Living Spirit' Jan.28th 2017.)

Another quote, this from a Refugee Council report:

The world is in the grip of the worst refugee crisis since World War 2. Many of us have seen the images of refugee families fleeing for their lives, and taking desperate risks to save their children. A recent UNHCR report found that more people than at any other time since records began have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere.

'Worst refugee crisis since WW2'; 'gladly' (?) share our inheritance with others'. Food for thought for us whether on the world stage or at St. Michael's. A reminder, too, that the world needs the fabulously good news of Easter and the Resurrection as never before. The good news of Easter does not provide us with a panacea for all the world's and our church's ills, because Jesus Himself had to suffer terribly before the Resurrection brought joy and hope to humanity. It does, however, tell us that love and joy and God's power WILL prevail despite everything. That is why, eventually, in April for us in 2017, and at some future date for all humanity, 'ALLELUIA!' will be our song.

God bless you all.

The Rector

News

This month's cover photo is of the Main, West Door of our church. It has always said to me, "Welcome, this is a holy place." The combination of the local sandstone, the warm, beautifully carved limestone from Caen in Normandy and the open door give me the same feeling that my wife and I experienced from our fellow parishioners when we joined St. Michael's congregation in 2009.

This year, as we approach the vacancy, we pray for God's healing strength to touch Gregor, our Bishop and restore him to full health. We look for his help and guidance when we start the process of seeking a new Rector.

Richard Smith, Editor

Notices

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

March's Coffee Morning is at 10:30am on Thursday 3rd March at Jill Braid's House, Ortona, 41 Charlotte Street, Helensburgh G84 7SE tel 674 523. April's Coffee Morning is at 10:30am on Thursday 1st April at Henry and Maureen Douglass's House, Clutharden, 1 Upper Adelaide Street, Helensburgh G84 7HT.

Maureen Kyle

TRAVELS IN THE FAR EAST – A TALK BY JOHN HARBOUR John Harbour is an entertaining and informative speaker with experience of travel across the world. He has kindly agreed to present a 30-40 minute talk about his recent travels in China and the Far East on Friday 3rd March 7:15pm in the Upper Hall. Refreshments will be available. Entry by donation in aid of church funds.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: Sunday 26th March from 2:30 to 5:30pm. DAFFODIL TEAS and an Exhibition of Needlework from the Victorian era to the present day at the home of Michael and Rosemary Wilson, High Auchensail, Darleith Road, Cardross G82 5HN Tel: 01389 841297. This is one mile up Darleith Road, turning left after the Geilston Hall. If you like you can park opposite St. Mahews Chapel half-way up the hill and walk the rest of the way. This is an event to boost the financial position of St. Michael's. Please donate generously on the day. It is Mothering Sunday, a good afternoon out for family and friends. All are warmly welcome. We hope that the daffodils and early shrubs will be in bloom. Home-made preserves will be on sale. Contributions of scones, little cakes and biscuits would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Michael and Rosemary

HELENA GOURD is performing in two forthcoming music recitals in Helensburgh.

Sunday 26th February, 7.0 pm, "Sunday at Seven" at Helensburgh Parish Church Solo flute recital accompanied by Derek Clark on piano.

Saturday 18th March, 7.45 pm, in Victoria Halls, Helensburgh Music Society. The Icaria Flute & Harp Duo, with Catherine Derrick on Harp.

More details about Helena and the Icaria Duo may be found on her website: <http://www.helenagourd.com/>

Vestry Report January 2017

The Vestry met on 9th January, and started with a prayer for spiritual guidance. Before moving on to the main issue for consideration - our financial situation, the vestry briefly reviewed one issue arising from the previous meeting:

Food Safety. VSec confirmed that the Food Safety Policy, which had been endorsed by the Argyll & Bute Environmental Health Officer, is now displayed in the kitchen. However, the Environmental Health Officer had, quite unprompted, recommended the use of 'anti- bacterial' cleaning products. The vestry had already decided that it would be prudent not to ignore this advice, although it was recognized that such products ran contrary to the aspirations of 'Eco-congregation', and noted that diocesan guidance on the subject is unhelpful. Anti-bacterial surface cleaner and washing up liquid has been sourced.

Financial Matters. The idea was to have a wide-ranging discussion regarding our financial situation, with the idea that, firstly to ensure all vestry members understand our finances and the financial responsibilities specific to the vestry, and secondly to have a free exchange of ideas without necessarily making firm decisions at this meeting. It was agreed that decisions on the level of charitable giving for 2017 would need to be made at the March meeting.

Financial summary. It was explained that the financial deficits in recent years reflect this has not been enough to offset our rising costs, and our reserves are diminishing. In comparison to other churches, our reserves are already small. Although we have managed to pay the essentials such as Quota and Stipend, the Treasurer has had worrying cash flow problems to deal with because we continue to spend more than we earn and we need to take action to resolve this. One area where we do have a choice is charitable giving. We have for many years given an average of £9,000 at 2016 values from our unrestricted income to charity, a legacy of times when we had more funds available. We need to review this level of charitable giving, which is generous in comparison to other churches where we have the data to make comparisons.

Property expenditure. The Property Manager briefed the vestry on his projected property expenditure. In summary, we are committed this year to the interior and exterior redecoration, which will cost £20,750. There are other projects and repairs this year costing a total of £5,600. Proposed additional expenditure over the next 3 years includes replacement of our boilers and

Vestry Report (continued)

upgrading ventilation (est £20,000), replacing Main and Lower Hall lighting and heating (£3,600), Main and Lower Hall redecoration and replacement notice boards (est £6,750), upgrade of the church sound system (£2,440), install a tea/Coffee server in the Main Hall (est £5,000). In addition, we need to review the repair of the stained-glass windows, (price unknown). Total proposed expenditure over the next 3 years £64,140. We should also consider the recommended 5 yearly cycle for church redecoration, which means we ought to save £6,000 a year in a fund specifically for this. The organ will need refurbishment at some stage, and this expense must be factored in.

A free ranging discussion took place:

Vacancy. The forthcoming Interregnum will save us having to pay a stipend for a while, and provides an opportunity to restore our reserves. We might consider asking for a non-stipendiary or half-stipendiary priest as the permanent replacement when the rector retires, although this might present a risk to our long-term future. Paying of the stipend, allowances, Employer's National Insurance and SEC pension contributions take over 40 % of our unrestricted income.

Hall hire. Part of our income comes from hire of the halls. We are in a competitive market in Helensburgh, and setting the right level of rent is a delicate balance. We do need to maximize this income source, which will require investment to keep our halls in good order. The Property Manager suggested that we should build a better access to the Lower Hall to avoid having to transit the Upper Hall or go via the Rectory.

The Rectory. The status of the rectory was discussed. It is a large Victorian listed building, but is it appropriate to keep it in its present state? Options discussed included demolition to create a car park, subdivision into flats to earn rent, or sale. The rectory is a diocesan asset, although we retain responsibility for maintaining it, and it was agreed that the future of the Rectory should be raised with the diocese. (this has now been done)

Treasurer. The Treasurer has been in the invidious position of carrying the main responsibility for our finances, and as Trustees, the vestry needs share the burden. To make the Treasurer's role less demanding, it was suggested that an assistant be sought. One possibility is to appoint a 'Paying Officer' (as defined in SEC guidance) who would relieve the Treasurer of all aspects of remunerations and PAYE.

Vestry Report (continued)

IT support. The use of specialist computer programmes was suggested, to give us the capability of feeding in financial options and observing the effects. This has been used successfully elsewhere.

Charitable giving. The level of charitable giving from St Michael's was discussed. It was agreed that the church community should give to charity, but the current level needs to be reviewed in the light of affordability, noting that we currently give from church funds at a generous level compared to those charges where we have the data to allow comparisons, and that we do give additional sums from special collections and events. It was generally agreed that, if we decide to reduce charitable giving from church funds, we should still maintain our support of local charities (particularly Contraflow which is part of our outreach). If we reduce charitable giving from church funds, we could make up the difference from targeted fundraising events and retiring collections.

The buildings. We are blessed with a magnificent listed building for our worship, considering the grants we have had in support of the recent restoration.

The wider picture. Whilst the discussion focused on financial matters, we must not lose sight of the wider picture, and particularly our role as a Christian community, and the need to expand our congregation by attracting more young people, particularly the younger generation, to our church.

The forthcoming vacancy. The Vestry has started work on the 'Congregational Profile' document which is the first step in the process of filling the vacancy when David retires in October.

Next vestry meetings: Monday 6th March, Monday 8th May

Nick Davies, Secretary

Mothers' Union

We welcomed in the New Year with our Annual General Meeting, ably led by Margaret Gilbert and in February Kevin Boak entertained us with a history of the Waverley Steam ship with Margaret Horrell acting as Leader.

A good number of members visited Hermitage Primary School for their annual Scottish entertainment day where they were made very welcome.

Please note the changes to the meetings in March where Zululand has replaced the Helensburgh Writers.

Mothers' Union (continued)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Friday 3 March: World Day of Prayer
- Tuesday 7 March at 1.45 pm: EAPPI. If you don't know what these letters stand for, come to the meeting and find out.
- Thursday 16 March at 10 am: Zululand!
- Saturday 25 March at 11 am: Spring Council at St John's Dumfries
- Sunday 26 March: Mothering Sunday
- Tuesday 4 April at 1.45 pm: Seafarers' Society
- Thursday 20 April at 10 am: Alli Energy.
- Saturday 13 May at 2 pm: Festival Service in St Cyprian's Lenzie.
- Advance Notice: Autumn Council on 7 October.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has kept me safe in their prayers these last weeks and during my continued (very slow!) recovery from knee surgery. I miss being with you all but it is going to take me longer to get back to 'normal' than I had originally hoped. 'the best laid plans of mice and men' (as someone famous once said!). My thanks also to the wonderful MU committee who have shown they can manage perfectly well without me!

As always, our meetings are open to anyone who would like to come along.

Watch out for other events coming up under the auspices of Mothers' Union.

Joan Thompson, Branch Leader

Eco-congregation

There is good news and bad news. Let's have some good news first. In December, Holy Trinity in Keith, Moray became the 50th Scottish Episcopalian Church to sign up to Eco-Congregation. There are now 389 member churches of all denominations across the country. The organisation punches above its weight by having influential friends in Government, but it could do more. The Environment Minister mentioned Eco-Congregation by name as an example of "third sector" organisations who can weave environmental issues into their overall purpose by promoting action in response to climate change, because they 'enthuse and equip churches to address climate change through their estates and congregations'. The Scottish government's draft plan on climate change aims to reduce greenhouse emissions by 66% by 2032. It all sounds like an attractive picture of a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous Scotland, /... 13

CALENDAR FOR MARCH

MARCH

Tuesday 28th February – Observation of Ash Wednesday

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite) at URC with distribution of Ashes

Wednesday 1st March – Ash Wednesday

Thursday 2nd March

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd March

10:30am World Day of Prayer at Baptist Church

7:15pm 'Travels in the Far East' John Harbour in the Upper Hall, All Welcome

Saturday 4th March

Diocesan Synod at Dumfries

Sunday 5th March – First of Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

9:30am Open Spirit in Lower Hall

11:00am Joint Holy Communion in URC

5:00pm Choral Evensong

WEEK OF RETURN TO ST. MICHAEL'S

Monday 6th March

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

Tuesday 7th March

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

1:45pm Mothers' Union - EAPPI

Wednesday 8th March

March day of Prayer for Mission Action Planning

Thursday 9th March

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Friday 10th March

10:30am Local Eco Network Meeting Helensburgh Parish Church

Saturday 11th March

9:00am Rambling Club – Tyndrum to Crianlarich

Sunday 12th March – 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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 14th March

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

Thursday 16th March

10:00am Mothers' Union - Zululand

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Saturday 18th March

Lent Quiet Retreat Day at St. Michael's with Ignatian Spirituality Team

Sunday 19th March – Third 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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 21st March

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

Thursday 23rd March

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Saturday 25th March

10:30am-12:00noon Messy Church at URC

11:00 Mothers' Union Lady Day and Spring Council, St. John's, Dumfries

8:30pm Earth Hour

/APRIL 2017

Sunday 26th March – Fourth of Lent - Mothering Sunday

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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

2:30-5:30pm Daffodil Tea at High

Auchensail (See p. 5)

6:00pm Contraflow Youth Praise - No Evensong

Tuesday 28th March

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

Thursday 30th March

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

APRIL

Saturday 1st April

9:00am Rambling Club – Succoth

Sunday 2nd April – Fifth 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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 25th April

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

1:45pm MU Seafarers' Society

Thursday 27th April

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Sunday 9th April – Sixth of Lent

PALM SUNDAY – START OF HOLY WEEK

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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Monday 10th April

7:30pm Commemoration of the Passover Meal at Helensburgh Parish Church, Led by HPC Team

Tuesday 11th April

7:30pm Prayer and Worship Meeting at St. Margaret's, Churchill, Led by RN Chaplaincy Team (Transport available)

Wednesday 12th April

7:30pm Prayer and Worship Meeting at URC, led by URC Worship Team

HOLY or MAUNDY THURSDAY 13th April

7:30pm Ecumenical Celebration of the Lord's Supper at St. Andrew's, Cardross, led by Rev M. MacArthur, Parish Minister

GOOD FRIDAY 14th April

9:00am Stations of the Cross at St. Michael's followed by hot cross buns and coffee

11:00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness starting at St. Joseph's, East King Street

2:00pm Liturgy of Good Friday at St. Michael's

7:30pm Prayer and Worship Meeting at St. Michael's

EASTER SUNDAY 16th April

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 (1982 Rite) (Crèche facility available)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

CALENDAR FOR APRIL (continued)

APRIL (continued)

Tuesday 18th April

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

Thursday 20th April

10:00am Mothers' Union Alli Energy
7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Friday 21st April

7:30pm Christian Aid Quiz at Cardross
Parish Church

Saturday 22nd April

9:00am Rambling Club – Taynish

Sunday 23rd April – Second of Easter

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 (1982 Rite)
(Crèche facility available)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 25th April

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

Thursday 27th April

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Saturday 29th April

10:30am-12:00noon Messy Church at St.
Margaret's, Churchill

Sunday 30th April – Third of Easter

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 (1982 Rite)
(Crèche facility available)
6:00pm Contraflow Youth Praise - No
Evensong

Christian Aid Week 2017

This Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May, our church is continuing to walk with refugees by fundraising for Christian Aid.

Please support our fundraising events.

Friday 21st April Christian Aid Quiz at Cardross Parish Church 7:30pm Teams of 4 needed, all ages, £10 per team to enter. Spectators welcome.

Sunday 7th May Christian Aid Concert - Helensburgh Parish Church 7-00 p.m.

Helensburgh Chamber Orchestra, Leader Christine Sinclair, Conductor, David Bruce.

Duration: about one hour. Entry by donation Suggested £8 (£5 concession)

Sunday 14th May House to House Collectors needed. Please put your names on the lists.

Sunday 14th May United Christian Aid Service St Michael's William Street 7pm

Monday 15th May Christian Aid Football Hermitage Academy 6pm- 8:30pm

Inter Primary School P7 Football Tournament Organized by Ardencaple Football Club.

Thursday 18th May Sponsored Swim - Helensburgh Swimming Pool 6.30-8.30pm.

Saturday 20th May Street Collection Collectors needed. Please put your names on the list.

Saturday 20th May 10am - 12 noon Christian Aid Grand Fayre Helensburgh Parish Church, Colquhoun Square
Entry adults £2 children 50p.

Please see notice board for more details.

John Hanks

Eco-congregation (continued)

but their proposals are wholly inadequate according to The Chair of the Stop Climate Change action group. So, the work must go on. I do not believe that God our Heavenly Father sees His Church as a "third sector" organisation, but I let it pass for now.

I mentioned there was some bad news. Well, the oceans are so clogged with plastic from humans because, of the 300 million tons produced globally each year, a great deal of it ends up in the ocean and when it breaks up into minute particles it is consumed by molluscs and fish then birds and mammals including us. So, if we die of ingesting plastic it will be our own fault. But the birds and fish are entirely innocent. However, some scientists at Warwick University have trialled a new process which can recycle 100% of plastic waste. Let's hope they can get funding to advance the project before it is too late. Also (some more good news) a recycling and reward scheme is being trialled across Scotland where people can get money back by returning their plastic bottles. Eco Congregation Scotland already supports this campaign called "Have You Got the Bottle". And if you want to help the planet, think before you buy anything at all, how you will get rid of the plastic, bearing in mind that it is virtually indestructible and leaches poisonous chemicals into the soil wherever it is dumped. Use paper bags, glass or metal bottles, grease proof paper rather than cling film: the list is endless.

Finally, I get to LENT. Well I would, wouldn't I? We have been asked by the Moderator of the Church of South India, the Most Rev. Thomas Oommen, to have a Carbon Fast for Lent. India has suffered hugely in recent years from soaring temperatures, in which thousands have died of heat stroke or dehydration, floods, droughts and rising sea levels have caused famine and the migration of millions of people and animals from their native territories, to look for food and pasture. This is climate injustice on a massive scale, and that is why we in the West whose life styles are causing these problems, must repent (i.e. turn away from) the way we live, and find a more just and godly way to share the resources which God has given all of us. So, every week during Lent we might arrange to meet together and meditate on different ways to reduce our carbon-footprint or just take away with us the list which I shall provide to pray over on a weekly basis as we share in the Fast, which Jesus kept in the wilderness, to fight the temptation to seek salvation in material goods and in satisfying the body.

Eco-congregation (continued)

P.S. Before council elections if you can spare the time write or e-mail the candidates and ask them what they propose to do to help the environment, especially by changing the rates system to encourage small sustainable businesses to start up in our area, and for people to live where they work to lessen the need for car journeys.

DATES TO NOTE.

- Friday 10th March Local Network Meeting 10:30 at Helensburgh Parish Church.
- Saturday 25th March Earth Hour 8:30-9:30 pm All Lights Off Please! Join people in over 7000 cities in 152 countries who will turn off all lights.

Diocesan Growth Strategy



MISSION ACTION PLANNING UPDATE – MARCH 2017

Since the signing of our Year 2 Mission Action Plan in December progress continues to be made, despite the upheavals during January and February of moving along the road to worship at the URC. The MAP team has been augmented by the welcome addition of Henry Douglass, and Gill Reynolds continues to facilitate our meetings, offering her help and advice.

Our Year 2 actions are being implemented as follows:

- We have already seen the benefit of the new noticeboard at the back of church. Once we have returned to St. Michael's we will be following up plans to involve hall users in the life of the church, with part of the new triptych board available to publicise what goes on in the hall, and inviting groups to tell us (or even show us) what they do.
- The new external noticeboard in West Princes Street is now being fabricated.
- It is hoped a minor portion of the surplus CHORD town centre development funds will pay for finger post signs directing visitors to St. Michael's.
- Publicity leaflets about the church have been distributed to local outlets such as the Commodore. A supply is being given to the Balloch tourist information centre.

Diocesan Growth Strategy (continued)

- See elsewhere for full details, but a day of reflection and teaching is being run by the Ignatians on Saturday 18th March. We encourage all church members to be involved in this opportunity to deepen our spirituality. We hope this will be a first step in running further study days.
- We want to increase the numbers involved in leading intercessions at the 1030 Eucharist. Csaba Barthos has joined the rota, and anyone else who feels they might have a gift in gathering up our prayers in this way would be welcome to join the intercessions team (if so, please speak to a member of the MAP group).
- For those new to leading intercessions, or would like to find out more, a training day is being organised to be run by Rev. David Wolstenholm. Details will be announced soon.

Some of the objectives relating to enhancing our church music have been achieved during the time of James Reed's tenure as organist, particularly the enhanced choir singing at Evensong-plus on the second Sunday of the month. Objectives relating to music will need to be reviewed for the future, according to resources available, following the departure of James at the end of March.

Kevin Boak

Bishop Gregor

In the desire to keep everyone informed, Bishop Gregor is continuing to do well and is now home. Visiting can be arranged through the Diocesan Centre.

Bishop Gregor has given his consent for the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Rt Revd Dr John Armes, to be his Commissary and this will extend until 8th March 2017 and then be reviewed.

As well as Bishop Gregor, please can you keep the following clergy, church workers and their families in your prayers as they deal with their various challenges at this time:

Revd Bryan Owen and Katy. Revd Lesley-Ann Craddock and Ashley. Revd Michael Buchanan Hills and Lesley. Revd Andrew Baldock and Gilly. Chris Zochowski and Kate. Lorraine Darlow, Darren and their daughter.

The Dean continues to offer his full support to the Diocese.

Yours

Ian Barcroft, Dean 11/2/2017

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS MARCH TO MAY 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
11 th March	Medium	Tyndrum to Crianlarich	Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490
1 st April	Medium/ Hard	Succoth/Glen Loin cct/Cobbler Path	James Ashby 01436 675541
22 nd April	Easy/ Medium	Taynish (Nature Reserve)	Sue Ashby 01436 675541
9-12 th May	Various	Separate Programme	Richard Horrell 01436 676936
27 th May	Moderate	Dams to Darnley	Jo Scott 01389 849145

The grade (or the walk) may change after a recce. There will normally be an easy(ish) option.

Further information will be sent out nearer the time of each walk and copies put on the notice board in the Church Hall.

The committee members are now: James Ashby 01436 675541, Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490, Richard Horrell 01436 676936 and Jo Scott 01389 849145.

If you would like to lead a future walk or to suggest one, your committee would be delighted to hear from you.



1- To Rhu and back by Highlandmans Road

LECTIONARY – MARCH/APRIL 2017

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
5 th March Lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17+3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Deuteronomy 6:4-9+16-25 Luke 5:1-10 Psalm 119:17-32
12 th March Lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5+13-17 John 3:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9 Luke 14:27-33 Psalm 74
19 th March Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Joshua 1:1-9 John 2:13-22 Psalms 11+12
26 th March Lent 4	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	No evensong
2 nd April Lent 5	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Lamentations 3:19-33 Matthew 20:17-34 Psalm 34
9 th April Lent 6 Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66	Zechariah 12:9-11+13:7-9 Matthew 21:12-17 Psalm 118:1-2+19-29
16 th April Easter Sunday	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10	Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 20:11-18 Psalm 66
23 rd April Easter 2	Acts 2:14a+22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:13-35	Daniel 6:6-23 Mark 15:46-16:8 Psalm 143:1-11
30 th April Easter 3	Acts 2:14a+36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	No evensong

Lord we thank you for our life together in this place - may we feel more and more our belonging together, our need of each other, and the strength and delight that comes from working and striving together in common purpose. Help us to be great encouragers. To be aware of each other's talents, strengths and weaknesses. Help us to be for each other - committed to each other's growth.

Help us to raise the level of confidence and to awaken the spirit of service.

Barbara Hoey

READERS' LIST – MARCH/APRIL 2017

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
5 Mar	Liz Sanderson	John Hanks	Joan Sadden
12 Mar	John MacCallum	Chris Packard	Margaret Gilbert
19 Mar	Chris Sanders	Tom Allison	Penny Johnston
26 Mar	Selina McGeoch	Julie Siemens	Contraflow
2 Apr	Penny Johnston	Helen Gibson	Maurice Steuart-Corry
9 Apr	Nigel Allan	Susan Lewis	Maureen McCormack
16 Apr	John MacCallum	Richard Smith	Jill Braid
23 Apr	Chris Sanders	James Ashby	David Ronald
30 Apr	Selina McGeoch	Jill Braid	Contraflow

Beacon Trust

A couple of weeks back, I had a surprise reading the Advertiser. There in the section where they have past features, I saw a picture of myself and three companions behind the counter of the Beacon Trust shop. The photo was taken twenty years ago, in Kirkmichael. Elspeth Beaton, Gail Tait, Jack Keown and myself. It was especially poignant as it was in the same week that Jack's funeral had taken place. Jack spent a number of years involved with the Trust until ill health forced him "take things easy." I noticed I had no grey hairs then, would appear to be a lot slimmer and how on earth did I get away with that Mexican look. I was still in the navy then and gaucho moustaches were not quite uniform. Some things have not changed. Reading on, I spoke of my concern about the church's lack of involvement and the shortage of volunteers. This is still the same today. Volunteers are thin on the ground, but without the help we receive from your congregation, we could not have survived last year. My last appeal raised no offers of help but we intend to keep going until it becomes no longer viable.

Cheers!

Trevor McGrath MBE

Church Group Leaders

People's Warden	Morag Carlaw	672090
Rector's Warden	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Sunday School		
Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
Infants, Juniors and Bible Class	Anne Cook	672500
Sidespersons	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)	Susan Lewis	01389 841592
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Joan Thompson	423451
Us (formerly USPG)	Marion Blake	673960
Keep Fit/ Hall Convener/		
Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Selina McGeoch	676074
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Richard Horrell	676936
Badminton Club	Shaun Hoey	671718
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar	Judith Adams	672477
St Michael's Art Group	John MacCallum	673521
Magazine Editor	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.