

**May and June 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)

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**From the Lay Reader**

On the Third Sunday of Lent the gospel reading was from John chapter four, recounting the meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan woman who had a disreputable past, at the historic well of Jacob outside the town of Sychar. Jesus had chosen the difficult upland route from Judea to Galilee rather than the lowland valley of the Jordan, and asked the woman for a drink of water in the heat of the noonday sun. The conversation developed and Jesus began to speak of the living water he could give her. The response, ‘Sir, you have no bucket and the well is deep’, set me thinking. The initial talking at cross-purposes about ordinary water and the living water Jesus alone could provide, led to thoughts about the bucket and rope of faith we have each been given. How people use it and whether they find the truth of the good news of salvation from Jesus can depend on how effective Christians are at witnessing to their faith, as so many people are searching aimlessly and without success for meaning to life and any sense of hope for an eternal future beyond death.

How many people today have a bucket of sorts, but can’t find water? They sometimes search in the wrong places, or their bucket has a hole, or the rope is too short, or perhaps even the water is contaminated or has dried up. The bucket and rope can be taken to represent the seed of faith, or at least spiritual enquiry, sown in the heart of every human being. We are all searching for meaning in life, as the conscience niggles that all is not right. Rather than come to what we might think is the obvious place, the Church, people seek meaning through other faiths, perhaps the more exotic the better. You only have to walk the High

**MESSENGER**

**May/June 2017**

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## From the Lay Reader (continued)

Street in Glastonbury to see a place of Christian pilgrimage turned into a quest for all sorts of New Age fads and fancies, fairy tales or even exploration of Satanic rites. Some people seek satisfaction in arguing the case against any god through 'isms' like rationalism, humanism or atheism, or the political creed of Communism. Some seek oblivion through alcohol and drugs, or temporary satisfaction through materialism. What the woman at the well found was Jesus. Taking a step of faith in lowering her bucket, careful to hold onto the rope, she filled her life with living water. She found forgiveness, peace in her heart, a new direction and purpose, and freedom from a past where she had been trapped, probably in a series of abusive marriages – discarded whenever her husband moved onto another woman. Our backgrounds may not have been as bleak, but I trust that everyone reading this is confident they have found the living water Jesus offers. Sometimes our buckets leak, or the rope becomes frayed, but we can continually draw on the satisfying water that Jesus gives us to sustain and nurture our spiritual growth day by day.

This poses the challenge as to how the Church survives in a secular society. Unless the Church looks outward in mission it will perish. We need new growth, and only by doing what Jesus did will that happen:

- Jesus did not follow the easy route along the Jordan valley. He went into unfriendly territory, among the barren hills seeking out the woman at the well.
- Jesus did not obey the conventions of the day. He spoke to the foreigner. He broke down the social barrier of a man addressing a woman who was a stranger.
- He used the common currency of conversation in asking for a drink to break down these barriers, just as when we make conversation about the weather to a stranger.
- Jesus recognised her disreputable past and addressed what was wrong in her life, but he did not do it in an accusatory or condemnatory manner.
- He did not leave it there as a judgemental saying, but offered a solution to her problem – with the play on words of giving her living water where she would never be thirsty again.

We are fortunate to have this inexhaustible supply of living water available from Jesus. We know where to find the everlasting well of salvation, and need to have the courage to help those still searching for peace and fulfilment in

## From the Lay Reader (continued)

their hearts, to lower their buckets into the water and find everlasting life. As Paul reminds us in Romans 5 we have a hope in our hearts that does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured like water into our lives, through the Holy Spirit he has given us. We should look for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with those around us. Some opportunities will come to us, like new naval families settling in Helensburgh, others we will need to go out into uncomfortable places to find. As we pray about the future of this church and for a new incumbent, we all need to recognise our responsibilities and gifts to work together to achieve a mission-oriented church. *Kevin Boak*

## News

We thank God that "Bishop Gregor is recovering well from his recent illness and hopes to be able to return to work during the next few months."

Congratulations to Michael and Rosemary Wilson for their tremendous efforts for the Daffodil Tea, which raised £859.05 for the church.

I will be sorry to see the end of Inspires Magazine (See Page 18) but hope to be able to bring news from the new website when it is up and running.

*Richard Smith, Editor*

## Notices

### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

May's Coffee Morning is at 10:30am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at Chris and Ann Packard's House, Kiloran, 14 Glasgow Street, Helensburgh G84 8EL tel 672 722. June's Coffee Morning is at 10:30am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at Brian and Maureen Kyle's House, 2a East Montrose Street, Helensburgh G84 7EP tel 672 951.

*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*

## Vestry Report March 2017

The Vestry met on 6th March, starting with prayers for spiritual guidance. The meeting then considered 2 matters arising from previous meetings

**CLEANING PRODUCTS AND ECO CONGREGATION.** Richard Horrell confirmed that the use of anti-bacterial washing up liquid would not jeopardise St Michael's 'Eco-Congregation' status. He also highlighted the importance of following hand washing procedures, and it was agreed that a notice showing the correct hand washing drill should be posted in the kitchen.

It was noted in passing that the hazards arising from incorrect cleaning procedures in the kitchen is far outweighed by the dangerous practice of having to carry urns of hot liquids up the stairs to the upper hall. The Vestry agreed that the solution is to incorporate a coffee/tea server in the upper hall. The Property Manager is investigating the feasibility, but we must be realistic regarding affordability.

**FUTURE OF THE RECTORY.** The Vestry had discussed the future of the rectory following the Rector's retirement. Vestry Secretary confirmed that the diocesan surveyor has been invited to conduct a preliminary visit in April, and his report would be the basis from which future options will be explored.

**NEW TREASURER.** Mrs Janina Duncan introduced herself as the volunteer to take over from Trevor Quickfall as our Honorary Treasurer. She reported her previous vestry experience in Callander and her involvement with church finances at Drymen. The Vestry warmly welcomed Mrs Janina Duncan to the role. It was therefore agreed unanimously that Mrs Janina Duncan is to be co-opted to St Michael's vestry and appointed Honorary Treasurer with effect from 31st March 2017.

**PAYING OFFICER.** Some churches appoint a 'Paying Officer' who takes some of the administrative load from the Treasurer. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. Is there anyone in the congregation willing to assist our new Treasurer? We are looking for a volunteer!

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** Trevor Quickfall provided an update. We managed to save a bit over January/February, largely because there had been few bills to pay. We have also seen the benefits of increased giving, 2 kind donations had been received, and we have had 2 fundraising events. However, this has been offset by some significant recent bills, notably the church interior redecoration (which

## Vestry Report (continued)

we had budgeted for, but nonetheless erodes our reserves significantly). We have also had to pay our annual £8,000 insurance bill covering the church, hall and rectory, and there were several additional bills for unforeseen property issues.

**LIVING GIVING.** The Vestry reviewed proposals for charitable giving for 2017, focusing this year on local charities. The following charitable grants were agreed:

(i)	Helensburgh Youth Project (Contraflow).	£3,000
(ii)	The Beacon Trust (dependent on the project continuing).	£1,000
(iii)	The Rector's discretionary Fund.	£250
(iv)	Emergency Reserve.	£350

It was agreed that the Vestry would review our financial position in the autumn and consider giving more. It was also agreed that we could hold retiring collections and dedicated fundraising events for other charities.

Noting that this was Trevor Quickfall's last scheduled Vestry meeting, and that he had carried out the duties of Honorary Treasurer for 5 years, the Vestry took the opportunity to thank him formally for his dedication and service to St Michael's.

**CHURCH REDECORATION.** The Property Manager reported that the interior redecoration was completed as scheduled, and to a good standard. The bulk of the church is in remarkably good condition; however, problem areas had been discovered in the Flower Vestry where the external wall had been leaking, probably due to defective lead flashing. There were other areas where the wall pointing needs work. Rectification will cost an estimated £1,500, and it was agreed that this work should go ahead.

**STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.** There is water ingress around the stained-glass windows on the right-hand side of the church. We await an assessment from the stained-glass specialist.

**HALL HEATING AND LIGHTING.** The upgrade to the heating and lighting of the upper hall would go ahead following a very welcome anonymous donation which will cover the cost.

**RECTORY GARDEN.** The parking area to the rectory garden affords unrestricted access, which is not only a security concern, but also dogs were getting in and

## Vestry Report (continued)

fouling the garden. Installing a gate and mending the fence will cost an estimated £956. It was agreed that this work should go ahead.

**MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHMENT PLAN.** A plan covering maintenance and refurbishment projects until 2023 was tabled. This is a living document and changes are inevitable, but it was important to have a plan in place. The next planned major expense will be boiler replacement and boiler room upgrade (estimated £20,000). The boiler is still working adequately, but obtaining spare parts if it goes wrong will be difficult. It was recognized that we are accepting risk in delaying boiler replacement until 2019. The vestry endorsed the Maintenance and Refurbishment Plan.

There followed a general discussion on property matters, and a recommendation that the 'Place of Worship Grant Scheme' might allow some reclamation of VAT paid for church structural repairs.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.** James Reed left us at the end of March. The vestry noted with regret that his appointment had not worked out, but acknowledged that these things happen. The vestry also acknowledged James Reed's contribution to the musical life of St Michael's, in particular the Evensong Plus services which had been most successful and had attracted the attendance of significant numbers of people outside the St Michael's community.

It was agreed that we would not advertise for a replacement Director of Music straight away, but rather reflect on our musical aspirations for a while. The Rector stressed the importance of obtaining proper CV and references when we start a recruitment process.

Locum organist cover will be required from 2nd April. There are a number of candidates, and a roster needs to be arranged. The Rector formally delegated this responsibility to the vestry.

**BISHOPS LENT APPEAL 2017.** The Lent Appeal this year is in aid of the Scottish Refugee Council. It was agreed that retiring collections would take place after the Evensong Plus service on 12th March and on Palm Sunday.

**HELENSBURGH CHILD CONTACT CENTRE.** The Vestry had endorsed an application for a £1,000 grant in aid of the Helensburgh Child Contact Centre submitted to the SEC Development Team for Imaginative Outreach. The Child Contact Centre, located in Helensburgh Parish Church and supported ecumenically, provides a safe venue for children to meet with 'non-resident'

## Vestry Report (continued)

parents. The grant application was successful.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** Monday 8th May, Monday 3rd July and Monday 4th September  
*Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary*

## Mothers' Union

We have had a number of interesting meetings recently. Alex Holmes from EAPPI came along to tell us of the work of that organisation in Palestine which was both moving and fascinating.

The Douglass family entertained us with their teaching visits to Zululand and Becky Haldane from the Seamen's Society gave us an insight of what it's like to be a sailor with the Merchant Navy. We also found out about Alli Energy.

We remember with regret the passing of Jim Murdoch who gave us such an inspirational talk last Autumn.

We will finish off the year in May with a talk from Volunteers at the Vale of Leven on Tuesday 2 May at 1.45 pm; we are planning an outing on Thursday 18 May to Oban and on Saturday 13 May at 2 pm there is our Festival Service in St Cyprian's Lenzie and I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend this event.

Advance Notice: Autumn Council on 7 October.

We haven't been able to hold our Songs of Praise service this year but hope to have it in the Autumn. Anyone who would like to become an enrolled member of MU should let me know so that I can plan our opening service in August/September.  
*Joan Thompson, Branch Leader*

*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*



## CALENDAR FOR MAY

### MAY

#### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

1:45pm MU Vol Volunteers

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Fourth of Easter**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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

#### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Local Eco Network Meeting

Alexandria Parish Church

7:30pm Vestry meeting in Rectory

#### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Rambling Club Spring Programme

#### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

1:45pm Mothers' Union - EAPPI

#### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

May Day of Prayer for Mission Action

Planning, Trinity Chapel All Day

#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Parish Visitation by the Dean

7:00pm Dean presides at Said Eucharist

(1982 Rite), followed by meeting with

Vestry members to discuss Vacancy (see

Page 14) ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND!

#### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

2:00pm MU Festival Service in St.

Cyprian's Lenzie

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May – Fifth of Easter**

START OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

8:00am Said Eucharist (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)

7:00pm Annual Christian Aid Service at

St. Michael's – No Choral Evensong

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Mothers' Union – Trip to Oban

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Sixth of Easter**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Feast-day of the**

**Ascension of Our Lord**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

9:00am Rambling Club – Dams to Darnley

10:30am-12:30pm Messy Church at URC

#### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Seventh of Easter**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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)

(Crèche facility available)

6:00pm Contraflow Youth Praise - No

Evensong

#### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

followed by refreshments

## /JUNE 2017

### JUNE

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June – Feast-day of Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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)

\*Noon Ecumenical Gathering in

Colquhoun Square\*

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Eco-Coffee morning at Helensburgh Parish Church

9:00am Rambling Club – Ben Ledi

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity Sunday**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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 13<sup>th</sup> June**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

June Day of Prayer for Mission Action

Planning, Trinity Chapel All Day

#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June- Feast-day of**

**Thanksgiving for Holy Communion**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June – First after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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 20<sup>th</sup> June**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

#### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

9:00am Rambling Club – Loch Avich

#### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Second after Trinity**

8:00am Said Eucharist (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 Contraflow Youth Praise - No

Evensong

\*NB. Evensong restarts in September\*

#### **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

#### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

7:00pm Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

\*NB: The Rector's Office Hour on Tuesday morning has been cancelled because it has been so little used.

If you wish to speak with The Rector please come to the Trinity Chapel on a Tuesday for 11.30am and let The Rector know you wish to speak with him. Thank you for your co-operation\*

## Eco-congregation

'God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.....' It is the world which He has created which is the object of God's love and care. He saw that it was good, and He rested on the seventh day. In the Incarnation and Resurrection this Easter, we reflect on this all-inclusive nature of our faith. We humans have utterly spoiled the Creation of God and are on the point of destroying it by our greed and arrogant faith in our ability to fashion it in ways we think best for ourselves. But God has come to our rescue through His own pain and suffering and we are, once more, free to live the kind of life in and through relationship with the rest of Creation, which we were intended to live. It was made quite clear in the Old Testament that it is a Cosmic Covenant. The wind and oceans, mountains and streams, stars and planets, all animals and created things share the duty to praise God and flourish as He intended. In a kingdom of peace and justice, and plenty for all, we are only, as it were, the conductor of the orchestra. This Cosmic Covenant has been restored to us, we have been forgiven for the horrors we have inflicted on ourselves, other animals, and the natural world. But we must come back to obedience to God's moral law which runs right through Creation. The Old Testament has many clear instructions about the use of land, natural resources, and how to relate to animals and care for them, so that all may share in the ultimate purpose of it all. There can be no order or beauty or truth in life without purpose. and there can be no purpose without morality which is the fountain of order in human social life. Professor Brian Cox declared recently that we are living in a 'post truth' society, and that his own profession of science, cannot exist without a love for truth. But as Christians we have just witnessed (on Good Friday) that Truth requires sacrifice.

Let us follow the example of the Amish. You can tell where the Amish farm land starts and the neighbouring farmer's land ends, because the Amish land is green and healthy, while the farmer who uses modern methods of heavy chemical and pesticide use and over works his soil, has had to give up farming altogether, because his land has become a desert, unable to provide food for his own or anyone else's needs. The Amish (originally a German Protestant sect) obey God's commandments. They are not against all technology or even all chemistry, and some use solar panels for energy, but they observe nature carefully, knowing that God has provided the answer to all their problems in His Providence, and have been able to solve problems with insects and diseases by natural and harmless methods. That is how all communities should work. There

## Eco-congregation (continued)

is far more to say about this, but you are busy with other matters and I only wanted to point out that our faith is strictly relevant to the problems faced by our world today, and to create a God-worshipping community is still, as it always has been, the answer to our problems. Helensburgh is often described as having a good community spirit. But we must not forget that that is based on belief in God and His worship. We have lost a lot of churches because faith has gone out of fashion in Western culture. We think we can depend on our own cleverness. That has failed totally. Let us make sure that in Helensburgh at least, we know where our ultimate loyalty lies, and why.

### **DATES TO BEAR IN MIND:**

Monday 8th May 10:30 am Alexandria Parish church local network meeting.

Sunday 4th June Pentecost Beach clean at Kidston park 2-4 pm. Invite all friends and neighbours. Bring gloves and heavy footwear.

Saturday 10th June Eco-Coffee Morning at Helensburgh Parish Church. Any suggestions for a particular contribution from St Michael and All Angels, please tell me on 636074.

P.S. A faithful Christian gardener died recently, highly regarded for his skills. He could grow roots on a telegraph pole, they joked. *Selina McGeoch*

## Christian Aid Week 14-20 May 2017

British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, Christian Aid Week was launched to help fund this ongoing work. This year is the sixtieth anniversary of Christian Aid Week, and unbelievably, at least one of those Second World War refugees has been a Christian Aid collector over this entire period!

This year the main fundraising event in Helensburgh is a Concert by the Helensburgh Chamber Orchestra, at 7pm on Sunday 7th May, in the Parish Church. Works include the Mozart Piano Concerto, Mendelssohn Songs without Words, and Elgar Serenade for Strings.

St Michael's is hosting the Helensburgh Christian Aid Week Evening Service at 7pm on Sunday 14th May. Other events that people might be interested in are the Fayre, on Saturday 20th May, from 10am to 12 noon, in the Parish Church

## Christian Aid Week (continued)

Halls, (donations for the plant stall would be most welcome), and the traditional Sponsored Swim at 6.30pm on Thursday 18th May, where adults as well as children are encouraged to take part, although the adults could, instead, choose a less public time if they prefer!  
*John Hanks*

## Vacancy Update

### UPDATE ON THE FORTHCOMING VACANCY

Our Rector retires on Sunday 1st October, and preparations are underway to fill the vacancy when David moves on from St Michael's. The Vestry has completed the first step in the established Diocesan Vacancy Procedures by completing a draft 'Congregational Profile' which describes what we are and what we do, and will form the basis of the 'Rector Profile' which sets out the kind of person we are looking for to be our next Rector. Diocesan Vacancy Procedure requires that both these documents be approved by the Bishop.

The Dean is conducting a 'visitation' on 11th May and will be meeting with the Vestry that evening to review our 'Congregational Profile' and to discuss the vacancy. We will know more after the Dean's visit, but it has been made clear that the Diocese will appoint a non-stipendiary 'Interim Pastor' to temporarily fill the vacancy until a full-time Rector is appointed, and that recruitment cannot start until David has retired.

Some members of the St Michael's community have suggested that recruitment should start earlier. Whilst this idea seems reasonable, Diocesan Procedure is clearly designed to slow the process down, to allow a period of reflection and for the congregation to '*consider and discern what the future direction and challenges may be for their church and ministry*'.

The Vestry will continue to lead on this process, but will need input from the St Michael's community. So please do think about the future direction of St Michael's and share your ideas with Vestry members.

*Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary*

## Robbie Cornish and Mothers' Union

As I mentioned during the Mothering Sunday morning Eucharist, I received a phone call from Maurice Cornish to tell me of a donation he had made to Mothers' Union on behalf of his late wife Robbie and in memory of her time here in St Michael's as Branch

## Robbie Cornish (continued)

Leader. It would have taken too long to read out the letter he subsequently sent me but the following contains some extracts:

'St Michael's Mothers' Union was started in 1998 by Hilary Geddes, the wife of an army officer and a previous member elsewhere. Her husband, Gordon, was moved south about 18 months later and Robbie, one of the founder members, probably with a little reluctance, took over as leader. She completed Hilary's period of office and then continued for two more three year periods, subsequently handing over to Jean Carter in 2006.

As a result of very welcome help from both Maggie and David Sheen and Margaret and Richard Horrell, I recently visited Mary Sumner House during the course of a short stay in London. I was able to make a donation to the MU to commemorate Robbie's affection for and commitment to your organisation, and this will be offered up, together with others, at a service in their own chapel, probably just before Mothering Sunday and her name will be entered in a book of Remembrance held there. I can warmly recommend a visit to Mary Sumner House should any of you be in London. It is only a short walk to the East of Westminster Abbey, with a very youthful staff and an impressive Chief Executive who I met with others at midday prayers.

Robbie is also commemorated in an electronic depiction of the stars which is held in the Edinburgh Portrait Gallery, in the constellation Cassiopeia and thanks to the warmth of feeling of my Scottish seafaring friends, in two rose bushes alongside the entrance path to our church here at St Augustines.

Although Robbie only lived here for 8 months she attended an excellent Homegroup which meets fortnightly, (I have now taken her place) and a common reference to her was 'Robbie was special'. She only missed attending church here for her last two Sundays.

Our church is of a similar age to St Michael's and is fortunate enough to have a small garden on three sides, On the North side is a memorial garden and in April last year at a lovely private service Robbie's ashes were interred and a simple stone of Welsh slate marks them. Should any of you be in this area I would be very pleased indeed to greet you. We have an absolutely terrific rector, Lisa Burnett, who recently returned after a second maternity leave. She has 3 year old girl twins and a lovely boy born last June. Her opening words on her first Sunday back were 'Oh, I do love this job and I'm so glad to be back!'

Finally both my family and I would like to say how much we have appreciated the continuing contact with so many of you and Robbie herself felt very sustained during her later illness by being aware of your thoughts and prayers.'

*Joan Thompson*



## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

### WALKS MAY TO 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
9-12 <sup>th</sup> May	Various	Separate Programme	Richard Horrell 01436 676936
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Moderate	Dams to Darnley	Jo Scott 01389 849145
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Hard	Ben Ledi	James Ashby 01436 675541
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Moderate	Loch Avich	Richard Horrell 01436 676936
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Moderate	Arran (tbc)	Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Hard Moderate	Ben na Lap Loch Ossian	Richard Horrell 01436 676936
12 <sup>th</sup> August		TBD	Frankie Hanmer 01436 678490
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Moderate /Hard	Ochils/ Glen Devon	James Ashby 01436 675541
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)

## LECTIONARY – MAY/JUNE 2017

Sunday	Eucharist	Evensong
7 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Ezra 3:1-17 Luke 19:37-48 Psalm 81:8-16
14 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	No Evensong Christian Aid Service
21 <sup>st</sup> May Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Zechariah 8:1-13 John 21:1-14 Psalm 45
28 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14+5:6-11 John 17:1-11	No Evensong Youth Praise
4 <sup>th</sup> June Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23	Joel 2:21-32 Luke 24:44-53 Psalm 139:1-12
11 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity	Isaiah 40:12-17+27-31 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	Isaiah 6:1-8 John 16:5-15 Psalm 104:1-9
18 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 1	Exodus 19:2-8a Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8	1 Samuel 21:1-16 Luke 11:14-28 Psalm 39
25 <sup>th</sup> June Trinity 2	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39	No Evensong Youth Praise
*NB: Choral Evensong begins again in September*		

## Ben Bellamy

Dear Rambling Club and church Friends. Just a note to say many, many, thanks for all your good wishes and cards for my 90th birthday celebrations. The lunch in Cardross golf club was an event to be remembered with no less than 34 good friends. Many thanks for Jo Scott who very thoughtfully organised the event. It was very much appreciated.

Best wishes and God bless you all.

Ben

## READERS' LIST – MAY/JUNE 2017

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
7 May	Penny Johnston	John Lewis	Joan Sadden
14 May	Nigel Allan	Michael Blake	Margaret Gilbert
21 May	John MacCallum	John Hanks	Penny Johnston
28 May	Chris Sanders	Chris Packard	Contraflow
4 Jun	Selina McGeoch	Julie Siemens	Maurice Steuart-Corry
11 Jun	Henry Douglas	Helen Gibson	Maureen McCormack
18 Jun	Penny Johnston	Susan Lewis	David Ronald
25 Jun	Nigel Allan	Richard Smith	Contraflow

## Inspires Magazine

Two years ago, when Inspires Magazine was relaunched, the Church's Information & Communication (I&C) Board set about producing a publication that exemplified the reflective and inspirational aspects of the Scottish Episcopal Church – a magazine worthy of its name. The relaunch in 2015 initiated a two-year review period in which to assess the viability of inspires magazine as a print production and communication tool. The I&C Board then considered a cost/benefit analysis of the magazine. The board agreed that it had reached the point at which inspires was no longer viable as a print publication.

An inspires-style website will be launched. The board discussed possibilities of a shorter (maximum eight A4 pages) free printed overview of events and comments upon the life of the church to be issued two or three times a year. Other options are also being looked at.

The plan is to produce one final inspires this year, and use this as an introduction to the future online facility. It is hoped that this will be published in early May. We will be contacting current subscribers to the magazine regarding all of this.

*The Rev Chris Mayo, Convener, I&C Board*

### **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	

### **Contact People/Organisers**

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.