

November and December 2020

THE MESSENGER



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

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

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Sunday Coffee Rota	Margaret Horrell	676936
BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)	Marion Blake	673960
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Richard Horrell	676936
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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.

From the Rector

I wonder how many of us dwell on our human rights. This year I have been giving it rather more thought than usual. 5 years ago, in our islands we celebrated the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta (1215) and in living memory there was the first attempt at fundamental rights and freedoms shared by all human beings (Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948). Only 22 years ago here in the UK, we had the Human Rights Act (1998), protecting our human rights.

In 2020 we have experienced politicians behaving in a way that we might normally associate when our nation is at war. During peace time, it is extraordinary that a Prime Minister and here in Scotland, a First Minister, can have such a direct impact on our daily lives. For those of us who belong to the Church, we are aware that our Government has the power to close religious buildings across the land and we have no say in the matter and ultimately the decision is taken out of our hands. Some have mentioned human rights, our basic rights and freedoms.

Whatever we may think of this current state of affairs, many of us strive to make small sacrifices to serve the greater good; in this instance, protect the elderly and vulnerable. We may say it is the very least we can do. As we contemplate Christmas with celebrations which in all probability will be curtailed; we may take this as an opportunity to peel away some of those Christmas layers and reflect in a deeper way what the Word becoming flesh is about for our society today. What are we celebrating & what does Christ have to say to us in 2020? There is no question that human rights matter, but the birth of the Christ child has more to

MESSENGER

November/December 2020 Contents

From the Rector	1
Notices/News	2
Vestry Report.....	3
Mothers' Union.....	6
Helping Hand	6
Contraflow.....	8
Joan Sadden.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Coffee Money.....	12
Diocesan Update.....	12
Social Programme.....	17
Rambling Club.....	18
Readers List.....	18
House Communion.....	18
Sidespersons' Rota.....	19
Beacon Trust.....	19
Lectionary.....	20

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From the Rector (continued)

communicate than what our rights are.

Anna and I wish you all a very merry Christmas when it comes.

Love,

Dom Ind, Rector

Notices

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING There is nothing arranged as yet. It still seems too soon. Hopefully, we'll be able to resume in the Spring. Watch the notice boards for further information.

Maureen Kyle

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: St. Michael and All Angels' Church continues with 10:30am Sunday Service for limited congregation.

Please contact me by email or the Rectory phone for inclusion on the weekly lists. At present we are restricted to 50 in the service and our regular weekly congregations are around 130, so there may be a little queuing. Changes will occur so please watch the notice boards.

Wednesday morning said Eucharists at 10:30am have already started in the church. There is no need to book and all are welcome.

Dom Ind

FLOWER CONVENER Evanda Yeomans has volunteered to take over as Convener of the Flower Arranging Group for St. Michael's. Thank you and Best Wishes.

Sue Ashby

News

Plenty of changes this month. Our Sunday Service recordings are now functioning properly and are available on the website. Thanks to Richard Horrell for his patience in sorting this out. We have mid-week services again, on Wednesdays at 10:30am, no booking. Evanda Yeomans takes over as Flower Convener from Sue Ashby who has been doing the job since early 2014. Thank you, Sue, for all your hard work. Carol Parry takes over as Chief Sacristan from Joan Sadden, who has been in this role for about a quarter of a century. Thank you, Joan, for all your hard work and also for continuing with your work on the fabrics and the Intercessors' Rota. Gerry Quickfall takes over from John Hanks as contact for the Rambling Club. Thank you, John, for all your work. If I have forgotten anyone working hard for our church and congregation, please forgive me and may you enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Richard Smith, Editor

Vestry Report

The Vestry last met on Tuesday 1st September using 'zoom'. Relevant highlights and subsequent developments were as follows:

1.The Rector made the following points:

a) New Bishop. Bishop Kevin Pearson started in post 1st July and has chaired his first (zoom) Diocesan Council. He will be moving from Oban to the refurbished Bishop's residence in Newlands, S Glasgow, in October.

b) Dumbarton/Alexandria. Revd Heller Gonzales ministry at St Augustine's Dumbarton started on 22nd October, thus releasing the Rector from his Interim Priest role. St Mungo's church Alexandria remains closed and with a small elderly community, it is fragile and its future remains uncertain.

c) Website/Facebook. Aliet Ray-Pelt, Jo Scott, Richard Smith and Richard Horrell have between them done a great job keeping our IT equipment up to date and our profile current and relevant. With our new camcorder we posted the 30th August service on the website.

d) Eco Baby. The Lower Hall and the rectory are full of baby clothes for distribution while we await, with frustration, to be allowed to use the new shop in Drumfork. Nonetheless Eco baby, which is an important 'outreach' activity, has generated lots of interest and some items have been supplied despite virus restrictions.

e) St Michaels community. There have been no known Covid 19 casualties amongst the St Michaels community. St Michaels people are physically ok but there is increasing evidence of mental health issues caused by fear of the virus, confusion about the complicated and continually changing Scottish Govt rules and the general effects of life in lockdown. Responding to this will be a challenge.

f) Harvest. The harvest festival took place on September 20th, the collection went to Christian Aid, with appropriate foodstuff contributions going to the local foodbank.

g) Private prayer and Open Garden events. There had been a good response to the Tuesday morning 'church open for private prayer' sessions (now ceased), and people had very much enjoyed the Sunday afternoon 'garden open' events. The vestry recorded thanks to Barbara Wenbourn, Andrew

Vestry Report (continued)

Lockhart and Joan Thompson for providing the musical background during 'church open' sessions.

2.Church re-opening:

a) St Michaels has been open for Sunday services since 30th August. The govt limit of 50 does not cater for our situation at St Michaels and attendance has had to be rationed. Book your place for the Sunday service by contacting the Rector the week before. Midweek 1030 services started on Wednesday 7th October (no booking required). Virus safety measures are working effectively and people were very clearly pleased to be back.

b) Subject to hygiene precautions being met by the hirer, the vestry approved hall lets to resume. The dance class had been first to express an interest. The resumption of some income from hall lets is welcome.

3.Financial Matters:

a) Sums held in our accounts:- Premium account: £40,012. Current account £10,423. There had been no major transactions.

b) The vestry welcomed the news that several members of the congregation had responded to an appeal by the Rector to pledge by standing order as opposed to putting money in the weekly collection plate.

c) Barbara Hoey had donated £5,000, a generous legacy in memory of Shaun with the proviso that this be spent on the church organ. This will be spent on a video system to assist the organist to co-ordinate musical input during services.

4.Malawi:

a) Although covid 19 has caused a shutdown in Malawi, the building project we are supporting restarted on 14th September. The total Helensburgh donation (rotary & St Michaels) is £2,399. A further £14,000 had been given by private donation, leaving just a little more to raise. Our contribution is now to go to a library building which it was agreed will be named 'Helensburgh House Staffroom'.

Vestry Report (continued)

5.Baby Changing facility:

The vestry approved a proposal to install a basic 'baby change' facility in the disabled toilet, reflecting an occasional demand. Cost estimated at up to £200.

6.Church cleaning:

Rather than rely on the small number of volunteer church cleaners, the vestry approved a proposal to use our contract cleaners to clean the halls and the church in roughly alternate weeks, with volunteers forming a working party as required.

7.Live Streaming of services:

A camcorder plus supporting equipment has been acquired for just under £400 to permit live streaming of services. After the first attempt it was clear that filming techniques needed refining, but the facility will provide some compensation for the 50 limit to Sunday congregations.

8.Gardening Committee:

a) Linda Sanders used to maintain the half barrel planters outside the church and Selina McGeoch had earlier created the garden area adjacent to the lower hall. Thanking both for their efforts, the vestry agreed that we now need to form a 'gardening committee' and is looking for volunteers. Some of the planters are beyond their sell by date and will be replaced.

9.Safeguarding:

a) Many are finding it hard to venture out after lockdown, particularly those living alone. The need to give support and encouragement was highlighted and Joan Thompson is the main POC. Re-opening the church was agreed as a significant encouragement, not just for our congregation, but to the wider community as well.

b) The vestry recognized that difficulties arising from job losses, mental health problems, uncertainty, divorce rates and many other issues arising from the virus situation, all of which present a challenge for the Christian community.

Vestry Report (continued)

The vestry next meets on Tuesday 3rd November. The AGM is Sunday 6th December.

Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary



Although we may not be able to meet as a branch in the hall there are ways of being involved with Mothers' Union and here are two examples :-

Mothers' Union Global Day

As many of you are now aware 5th December marks our first ever Global Day when we will say "No More 1 in 3" in response to the statistic that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience Domestic Abuse in their lifetime. Despite our planned events now taking place virtually this year there is plenty to get involved in! We encourage all members to take part in our virtual protest and there are a number of online events free to attend.

Staying connected through midday prayers

Our UK members who don't have access to the internet at home will still be able to hear our midday prayers thanks to the Church of England's Daily Hope line. Just call 0800 804 8044 from a UK mobile or landline and press option 4, then option 8.

We are still running midday prayers Monday - Saturday on our public Facebook page. Thousands of you have viewed these already, but for those interested and not aware, feel free to watch and comment.

Richard Horrell, MU Branch Leader

Helping Hand

These are difficult times for most of us and we encourage you to reach out to members of the church at this time. Contact with friends is so important just now. If you feel you need help to get to the following resources I am willing to be a listening ear. My phone number is 01436423451 and I will try to point you in the direction that suits you.

For anyone who needs more help with their mental health here are some resources that might help:

Helping Hand (continued)

In the first instance your GP is still working as normal and if you are struggling with your mental health please contact them. If it is out of hours phone NHS 24 on 111 and if you are experiencing an emergency dial 999.

The NHS Inform website (www.nhsinform.scot) also has lots of information on Coronavirus. When there if you search for Coronavirus Your Mental Wellbeing there is information on keeping well and who to contact if you are struggling.

The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) (www.samh.org.uk) has a Coronavirus Mental Health Information Hub which includes contact numbers of helplines.

Argyll and Bute Caring for People Helpline offers emotional support for isolated and vulnerable people on 01546 605524

If you want to speak to someone these numbers are useful (and you do not have to wait until you are in crisis):

The Samaritans (www.samaritans.org) 116 123 (24 hours 7 days a week)

Breathing Space (www.Breathingspace.scot) 0800 83 85 87 (Evenings 6pm to 2am and Friday 6pm to Monday 6am).

Age Scotland (www.ageuk.org.uk) 0800 12 44 222 has a friendship line for older people open Mondays to Friday 9am to 5pm. You can call about anything at all.

For those with relationship difficulties Relate (www.relate.org.uk) offers a range of free counselling services. The number for enquiries is 0300 0030396

For those who find speaking on the telephone difficult Shout (www.giveusashout.org) is a 24/7 crisis text line on text 85258

My thanks to Helen Gibson for compiling the above list.

Joan Thompson, Safeguarding Officer

Contraflow Prayer Letter Autumn 2020



Prayer continues to be the heart of what we do through Contraflow and although times continue to change, we have adapted to different challenges, and will continue to do so in the months to come, and we ask you to join us in prayer for the work that is the happening, the young people of our area and for our community in general.

Midweek Groups

- Pray for our young people and leaders as they begin to meet again in person
- Pray for Helen and the Church Representatives as they work through the guidance and procedures for this to happen safely
- Pray for the young people as they adapt to the new changes in these groups

Schools

- Pray for our pupils and teachers as they continue to navigate a new school life
- Pray for our SU Volunteers, as Helen as meets with them to consider how they might best serve their school
- Pray for young people who are still anxious about being in the school environment

New Possibilities

- Pray for Helen as she considers new methods of working - such as detached working in specific areas of town
- Pray that new creative opportunities would arise within schools, even when Helen cannot be in the school in person.
- Pray that new volunteers would present themselves where & when the need arises

Other

- Pray for Jenny Hamill as she takes on the SU line manager role for Helen, and she covers the West Dunbartonshire area
- With the announcement of Hermitage Academy's Head teacher retiring please pray for a Christian replacement



And Give thanks for: -

- That Helen was able to enjoy with time off and rest after a busy few months
- The positive support of local churches, as we seek to meet again in person
- The good response to the 24hr prayer time - with around 40 people who prayed during the time
- The positive engagement of and feedback from the On-Line Seaside Special

Joan Sadden's work as Chief Sacristan

For three decades Joan Sadden has been Chief Sacristan helping to ensure the smooth running of the services in the church. She and her small team have ensured that every week the vessels and linen for communion services have been carefully prepared and put out and equally carefully washed and put away afterwards.

Being a skilled needlewoman, it has been Joan who has created many of the items used during our services, from Bible markers to altar frontals which signal, by their colours, the Church calendar. And it has been Joan (aided by John in more recent years) who has changed the frontals as the church year has progressed and ensured that the fabrics and vestments are cleaned and maintained in as good condition as possible.

It has been a true labour of love for St Michael's which has enhanced the beauty of the church and its services and one, because of its smooth running, appears so effortless that few would think of all the work involved in the background.

During this time of lockdown, Joan has decided that it is now time to retire from her role although she has most kindly said she is still happy to do the laundering after the services. In this very strange time of Covid-19 with restricted church services, the Sacristan team has been temporarily disbanded, but once we get back to more normal church services and the weekly rotas drawn up again, it is good to know that Joan's expertise is there to guide us if required.

As I prepare to take over from Joan, I am only too aware of the sheer amount of work she has done over the years and for which we are all so very grateful.

Carol Parry



CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st November – All Saints'

Sunday

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Tuesday 3rd November – Feria

6:30pm Vestry Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday 4th November – All Souls'

7:30pm Said Eucharist (1982 rite) no refreshments

Thursday 5th November

No Monthly Coffee Morning

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance

Sunday

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 11th November – Feast-day of Martin of Tours, Bishop, c397

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

Sunday 15th November – Feast Day of Margaret of Scotland, 1093

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 18th November – Feast-day of Elizabeth of Hungary, 1231

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

Sunday 22nd November – Last after Pentecost – Christ the King

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 25th November – Feria

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

Sunday 29th November – First Sunday of Advent

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 2nd December – Feria

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th December – Second Sunday of Advent

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
Church AGM follows the Eucharist in the Church
No Evensong

Wednesday 9th December – Feria

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

Change of Timing

/DECEMBER 2020

Sunday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 16th December – Feria

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments

Sunday 20th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

11:00pm Eucharist for Christmas Night

Friday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

No Eucharist

Sunday 27th December – Feast-day of St John, Apostle and Evangelist

No Morning Eucharist
10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
no refreshments
No Evensong

Wednesday 30th December – Feria

No Eucharist

Change of Timing

SPECIAL NOTICE: As at date of production of this edition, Scottish Government and the College of Bishops have instructed that SEC churches may open in accordance with the Phase 3 Emergence from Lockdown Instructions. The above calendar is dependent upon no change to these instructions.

Sunday services are available online from the Bishops at 11am on Sundays and from St. Michael's website on Sunday Evenings. Weekly service sheets are available online on St. Michael's website.

Coffee Money Collected on Sunday Mornings

The total amount donated to Franciscan Aid from St Michael's Church for the year 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020 was £931.94.

Where has the money gone?

Many of the requests are for items of equipment that provide practical answers to the problems of providing a safe, disease free environment. The water boreholes that Franciscan Aid has helped to finance are an obvious example, but an air conditioning unit, like the one in the prayer room at the Holy Child Programme in Bethlehem, also makes a huge difference. Children can now gather for worship in this place without becoming dangerously warm in the hot summer weather.

At the Trustees' meeting in July 2020, grants were awarded to a number of projects including:

- A grant for essential equipment for St Patrick's Bible College in Madagascar.
- Health supplies for Uganda including sanitary towels, mosquito nets and immunisation kits.
- Emergency support for families and children affected by Covid19 in Bethlehem.
- The creation of a new road to a school in Ghana for children with disabilities, connecting them with the wider community.

Jo Scott

Diocesan Update

In the three months since our last quarterly update from the Diocesan Office, all office-based staff have continued to work from home (details at the end of this newsletter), with postal deliveries being redirected to Christine Hughes or myself for subsequent dissemination by opening, scanning and emailing, or for physical redirection, with anything labelled 'Confidential' being posted on to the addressee. Christine has made occasional visits to the office in the meantime, and we are pondering whether it might be possible to reopen the office in a very limited capacity (with no visitors, and subject to full risk assessments and social distancing) once Bishop Kevin is at last able to be based in Glasgow. All being well, it's hoped that Bishop Kevin's move will take place in October, when he and Elspeth return from holiday, and can at last end their long wait to join us. On which subject...

John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary

Diocesan Update (continued)

Message from Bishop Kevin

Dear Friends

As I write, parts of the Diocese are entering partial lockdown – again. There is a lot of confusion as to what 'partial' means and why certain things are allowed, and others are not...

The scriptural text we need, more than any other at this time, is from Luke's Gospel – 'Fear not Little Flock'. That is the text that Bishop Richard Holloway chose to 'preach me in with' on 4th July, and the text of his sermon is attached to this letter so that you can all read what he would have said to us. It was also the text that I chose for the Provincial Eucharist from our cathedral on the Feast of St Aidan.

'Fear not little flock' is what we all need to remember at this time, and it was a coincidence that Bishop Richard independently chose the same text. As the saintly William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury once said: 'When I pray, coincidences just happen. When I fail to pray, no such thing happens.' There is the scripture from Luke's Gospel and there is the plan of action. Fear not little flock – Prayer and love, the very essence of God and of life with God: Love will find a way of conquering fear.

Remember in the 1982 Liturgy of the Eucharist we say, at every celebration: "There is no room for fear in love."

When we closed our churches at the beginning of the pandemic, we did so in Love, not Fear. Life with God has meaning and purpose; love has meaning and purpose. We closed our churches to prevent Covid 19 being transmitted. That was a loving response to the crisis, because in love we have the best interests of the other at heart. Purpose, to prevent transmitting the disease. There is no room for fear in love, that is the love that Our Lord Jesus Christ lived and died, but rose again to prove. The Holy Spirit is with us and in us, and so I remind you - 'Fear not, little flock.'

And the gossip – Elspeth and I hope to finally move physically to Glasgow in the second week of October. Sadly, as you know, our move was delayed because for 4 months no work could be done on the house due to the pandemic. Then the rules meant that some tradesmen were not allowed to work together – so a



Diocesan Update (continued)

plumber cannot work while the joiner is trying to encourage the decorator to paint... The text – ‘Carpenter from Nazareth – joiners wanted.’

Many thanks to Elliot Glenesk, Diocesan Surveyor, for organising all these works and to all in the Diocese who have helped with this project – you are doing a great job!

The calendar for the autumn is beginning to be put together but everything remains provisional and of course, subject to restrictions and change. This includes the virtual General Synod at the beginning of December. There is no such thing as ‘normality’ and remember, it will almost certainly be Advent and Christmas with no carols, no singing etc.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is not above or beyond the law of the land. The meaning and purpose of that law is to safeguard all our people. As disciples of Jesus we comply, not in fear but in love.

September is the month when Elspeth and I have a holiday and this year, with sadness, we have cancelled our trip to our beloved Italy. We will spend part of the holiday packing up the house and office in Oban so we are ready to move house. There seems to be an awful lot of stuff ... We will also spend some time in York and will tour the abbeys of Yorkshire. It is fascinating that Cistercians were great plumbers, so I am looking forward to picking up many hints and tips!

Elspeth and I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your warm welcome, and we look forward to meeting you all in person and to visiting all the charges of the Diocese. Many thanks also to all of the Diocesan staff and officials who have been so helpful and patient since I became your Bishop in July.

Thank you and God Bless you all

+ Kevin

Text of sermon originally prepared by Bishop Richard Holloway for the enthronement of Bishop Kevin in St Mary’s Cathedral on 4th July 2020

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom”
Luke 12.32

60 years ago, though not quite to the day, on another sunny, summer Saturday, I was ordained to the priesthood in this cathedral, along with 10 others. Many women were present in the congregation of 500 that day, but none of them knelt

Diocesan Update (continued)

before Bishop Francis Moncrieff, to have him lay his hands on their heads and say to them, in the words of the Scottish Prayer Book, ‘Receive the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of a Priest in the Church of God’.



Given what we now know about the demographics of human sexuality, there were probably about 25 gay people in the congregation that day, but none of them would have been ‘out’; nor would any of them have thought that it would ever be possible for them to be married to a same-sex partner here in the cathedral of which they were such faithful members.

Neither of these examples of structural inequality would have troubled anyone present that day, in what was then an institution, like all the others in society, that was unselfconsciously dominated by straight men – or allegedly straight men. On the contrary, most Churches in Scotland at the time would have offered theological justification for that ancient inequality. It was how God had ordered it.

No, it wasn’t inequality that was troubling the Scottish Episcopal Church that year; it was something else entirely. 1960 was the 400-hundredth anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, and we weren’t sure how to respond. For the Kirk, it was obviously a year of celebration. For the Catholic Church, which had been ejected from Scotland after 1000 years, it was a year of mourning. But what was it for us, the Scottish Episcopal Church? We were miserable because we believed that we were the true Church of Scotland, but we had been robbed of our supremacy because of our Jacobite history and loyalty to the Stuarts. Like the Prince over the water, we were waiting for the call to come back and resume our ascendancy. It was sad, pathetic almost, but for lovers of lost causes and failed dreams, it was not lacking in romance, and it appealed to my ardent young heart.

So we didn’t do very much to celebrate the Reformation, but Francis Moncrieff invited Michael Ramsey, then Archbishop of Canterbury, to preach to us at a special service here in the cathedral. I can’t remember anything from his sermon, but I can remember every word of his text. Large, craggy and kindly, he filled this pulpit as he leant towards us and quoted Luke, chapter 12:32: ‘Fear not little flock, for it is your father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom’ – and a sigh of comforted unreality went round the cathedral. Might not the little flock of Scottish Episcopalians one day be given back the kingdom that had been stolen from them? The problem was that while we might have understood Ramsey correctly, when he seemed to promise us a recovery of status and significance in Scotland, we

Diocesan Update (continued)

certainly misunderstood Jesus, because that was the opposite of what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God. What did Jesus mean?

A theological term that might help us understand what Jesus was up to is the Greek word prolepsis, meaning to throw ahead or anticipate. Political reformers often urge their followers to be the future they long for and act as if it were already here. One way of thinking about the work of Jesus is to see it as the creation of an eschatological community that would live God's end time now. He taught his disciples not only to pray that God's kingdom would come on earth as it was in heaven, but to live as if it were already here! They were to be a proleptic community, marked by two characteristics rare in the power structures of the world. The first was radical forgiveness at both the personal and political level, the kind of forgiveness that deflects the harm we constantly do each other by refusing to let it break us apart. The second was to see the world from the bottom up not the top down. God's kingdom was downside up. It was identified with the rejected, the despised and ignored. With those at the bottom, the victims of power; not those at the top, the wielders of power. During the Covid Emergency we have glimpsed that radical vision in action. We have realised that it is the ignored and unappreciated who make it possible for society to function at all. We have been given a glimpse of what it might mean to actualise the downside-up vision of the kingdom of God, to make it come on earth as it is in heaven, where the last are first and the first are last.

The Church, in most of its manifestations in history, has never been what Jesus meant by the kingdom of God, though sometimes it has allowed itself to become the instrument of that kingdom, one of its enabling agencies. And that is its great opportunity today. In its increasing weakness and marginality, it can, maybe for the first time, become an instrument of the kingdom, a broken community working with other broken communities to heal the world.

Beloved Kevin, I know that beneath your confident and competent exterior you are feeling daunted today, called as you are to this new ministry in difficult circumstances and in uncertain times. My plea to you, as one who has known and admired you since I lured you to St Salvador's in Edinburgh in 1987 - where Francis Moncrieff also served - is to make friends here in this friendliest of cities and work with them, not to increase the prestige of the Church but to bring in the kingdom. You and Elspeth have a genius for hospitality and a gift for friendship. Use them; use them prodigally. You will find many allies here in this big-hearted, friendly

Diocesan Update (continued)

city, in both its secular and faith communities. Join them in working for a better world. Be a servant of the kingdom. And have fun!
+ Richard

Other News from the Diocese

BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL 2020

Many thanks to those charges and individuals who've been contributing to the Appeal for Glasgow City Mission. The collection has now (just) exceeded £10,000, a highly encouraging total in a very difficult year, but further donations have recently been arriving due to the reopening of churches, so please continue to send these as they make their way to your charges. Instructions on how to do this were in the previous office update, but please contact me at diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org if you need a reminder.

REOPENING OF CHURCHES

At the time of writing, approximately 75% of our churches had reopened for worship in varying patterns throughout the Diocese, and more may have done so by the time you read this. Please also note that St Mary's Cathedral is now open again for in-person services and will be continuing to provide online worship at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship. Our thanks go to all clergy and laity who have helped prepare our buildings for our new, socially distant, forms of worship in accordance with government guidelines to ensure the safety of all.

NEW DIOCESAN CENTRE

Building warrants and tenders have been received. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed shortly and that work will commence around the end of the year.

Social Programme 2020

At Present the social programme of St. Michael's Church is suspended due to the restrictions caused by coronavirus. As soon as these measures are lifted a new social programme will be promulgated.
John Hanks

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS 2020

The new Committee members are as follows:

Julia Gourd, Geoff Mason, Pete Ashton, Gerry Quickfall (contact - 01436 679083 - Mobile 07870681363)

It is hoped that we might be able to restart short local walks in October 2020, subject to the latest COVID 19 rules and guidance. If that works out, I will publish a copy of the proposed program of walks.

The outgoing and incoming Committee Members agreed that the usual annual Christmas Pub Walk and the Post-Christmas Dinner would sadly not be organised for December 2020 and January 2021 respectively. *Gerry Quickfall*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julia Gourd, Geoff Mason, Pete Ashton, Gerry Quickfall

READERS' LIST – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
1 Nov	No Eucharist	Helen Gibson	No Evensong
8 Nov	No Eucharist	Jeannette Scobie	No Evensong
15 Nov	No Eucharist	Jane Taylor	No Evensong
22 Nov	No Eucharist	Richard Smith	No Evensong
29 Nov	No Eucharist	James Ashby	No Evensong
6 Dec	No Eucharist	Jill Braid	No Evensong
13 Dec	No Eucharist	Jo Frain-Bell	No Evensong
20 Dec	No Eucharist	Michael Blake	No Evensong
27 Dec	No Eucharist	John Hanks	No Evensong

House Communion

House Communion are suspended until further notice. Anyone unable to attend church for communion please contact the Rector.

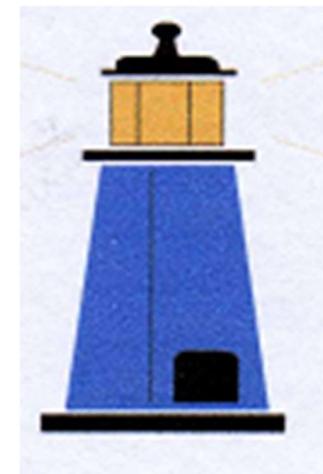
SIDESPERSONS' ROTA – 1st November 2020 - 3rd January 2021

DATE		10:30am	
2020	1 November	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
	8 November	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
	15 November	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
	22 November	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing
	29 November	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
	6 December	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
	13 December	Nick Parry	Carol Parry
	20 December	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
	27 December	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
2021	3 January	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders

The Beacon Trust

I know that it may not seem like things are getting back to normal and that the restrictions seem to be increasing all the time. However, at the Beacon Trust we are getting busy again and delivering beds, washing machines, fridges, TVs etc. etc. We are still suffering a bit from lack of storage space and have had to divert some donations of furniture to other charities. We feel that the best way to counter "Pandemic Gloom" is to be as active as possible and try to keep things moving. As always, we would like to thank you all for your support.

Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust



LECTIONARY – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (NRSV)
1 November All Saints' Sunday	Revelation 7.9-17 Psalm 34.1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	No Evensong
8 November Remembrance Sunday	Job 19.21-27 Psalm 90:1-6,13-17 1 Corinthians 15.51-57 John 6.37-40	No Evensong
15 November Margaret of Scotland	Proverbs 31.10-13,25-31 Psalm 112 2 Timothy 1.1-7 Matthew 13.44-46	No Evensong
22 November Christ the King	Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95.1-7a Ephesians 1.15-23 Matthew 25.31-46	No Evensong
29 November Advent 1 YEAR B	Isaiah 64.1-9 Psalm 80.1-7,16-18 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37	No Evensong
6 December Advent 2	Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8	No Evensong
13 December Advent 3	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28	No Evensong
20 December Advent 4	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Psalm 89.1-4,19-26 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38	No Evensong
24/25 December Christmas Day	Midnight Eucharist only as per printed Service Book	
27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist	Exodus 33:7-11a Psalm 117 1 John 1.1-9 John 21.19b-25	No Evensong

Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

F
A
C
T
S

Face coverings



Avoid crowded places



Clean your hands regularly



Two metre distance



Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms



nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
#WeAreScotland

