

January and February 2019
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)

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite) followed by refreshments
Crèche and Young Church

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesdays

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite) followed by refreshments

For dates of services please see Diary (Page 12) inside



ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

Interim Bishop: The Most Revd Mark Strange,

Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Primus

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

Clergy and Staff

Rector: **The Revd Dominic Ind**
The Rectory, 16 William Street,
Helensburgh G84 8BD 01436 670297
ind.dominic@gmail.com

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

Secretary to the Vestry..... Nick Davies
The Copse, Donaldson’s Brae,
Kilcreggan G84 0JB 842060
nickandjaned@btinternet.com

Property Convener..... Vacant

Treasurer..... Janina Duncan
Deepdene, 119 West Clyde St.
Helensburgh G84 8ET 0741 256 7154
janinaduncan@drymen.com

Stewardship Convener..... John Lewis 07870 321834

Lay Representative..... Richard Horrell 676936

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

Website: www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk/
Email: info@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsheleensburgh/>

From the Rector

At this time of year in Scotland, we focus on Robert Burns (25th January) and here’s a famous verse from, To a Louse, which he wrote in the Scots dialect in 1786.

“O wad some Pow’r the giftie gie us,
To see oursels as ithers see us!”
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
An’ foolish notion:
What airs in dress an’ gait wad lea’e us,
An’ ev’n devotion!

Some might struggle with this, so here it is in Standard English:

“Oh would some Power give us the gift.
To see ourselves as others see us!
It would from many a blunder free us,
And foolish notion:
What airs in dress and gait would leave us,
And even devotion.”

One interpretation of this is that Burns is contemplating how horrific this pious woman would be if she knew there was a common parasite in her hair!

However, the poem is famous because of the line, “To see ourselves as others see us!” To a louse, we’re all equal prey and that we may not be so pretentious if we actually saw ourselves through each other’s eyes.

In Lowland Scots; “We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s bairns” – a well known phrase in our part of the world. We could also say “We are all God’s children.” These are statements of egalitarian sentiments. In the Gaelic it’s the same idea : “Clann MhicTamhais.”

As we once again celebrate Burns at the beginning

MESSENGER

January/February 2019

Contents
From the Rector 3
News..... 4
Notices..... 4
Vestry Report..... 5
Rector’s AGM Report..... 9
Calendar..... 12
Mothers’ Union..... 14
Eco-Congregation..... 15
Calling All Knitters..... 16
The Bravest Eight..... 16
Retreat Day..... 18
House Communions..... 19
Something Old, Something New..... 19
Rambling Club..... 20
Lectionary..... 21
Readers List..... 22
Images..... 22

March/April 2019 Edition
Handing in Sunday 10th Feb
Publication Sunday 24th Feb

May/June 2019 Edition
Handing in Sunday 14th Apr
Publication Sunday 28th Apr

For an email copy please contact the Editor.

Please send your contributions to: -

Richard Smith
21 The Soundings,
Clynder,
Helensburgh G84 0QL
Tel: 01436 831 644

richard.jianping@hotmail.com

From the Rector (Continued)

of the year, may the Ayrshire bard remind us of what it is to be human and we're not that different from each other. It is indeed a gift to see ourselves as others see us and generally helps us mature as human beings. I hope as many of you as possible are able to attend our Burns Supper on Friday 8th February.

Dom Ind, Rector

News

The Cover picture this month shows the Tea Bag Angel in front of the High Altar decorated for Advent. Many thanks to Chris Packard for this photograph.

Wishing all our Readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year, again as this edition will be available from 23rd December.

Richard Smith, Editor

Notices

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING There is no January Coffee Morning. The February Coffee Morning will be held at Maureen and Brian Kyle's house, 2a East Montrose Street, Helensburgh at 10:30am on the 7th February tel: 679352. *Maureen Kyle*

SIDESPERSIONS' The number of people acting as sidespersons at the 8.00 and 10.30 services is falling, if anyone would like to join this rewarding activity, please contact Chris Sanders on 678028 *Chris Sanders*

ST MICHAELS BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Friday 8th February in the URC hall, 1845 for 1900. Tickets £15 per person, available from social committee members. Traditional musical entertainment. Bring your own whisky! *John Hanks*

RETREAT DAY AT ST MICHAELS

Saturday 16th February from 10:30am to 3:00pm in the Church. Lighting the way, a quiet day in St. Michael's. See page 18 for details. *Lorna Douglas*

Vestry Report Dec 18/Jan 19

The Vestry met on 6th November, and after an opening prayer, the Rector opened the meeting:

RECTOR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: There had been a change of gear since he had returned from holiday, with a move towards a more pastoral role. He felt that he had now really arrived. Secondly, the 1030 service on Sunday 4th November seemed to be a manifestation of priest and people really 'getting it together', building on the powerful 'All Souls' service of the previous Friday evening.

ECUMENICALISM. The Rector observed that the reality of ecumenicalism in Helensburgh was that only 3 denominations plus the HMNB Clyde chaplaincy participate. He pointed out that we have a busy period of ecumenical activity ahead. There is an ecumenical service at the Parish Church on Christmas Eve. The Parish Minister had asked the Rector to introduce an ecumenical Healing Ministry, starting at 1730 on January 18th in the Parish Church. It will be non-eucharistic, it will include 'laying of hands', there will be candles, and be accompanied by Taize music.

DOMESTICS. The rectory garden is taking shape with Joan Sadden having made a significant contribution, and a team of volunteer patio layers. The rectory itself is in good shape thanks to the excellent work of Mark & Janina Duncan. The few teething problems are getting sorted by the Property Manager.

SCHOOLS. The Rector had visited a number of local schools to offer his support with mixed results. Parklands School for special needs has asked him to be their chaplain and he will lead their Christmas service. There is a useful link with 'Riding for the Disabled' to which he has recently committed his services.

CONTACT WITH WIDER COMMUNITY. The very successful Glasgow City Chorus concert in October had attracted an audience of 150, including many non-church goers, and therefore a good 'outreach' evolution. A discussion took place about advertising, and it was agreed that we would maximise our use of available media outlets for special events.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS. We need 4 additional Eucharistic Ministers, and we have 4 volunteers: Richard Smith, Richard Horrell, Lorna Douglas, Anna Ind. In response to a request for Vestry endorsement, it was confirmed that the 4 volunteers had full Vestry support. The names will now go forward to the Dean.

Vestry Report (continued)

ADVENT LITURGY: The proposed Advent Liturgy had been distributed to Vestry members in advance of the meeting. The Rector pointed out that there is rather more singing in this Liturgy, but it wouldn't extend the duration of services. His aim is to bring colour and variety to services.

The Rector explained that the proposed Liturgy is one that he has used before. The source documents are the 1982 Scottish Liturgy, and 2000 Common Worship (Times & Seasons) and (Festivals). He said that in former times, Liturgy simply came from the Prayer Book, but nowadays there is more variance. There is a lot of Anglican material available.

The draft Liturgy had been seen by the Dean who had said that he was broadly content, there being nothing significantly questionable. He had suggested re-arranging the introductory bullet points to separate administrative and spiritual matters. He had also made an observation about the use of Common Worship. The Dean had directed that the Vestry should have the opportunity to discuss the draft, and if the Vestry was content, he would then pass the draft to the Bishop for final approval.

A detailed discussion took place. The Vestry welcomed the inclusion of the Benedictus, noting that there is no Gloria in Advent. The Rector stated that the 'Bernadette Farrell' version is a good tune, and allayed fears that it might be difficult to master.

The Rector explained the introduction to the Intercessions, noting that 'watchfulness' is very appropriate to Advent, as are references to 'light and darkness' which adds colour. The Fraction uses the word 'Kingdom' which is another Advent theme. The Advent wreath is to be lit just before the Peace, when 'Young Church' rejoin the service. The Kyrie also reflects Advent.

The Lord's Prayer will be sung. This requires the modern version as the traditional form does not fit the tune. If it works, we might do the same during Lent.

The 'penitential' nature of Advent was discussed, and it was agreed to add in the 1982 Confession to reflect this, then sing the Kyrie, then Absolution.

It was agreed that the Advent Liturgy book should have a purple cover. A note to make posture advisory was added (reflecting earlier concerns expressed by senior members of the congregation to the Vestry about the length of standing time at services)

Vestry Report (continued)

With the changes agreed, the Vestry enthusiastically endorsed the draft Advent Liturgy, which was subsequently approved by the Bishop.

CRIBFEST: The Vestry had recorded their approval of and support for the Cribfest organized by the MU. Noting that this is more of an 'outreach' event than a fundraiser, it was nonetheless agreed that any funds raised would be split equally between church funds and the MU.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: The Hon Treasurer delivered an update. The significant major bill paid recently is £4390 for exterior painting. We received a £5,000 Mrs. Hunter legacy, and a VAT refund of £2,248. The Choral concert raised £1012, half of which came to the church. An application had been made to the Miss Bell Trust. The Treasurer is now operating a new and simpler financial accounting package, which was warmly welcomed by the Vestry.

PROPERTY MATTERS: The Property Manager had submitted a report.

The exterior redecoration had been completed to a good standard. Redecoration of the top floor of the Rectory is in hand and forced ventilation has been installed in the bathroom. The church roof and rainwater system has been checked ready for winter, with some work potentially required to flashings between chancel and main church. Fire extinguisher and lightning conductor checks are scheduled to take place.

The boiler has been serviced. The Property Manager stressed that the boiler is old and spare parts are scarce. We are running on the 'standby' water pump, and when it fails we will have no heating. The boiler has had to be 'down-rated' because running it at higher capacity sets off the gas emission alarm. A modern boiler will be more economical and could be run in such a way as to keep the church warmer every day with consequential benefit to the walls which never currently dry out properly. His strong recommendation is that we should replace the boiler next summer.

The Property Manager had submitted a list of projects for Vestry consideration: Redecoration of rectory exterior; Redecoration of upper hall including replacement of notice boards; Upgrade of lower kitchen area; Formation of larger rectory car parking area and possible installation of garage or car port; Partial rebuild and repointing of rectory boundary wall.

After discussion, the Vestry agreed in principle that the boiler should be replaced

Vestry Report (continued)

in the summer of 2019. The Property Manager was invited to scope the project and obtain prices for consideration at the Vestry meeting in the New Year.

The Vestry agreed that something needs to be done to improve the current rectory car parking arrangement, phase 1 being to sort out the gate, and the Property Manager would work with the Rector to implement a solution.

It was agreed that the Property Manager's list of recommended projects should be an agenda item for the January Vestry meeting. It was noted that we will need to prioritise these projects due to financial constraints.

Noting that the Property Manager has done 5 years' service and will be standing down at the AGM, the Vestry recorded their thanks and appreciation for all he had done for St Michaels'.

PA SYSTEM: Notwithstanding the regular investment we have made in the PA system recently, we are still beset with problems, specifically with the radio system and the hand-held microphones (which are unsanitary). The issues are: signal loss/feedback/speaker hum/antenna failure.

The Vestry were assured that recent investment in the system has not been wasted. The amplifier works well. The 'Loop System' is 'state of the art'. The speakers are all good quality, and the 2 recently acquired face microphones work well. Our problems all relate to the radio system, which is old VHF technology, and further investment in the current radio system would be a waste of money. The recommended solution is to switch to a UHF system at a cost of around £2,000 inc VAT.

It was agreed that we have a responsibility to ensure that the congregation should be able to hear properly, including intercessions led by different members of the congregation with varying ability to 'throw their voice'. We must also remember that some are hard of hearing. The recommended switch to a UHF system was agreed, and Richard Smith was invited to investigate further.

SAFEGUARDING: The Vestry is required to consider 'safeguarding' at every meeting. There were no issues to report.

DIOCESAN DESCRIPTION. We have been sent a paper copy of the Diocesan Description, a supporting document for the recruitment of our next Bishop. The document is available at the back of the church.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Vestry Report (continued)

SUMMARY OF THE AGM SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER.

The AGM was attended by 58 members of the congregation.

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts are available on the St Michaels website.

4 Vestry members stood down, and the following replacements were elected:

Maureen McCormick, Joan Thomson, David Ronald, Graham Kinder.

Richard Horrell was elected as Lay Representative, with Richard Smith as the Alternate and Margaret Wardil as the 2nd Alternate.

The congregation were reminded that we need a volunteer to take over from Derek Spall as Property Manager. *Nick Davies, Hon. Secretary*

Rector's AGM Report

2018 has been quite a year for the life of this congregation. Many in Helensburgh would know that St. Michael's has been celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. The first weekend of May was particularly busy – events planned; special services – this anniversary has been well kept. Particularly impressive as St. Michael's was in the middle of an interregnum!

So a vacancy, which is a challenge in most charges. The business of selecting a new rector and often or not it involves considerable work on the plant not least the rectory. At a deeper level a congregation is asked to think about themselves as a church; what they're about; how they relate to the wider community and so on. These are serious questions and time should be taken in trying to answer them.

The selection process itself ran remarkably smoothly – well done St. Michael's Vestry! Two candidates were interviewed and the local lad was appointed – the Institution was on Saturday 4th August with Bishop Gregor, the then Bishop of Glasgow & Galloway, presiding and the former Primus, Bishop David preaching.

Throughout August I spent each Sunday talking about the Eucharist and Eucharistic Liturgy and how we understand ourselves as a Eucharistic community. It really is very simple and the core of what we do. It asks the question, how do we as Scottish Episcopalians exercise our Christian faith? Answer, we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and then we depart to serve. Connecting with the Divine and service – it is what we are about and St. Michael's

Rector's AGM Report (continued)

is here principally to offer that. A vibrant worshipping community which strives to put love into action.

It is invariably dangerous to mention names, knowing that you will immediately leave others out but I'd like to mention some who I have worked closely with during my first 4/5 months. The first is Kevin Boak, our Lay Reader and what a Lay Reader! Over the years I've been blessed with dedicated and hard working Lay Readers but Kevin is in a different category. I don't think he would mind me mentioning that when Anna and I moved in, Kevin and Joy dropped off a card with the message - we're here to support you in your ministry. That's very pleasant I thought – kind words. In reality, they really did mean it – we're here to support you in your ministry! They have been outstanding and working directly with Kevin has been a real pleasure. We split the preaching roughly 50:50 because as I said to Kevin, a Lay Reader is called to preach and teach. Kevin officiates at Evensong every other Sunday; leads the Prayer Group on a Tuesday morning and leads our intercessions at the midweek Eucharist – that's the tip of the iceberg. Kevin is an outstanding colleague and I am delighted to be working with him at St. Michael's.

Another person I've had much to do with in these early months is Nick Davies. Nick and Jane have been very hospitable to Anna and I, making us feel welcome in this part of Argyll as well as being thoroughly efficient with the likes of the Agenda and Minutes. One or two slightly complex issues to sort out and Nick brings wisdom and humour – both ideal when involved in the running of a voluntary organization! Nick and Jane are excellent links across the loch and I know they have a pastoral ministry here at St. Michael's as well as where they live. Thank you to our hard working Vestry secretary and our secretary to the secretary ...

With our Treasurer, I first met Janina in the context of work being done in the rectory, rather than as St. Michael's Treasurer. At the time, I hadn't fully grasped Janina's breadth of talent. I rapidly discovered her expertise at interior design and Mark's ability to turn those ideas into reality. Between them they do a great job on houses and can't be thanked enough for what they have done in the rectory. As Treasurer, another of Janina's skills, she has quietly and efficiently sorted out a system of paying the stipend and expenses, in the most painless fashion possible. Janina thank you for being our Treasurer and exercising this quite demanding task with such good grace.

Two others I'd like to mention and the first is Richard Smith, who has taken over

Rector's AGM Report (continued)

from Maggie Sheen as our Lay Representative. Officially we attend the North West Regional Council and as we have an episcopal vacancy in this diocese, we are part of the Electoral Synod. Richard though does much more, ranging from sorting out the audio system; to being Editor of The Messenger and no small task, producing the service sheet each week, once Kevin and I have our tuppence worth! Richard goes to great lengths to serve this church. Often unseen and therefore not thanked on a regular basis. On behalf of the congregation, a big thank you to all the grafting you do behind the scenes.

The last person to mention by name is Derek Spall, our Property Convener, who I have to say, I've seen a lot of through the summer and autumn! This is a major plant and requires constant attention and there are all those teething bits to sort out when a new rector moves in. We have been rattling through the jobs and our church and rectory are now fit for purpose; I know work still needs to be done in the halls but this year we've put a new server in the Upper Hall and we also have new chairs. Derek has worked with considerable professionalism and we are most grateful for the 5 years he has given to St. Michael's in this capacity.

By Pisky standards and actually by most British Church standards in 2018, we are quite a large and active congregation. The fact that for 9 months of the year, we have 3 services on a Sunday, 2 of which are choral. If you take away our cathedrals in Scotland and then see how many charges still have a Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong; you will realise what a select band we are in. Running a church like this takes a considerable amount of time, money and energy.

Many of you work extremely hard and are so generous with your skills and finances. Our choir is so loyal often or not turning up twice on a Sunday to sing; we have a pool of organists who go beyond when they need to with the choir. These are hard working people giving their best to God. There are many others from leading the largest MU in the Diocese; to overseeing our website and social media; an excellent social committee; from those who clean to those who lead the Young Church. It's a long list and I hope it gives you a sense of wholesome pride belonging to this congregation.

For years now, wherever I've been serving, at each AGM I like to acknowledge the work done by my spouse; for all that Anna does to enable me to exercise my ministry and for the very distinctive ministry which she herself has. Anna has numerous skills and this is the fourth rectory she has graced. As a cradle Pisky, who has served the Church in numerous capacities, as Treasurer *Contd.../P 14*

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

JANUARY

Sunday 6th January – The Epiphany

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 8th January – Feria

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

Wednesday 9th January

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

Thursday 10th January

10:30am Mothers' Union – Audrey Baird – Health and wellbeing network

Saturday 12th January

10:00am Rambling Club - Duchess Wood

Sunday 13th January – Baptism of Christ

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
9:30-10:10am Young Church
9:30-10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 15th January – Feria

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
2:30pm Bible Study Group
6:30pm Vestry meeting in Lower Hall

Wednesday 23rd January

2:30pm Peninsula House Communion

Sunday 20th January – Christian Unity

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
11:00am Joint Service at Helensburgh URC
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 22nd January – Feast-day of Vincent, Deacon and Martyr

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
3:00pm Cardross House Communion

Thursday 24th January

10:30am Mothers' Union – Ivan Thompson

Saturday 26th January

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

Sunday 27th January – Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 29th January - Feast-day of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Teacher

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
2:30pm Bible Study Group

Change of Timing

/FEBRUARY 2019

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2nd February

9:00am Rambling Club – Drymen circular walk

Sunday 3rd February – Candlemas

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 5th February – Feast-day of St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
1:30pm MU - NHS Minor Ailment Service

Thursday 7th February

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning

Friday 8th February

6:45pm St. Michael's Burns Night Supper in the URC hall, 6:45 for 7:00pm

Sunday 10th February – Fourth before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 12th February - Feria

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
2:30pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 14th February

10:30am Mothers' Union – Sheila Baker

Saturday 16th February

9:00am Rambling Club – Loch Ard
10:30am Retreat Day at St. Michael's see Page 18

Sunday 17th February - Third before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 19th February - Feria

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
2:30pm Cardross House Communion
6:30pm Vestry meeting in Lower Hall

Wednesday 20th February

2:30pm Peninsula House Communion

Saturday 23rd February

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

Sunday 24th February-Second before Lent

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)
10:30-11:15am Young Church
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

Tuesday 26th February – Feast-day of George Herbert, Priest and Poet

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
2:30pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 28th February

10:30am Mothers' Union – Presentation of MU activities

Rector's AGM Report (continued)

and Secretary to name but two, Anna has a wealth of experience which she offers wholeheartedly. I am extremely grateful that she is at my side as we both engage in full time Christian Ministry here.

What Anna and I have been doing together in Helensburgh and further afield, is visiting members of St. Michael's. In spite of the frustration of the way houses are numbered or not numbered in Helensburgh (!); this has proved to be a most enjoyable experience. It's a great privilege to enter people's homes and hear their stories. People have been generous with their hospitality and more importantly, open about what they want to share. Rarely have we had a sense of people holding back. There has been honesty and trust and a real sense of engagement – Anna and I have responded in kind. There are still many homes to visit and that will be an on-going project through 2019.

On a personal note; I wish to say that never have I had such a strong sense of calling to a particular place, as to this town of Helensburgh and the surrounding area. As they say – it was meant to be! Anna and I have rapidly made this our home – you no longer need to ask have we settled in – we're in!

Petertide this year was my 28th anniversary of ordination and the vocation to serve as a priest is as strong as it has ever been. Anna and I have an overwhelming sense of being at home here and I'm delighted to celebrate the sacraments with you here in St. Michael's and be the rector of what is a large geographical area.

Not every rector may say this about his/her charge, but I say it with confidence, that I am optimistic about our future, being a Christian family, which is taking seriously the response to God's love. May we as a community at St. Michael's acknowledge our spiritual journey and as spiritual beings actively engage in it.

Dominic Ind, Rector



This year's Crib Festival was even more successful than last year, possibly because of the publicity about the Tea-Bag Angel in the press, more than 400 children and adults came to visit the church during the week. At least £200 was donated which will be divided between Mothers' Union and the Church. Thanks to Barbara Hoey and Joan Thompson who co-ordinated the contributions of the

Mothers' Union (continued)

cribs (they represented many different countries) and to all those who volunteered in the church while it was open and especially those who entertained the visitors on the organ and piano.

The Mothers' Union meetings will now be on Thursday mornings at 10.30 only and NOT Tuesday afternoon. The first meeting will be on Thursday January 10th when Audrey Baird will talk about the Health and Wellbeing Network. On January 24th Ivan Thompson will be giving a talk about his career in teaching. On February 7th Sheila Baker will talk about small churches around the world. On February 21st there will be a presentation about Mothers' Union Activities. All members of the congregation are welcome to join us for any of these meetings.

Richard Horrell, MU Branch Leader



Ann Packard recently attended a "Love food, Hate waste" seminar at St Stephens Church in Glasgow. She learned quite a few interesting facts which, at the risk of telling "my granny

how to suck eggs", thought she would share with Messenger readers.

Shockingly 1/3 of food production is wasted and 1/2 of that waste is DOMESTIC. Much of this could be avoided by checking labels, using freezers well, having a shopping list and STICKING to it!

Using up leftovers--they can be kept in the fridge for 2 days

Bread goes stale 6 times quicker in the fridge but keeps 6 months in the freezer. Most loaves are too large for economic use by one or two people but freezing in smaller batches of a few slices makes sense for ease of use.

The freezer is your friend! You can freeze: Eggs and also bananas for 6 months, soft cheese (ie Brie) and also cooked pasta for 3 months, yoghurt for 1 month. Green beans for 12 months and also raw chicken for 12 months.

Which food stays fresher in the fridge? Grapes, broccoli, carrots.

Which do not keep well in the fridge? Potatoes, onions, melon or pineapple.



Your Eco congregation group will report in the next Messenger on the United Nations Climate Change Discussions which are ongoing until Dec.14th. Ahead of that is a quote from the UN's Climate Chief who said,

"The effects of Climate Change impacts in one area of the world are not just felt there. That impact ripples outward and is felt Continents away. We are all connected."
Margaret Horrell

Calling all knitters!

Each year from January till Easter I spend the dark cold winter evenings snuggled up knitting hats for premature babies for a friend of mine who runs the charity 'So Precious.' The charity is the brainchild of Alison Kilgour of Bridge of Allan, whose son Liam was rushed to the neonatal unit at Stirling Royal Infirmary following several seizures shortly after he was born. You can look up her website if you're interested – www.so-precious.co.uk

You get approx. three hats from a single 100gm ball of wool. Anyone wishing to knit some please see me for a copy of the 'very' simple pattern.

Thank you.

Anna Ind

From Diocesan News

The Bravest Eight

AWARD-WINNING UKULELE SINGER-SONGWRITER REVEREND JIM TO RELEASE NEW SINGLE IN AID OF PENLEE RNLI

Ukulele singer-songwriter and one of our own priests - the Reverend Jim Benton-Evans will release his new single live on Liskeard Radio at 8 pm on 19 December. The song, entitled, "The Bravest Eight" is a tribute to the crew of the Penlee lifeboat, "Solomon Browne", who gave their lives trying to rescue the crew and passengers of the bulk carrier, "Union Star". All proceeds from the single will be donated to Penlee RNLI.

The Bravest Eight (continued)

Jim, who performs and records regularly, now lives in Glasgow, but is originally from Bodmin. He wrote "The Bravest Eight" at the start of the year, as he began thinking about songs for his second album. It has become a staple of his live set, but until now has not been recorded.

Liskeard Radio were alerted to a live version of the song by a fan, and Jim agreed to record a version of it in time for broadcast on the anniversary of the tragedy, 19 December. After the broadcast it will be available to download, with all proceeds going to Penlee RNLI.



Reverend Jim said, "The song has had a wonderful reception wherever I've played it – even among people who don't remember or don't know about the tragedy. I feel very humble and honoured to have been asked to do this and hope that people both enjoy my little song and, more importantly, are able to contribute to such an important cause in memory of such extraordinary heroes".

"The Bravest Eight" is an entirely original song written by the Rev Jim Benton-Evans, Priest-in-Charge of the East End Team Ministry - three churches (St John's Baillieston; St Serf's Shettleston and St Kentigern's Dennistoun) in Glasgow's East End. Jim sings and plays baritone and electric ukulele on the track. It was produced by Ross Arthur and recorded at the Sound Cafe, Nine Mile Burn, Penicuik, Scotland. It will be available for download at a minimum cost of £1 (though people are invited to pay more if they wish) from <https://reverendjim.bandcamp.com/track/the-bravest-eight>

Retreat Day

At St Michael and all Angels Church, Helensburgh.



Saturday 16th February 10.30- 15.00

Cost - Donation

Lighting the Way

An inclusive retreat day welcoming all who wish to explore the concepts of 'Light' at this time of year - **Candlemas/Imbolc**

Focusing on the 'Light' that has accompanied you on your life journey, looking at your own inner 'Light' and 'Lighting the way' in the future.

10.30-11.00	Gathering - tea/coffee
11.00-12.30	Retreat
12.30-13.30	lunch (bring a sandwich. Soup will be provided)
13.30-15.00	Retreat continued
15.00	close

Please contact Lorna at lorna.douglas135@btinternet.com

Lorna Douglas

House Communions

Peninsula House Communions will be on Wednesday 23rd January at the Bellamys' house in Portkil and on Wednesday 20th February at the Lidwells' house in Kilcreggan both at 2:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Cardross House Communions will be on Tuesday 22nd January at 2:30pm and on Tuesday 19th February at 2:30pm. Locations to be advised. *Richard Smith*

Something Old, Something New

Saturday October 27th was a cold and frosty night, but St Michael's was filled with warmth, light and music, because, as part of church's sesquicentenary celebrations, the City of Glasgow Chorus had come to sing a wide range of music. Under its conductor, Graham Taylor, the City of Glasgow Chorus has grown in size and standing over the past 30 years, and now has a wide reputation for choral excellence. They give concerts with many orchestras and soloists around Britain, Europe and China. They have around 100 members and, refreshingly, about half of them are in their 20s and 30s.

Before the concert the choir enjoyed a substantial buffet in the hall of home baking and sandwiches, provided by members of the congregation, which was greatly appreciated. The concert programme, conducted by Graham Taylor and accompanied by David Hamilton on the organ, included a selection of works ranging from Vivaldi in 18th Century Venice to Ola Gjeilo a contemporary Norwegian composer. After a rousing start with Zadok the Priest, and an interestingly reflective Lux Aeterna, set to Elgar's Nimrod, we heard works by Howard Goodall, Mascagni and Morten Lauridsen, who currently composes in California. The first half concluded with the Te Deum by Stanford, a highpoint of the Anglican choral tradition.

After an interval when David Hamilton gave a magnificent performance of Widor's Toccata, which showcased the full capabilities of the church organ, the second half started with Schubert's Ave Maria and continued with works by Brahms, Rutter, Handel, Fauré and Mozart, and concluded with another fine work from the English tradition, I Was Glad, by Hubert Parry.

All of us in the packed church left having enjoyed a wonderful evening of inspiring and uplifting music. Many thanks to the Social Committee for organising such an excellent event. *Chris Sanders*

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS JANUARY TO MAY 2019

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	WALK	LEADER
12 th January	Duchess Woods – 10:00am Start	John 675010
2 nd February	Drymen Circular Walk	Maureen 674763
23 rd February	Loch Ard	Sue 675541
9 th March	Cashel Forest	Pete 676959
23 rd March	Carron Valley	John 675010
6 th April	Cornalees Bridge/Greenock Cut	Maureen 674763
27 th April	Craobh Haven Craignish Peninsula	Sue 675541
11 th May	3 Lochs Way	Tbd
14-17 th May	Grantown-on-Spey Walking Holiday	Maureen 674763

The leaders will give more details following a recce and we do try to cater for all tastes. Queries about individual walks to the Leader.

The New Committee team is John Hanks, Maureen Douglass, Sue Ashby and Pete Ashton.

If anyone has a walk, outing or adventure they'd like to have organised, please contact one of the above.

LECTIONARY – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (KJV)
6 th January The Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:10-15 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Psalms 96 & 97 Isaiah 49:13-23 John 2:1-11
13 th January Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17,21-22	<i>Epiphany 1</i> Psalms 45 & 72 Isaiah 48:1-11 John 1:19-34
20 th January Christian Unity (at URC)	Jeremiah 33:6-9a Psalm 100 (said) Ephesians 4:1-6 Matthew 18:19-22	<i>Epiphany 2</i> Psalms 33 & 34 Isaiah 58:1-12 Matthew 17:1-13
27 th January Epiphany 3	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Psalm 19:1-6 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	<i>Epiphany 3</i> Psalms 144 & 145 Isaiah 64 Matthew 18:1-20
3 rd February Candlemas	Malachi 3:1-5 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	<i>Purification of the Virgin Mary</i> Psalm 118 Haggai 2:1-9 Luke 2:15-24
10 th February 4 th Before Lent	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	<i>Epiphany 5</i> Psalm 105 Proverbs 8:10-31 Matthew 20:1-16
17 th February 3 rd Before Lent	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	<i>Septuagesima</i> Psalm 104 Genesis 1:1-27 Revelations 21:9-22:5
24 th February 2 nd Before Lent	Genesis 2:4b-9,15-20 Psalm 65:1-7 Revelations 4 Luke 8:22-25	<i>Sexagesima</i> Psalm 139 Genesis 3:1-20 Matthew 22:1-14

READERS' LIST – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
6 th Jan	Penny Johnston	John Hanks	Maurice Steuart-Corry
13 th Jan	Nigel Allan	Alex Laing	Maureen McCormack
20 th Jan	John McCallum	Chris Packard	Janet Hardy
27 th Jan	Chris Sanders	Julie Siemens	Penny Johnston
3 rd Feb	Liz Sanderson	Helen Gibson	Angela Russell
10 th Feb	Henry Douglass	Richard Smith	Jill Braid
17 th Feb	Penny Johnston	James Ashby	John Sadden
24 th Feb	Nigel Allan	Jill Braid	David Ronald

Images from St. Michael's

Crib Fest



Pet Blessing Service

Church Group Leaders

Contact People/Organisers

Young Church	Samantha (Sammy) Harris	423254
Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
Sidespersons	Chris Sanders	678028
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	Richard Horrell	676936
USPG	Marion Blake	673960
Hall Convener/ Monthly Coffee		
Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Margaret Horrell	676936
Hill walking and Rambling Club	John Hanks	675010
Traidcraft	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Social Committee	John Hanks	675010
Vale of Leven Hospital Tea Bar		
St Michael's Art Group	John MacCallum	673521
Magazine Editor	Richard Smith	831644
Website	Henry Douglass	674763
	Jo Scott	01389 849145

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.