

January and February 2021

THE MESSENGER

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

The United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway

Bishop: The Rt. Revd Kevin Pearson

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



The Magazine of

St Michael And All Angels

Episcopal Church, Helensburgh

www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

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Chief Sacristan	Carol Parry	678587
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Intercessions Rota	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	Maureen Kyle	672951
Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Margaret Horrell	676936
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Gerry Quickfall	679083
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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

For many of us connected to Scotland, once we have celebrated Hogmanay our focus turns to the national bard, Robert Burns (1759 - 1796). Here is a quote from Punch in 1844: "Scotland is tremendously earnest in all that relates to Burns: in earnest alike her gratitude and her penitence". Maybe the penitence is not recognising his talent fully when he was alive? Certainly, there is gratitude today as experienced at any Burns Supper or Anniversary Dinner, as some call it. What goes with the haggis; a dram or two and of course, Burns' poetry, is that essential ingredient of comradeship.

Although there is no doubt that 2020 provided challenges for all of us; I do not think it was all negative as possibly it may have been a learning curve for some to review aspects of their lives. That was the case for me and indeed, starting a new year, continue to be challenged and the lessons continue.

The phrase, "We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns" is familiar enough to us and simply put, we're all God's children and that being the case, we should embrace a common humanity. Burns himself was a son of the Ayrshire soil - more than familiar with it as a farmer. A man from the west coast, he put into verse that we are ultimately all the same and that the hierarchical systems that we so often find ourselves caught up in, should be seen for what they are.

This pandemic may help us see humanity rather differently and may even give us a stronger sense of camaraderie - a Burns' ethos for every day of the year! At the end of January, we will give thanks for our national bard and may he continue through poetry to inspire us to treat all equally, whatever

MESSENGER

January/February 2021

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Mar/Apr 2021 Edition

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<i>May/June 2021 Edition</i>	
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For an email copy please contact the Editor.

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From the Rector (continued)

their station in life and embrace that we're all God's children.

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 late 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 continue in the church. There is no need to book and all are welcome.

Dom Ind

FLOWER CONVENER: We are all pleased to note that Andrea Gibson has taken on the role of Flower Convener.

Richard Smith

News

Vaccines are coming! This is the best news I have heard for a long time. Maybe we can go on holiday in 2021. On a less personal note, it will be nice to reopen the church to our full congregation and renew the normal routine.

News about the Lilongwe sports academy in Malawi, ordinations of new graduates from the Scottish Episcopal Institute and reports and minutes from our church annual general meeting in this edition.

Our front cover image is a Greek Orthodox Icon of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This comes in the season of Epiphany on the 2nd of February and we are celebrating this on Sunday 31st January 2021 on this occasion.

Richard Smith, Editor

Rector's Report - 6 December 2020

In my opening paragraph of last year's rector's report, I raised the issue of constitutional matters (Brexit and Independence) and wondered what might have changed in 12 months' time. Words like Covid or pandemic wouldn't have been part of our everyday language – how things change! Leaving the EU is certainly in the air but nothing compared to C19 – will we be able to celebrate Christmas is a pressing issue for some! It has been an extraordinary year and the first thing I want to say is how well St Michael's has adjusted to this current new norm. Given all the changes and there have been many; not once has someone complained to me about the way we are now doing things at St. Michael's. I think that's impressive – there's an openness; graciousness and acknowledgement that we are all trying to do the best we can in this church in very challenging circumstances.

Earlier this year at the end of March, our normal pattern of worship came to an abrupt halt, not only did our public worship stop, but we were also told to close our doors! That went against every fibre of my being – completely unable to offer a sanctuary to the community at a time where people would have particularly appreciated it. The only positive I could take from our predicament, is that clergy were able to continue to pray in their church, unlike our brothers and sisters down south.

Every Sunday during lockdown; I rang our bells and Anna and I celebrated the Eucharist. Prayers never ceased in St. Michael's and the aumbry candle continued to burn 24/7. This continued until the summer when things began to loosen and Anna had the excellent idea that we could meet outdoors on a Sunday afternoon in one another's gardens for the month of August. This worked extremely well and even on one Sunday afternoon when it was particularly dreich, people turned up anyway in good spirits to be together!

By this stage we were open for private prayer and this was greatly enhanced by Andrew and Barbara playing the organ and Joan playing the piano. It was lovely to hear music once again in St. Michael's. These Tuesday mornings for individual devotion prepared us for public worship at the end of August. We were far from 'normal' and still aren't, with no choir and numbers capped at 50 (by the Scottish Government). However, we are back and having started on Sunday mornings at 10.30, we then returned to having a midweek Eucharist but had to move it to Wednesday morning in the nave – two changes to help with our health and safety regulations.

This is where we are now, having 50% of our weekly services running and another idea from Anna; to add a seated exercise class after the Wednesday Eucharist to help us physically, emotionally and mentally. The stress caused by isolation is huge! 15 chairs in the upper hall with participants socially distanced; 20 minutes of exercise with a video from Trish, who specializes in, 'ageing well recreation.' This has helped greatly with building confidence and numerous people have commented on how much they benefit from the exercise.

I'd like to comment that this gradual build-up of returning to 'normality' has worked well.

Rector's Report (continued)

Safety has always been paramount, but we've tried to make the most of what we're permitted to do. I am aware that there is still concern and some don't wish to risk being inside a building. We all long for a vaccine when we are able to return to what we considered the normal way to do things at St. Michael's but for the time being we continue with our present format and I for one am grateful that we can gather at all...

Running with the impact of Covid for the moment; unfortunately, with the link we had with St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lilongwe I couldn't see how we were able to develop this without meeting face to face. I was given a grant by the Province to fly to Lilongwe and had earmarked a couple of weeks in July this year to visit St. Peter's and spend some time getting to know their priest, Francis Matumba and the people of the parish. It transpired as time passed that this was not going to happen, and I returned the grant to the Province. Particularly with no Internet connection to speak of; without actually meeting them; it is really very difficult to give the link momentum. Not being safe to travel and the air industry in turmoil resulting in more expensive airfares, it was time to draw stumps.

However, what has worked very well was another venture, also in Lilongwe, supporting the charity, Building Malawi. In the vast 22-acre site, the library building now has a large plaque, Helensburgh House Staffroom. You will see a picture of it as the back of the church. Underneath the heading it reads: 'With special thanks to Reay Mackay and the Rotary Club of Helensburgh - Reverend Dom Ind and the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels Scottish Episcopal Church.' Frankly, job well done, and I particularly appreciate the partnership with the Rotary. This is exactly the sort of creative initiative we should be doing, coming together to serve those in need, in this case in one of the poorest countries in the world.



Changing tack, I would like to acknowledge those who have given wonderful service to St. Michael's but have now stood down. Let me start with Joan Sadden, who has done no less than three decades as Chief Sacristan! Now that is a long time to volunteer for anything - 30 years week in week out. Often or not in life it's attention to detail, getting the small things right - Joan does this, par excellence. We have a good collection of silver at St. Michael's and we try to use it - it's not just kept hidden away at the back of the safe. Joan

Rector's Report (continued)

has had overall responsibility for that as well and of course the linen and the fabulous altar frontals we have. It's real behind the scenes work and my goodness it matters. We take it for granted that we have pristine vessels on the altar each week - that's work and it's those sorts of detail which greatly enhance our worship. Thank you, Joan, and indeed John. It's much appreciated that you will continue with the laundering after the services. Carol Parry is now Chief Sacristan - thanks to her and of course Nick for taking this role on.

I'm very pleased to say that the Flower Convener position has finally been resolved. Took us a little while to sort this satisfactorily but now Sue Ashby is able to stand down and will be replaced by Andrea Gibson. Thank you very much, Sue for doing this job for the last 6 years and to Andrea for taking on this role. Rather like what I was saying with the Eucharistic vessels, attention applied to the flower displays makes a real difference and helps lift people as we bring some of God's natural creation into church.

On enjoying God's creation, the Rambling Club has been seriously curtailed this year. John Hanks has been the contact person for this. There are of course others who take on responsibility of leading the days. John serves in numerous ways in St. Michael's and the wider community - for John this is one role among many. Thank you, John, for your contribution to the Rambling Club and thanks to Gerry Quickfall who has now taken over from John.

Moving now to the Vestry, two members are retiring: Jane Davies and David Ronald. They both have military backgrounds, Navy and Army respectively - they both brought a no-nonsense, down to earth approach to our Vestry discussions. Your contributions have been valued - thank you to you both. I'm pleased to say that Jane will continue with the important role of Stewardship Convener and will remain as the secretaries' secretary! Speaking of which, takes me to Nick.

I've been fortunate over the years to have had good Vestry Secretaries and Nick is no exception - indeed one of the best! Nick is vigorous in carrying out his role as Secretary to the Vestry and I am most grateful for his professional approach and not least his humour. I'm also indebted to Janina, our Treasurer - another person who operates in the most professional manner. The system for payments now is well organized and we are blessed with a Treasurer who is fast and efficient. Money matters and how we manage it is really important - with Janina we know we are in very capable hands.

Yet another good year working with Kevin and both of us having rapidly adjusted to this new way of doing worship. We both like to be well organized and these changes with Covid has certainly made long term planning difficult. I think we've born this well - we continue to deliver worship as best we can. Kevin remains as hardworking and diligent as ever and I think it says so much about Kevin that he still produces sermon notes for Evening Prayer which I know is enjoyed by various people, certainly our choir members. In

Rector's Report (continued)

thanking Kevin, I always like to mention Joy. I appreciate Kevin is the Lay Reader but many of us know how much Joy does and we witness that every week at our Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Another one of the key jobs is being Property Convener and I'm most grateful to Reay for continuing with this role. Reay has a good background for this, transferable skills from boats to buildings! Living round the corner also helps – it's that type of job! This is a big plant – a sizeable church; two halls and a large rectory – most of which is over 150 years old and we have a challenging climate in Helensburgh. Forth Road Bridge comes to mind – maintenance is relentless. We strive to keep our building in good shape – preventative work is the key. Although the Vestry has overall responsibility of the fabric, part of the Trustees role, on a day-to-day basis it tends to be Reay. Thank you, Reay, for all you do, some serious multi-tasking which as a congregation we reap the benefit. Also, thanks to Jean who often or not is there assisting.

With the plant, I would like to mention the outside of it, specifically the flower tubs. Chris and Linda looked after the tubs for six years or so and have asked for someone else to take on the responsibility of maintaining them. Gerry has kindly stepped up to the plate, as has Jo Scott. Nick has provided three new tubs and Reay one; so, Gerry and Jo are now in a position to tend the tubs – not all being new but most!

I would also like to mention our two Richards who have been working extremely hard with the building, primarily with microphones and cameras. Many thanks to you both for all you do for St. Michael's. Not least to Richard Smith for producing the weekly service sheets and Richard Horrell for leading the Mothers' Union.

I'm very grateful for Maureen Kyle for agreeing to take on the other parts of outside the church – checking once a month or so and when the occasion arises, rallying the troops (that's us!) and we can blitz it – should only be necessary a few times a year to keep on top of things.

I can't stress enough how important it is that our plant looks well cared for on the outside around the church; the path down the back running parallel to the burn; two halls; the rectory and rectory garden. The reality is, many people do judge a book by its cover. For us, to attract people to our church, the cover needs to look good and its one of a whole. The entire corner of William Street and Princes Street should say to anyone passing – they care about what they do in that church and are prepared to invest time, money and energy into their buildings. The initial impression matters – lets continue to work hard keeping that right.

I'd like to say something about our music which is a key part of what we offer. St. Michael's has a strong choral tradition – it's an integral part of the way we worship. At the moment we are unable to do that – it's quite a blow. We are extremely blessed to have Andrew and Barbara who have been playing on a Sunday morning since the end of August. How

Rector's Report (continued)

we have enjoyed their music, especially as we cannot join in. We have now introduced cantors – they stand behind a screen and sing for us; sometimes as soloists; duets and indeed we have one quartet! We are making the most of what we are permitted to do and the combination of our organists and cantors has made such a difference and we will continue with this until the choir are allowed to return.

On a very positive note, we do have new members of the choir waiting in the wings, ready for the return of choral music. Also last week we spent Shaun's generous legacy in giving the organ an overhaul. All in all, we are set to continue the great musical tradition of this church and we can look forward confidently to 2021!

A few words about my own ministry after approx. 2 and a half years as your rector. One plus with the pandemic is that I've not been rushing about quite as much as I normally do and consequently, I've had opportunities to be with members of the congregation, mainly in their gardens, and have generally got to know people better. As priest and pastor this has been invaluable. One's priest craft at the altar is strongly connected with the people you are called to serve. The quality of the relationships within the community influences the quality of the liturgy in the worship. For me 2020 has been a very good year to develop those connections and an opportunity to strengthen pastoral care amongst you.

As you know, I've been interim priest in charge of Dumbarton and Alexandria – this has been quite demanding not least this year with funerals. Recently I've had a run of funerals from Alexandria. Sadly at St. Mungo's, at some point next year the church will be deconsecrated. It's not just about finance; there are very few healthy people to actually be trustees. I'm pleased to say that the story at St. Augustine's is brighter. Since the end of October, they have a new rector and I suspect next year, the able-bodied members of St. Mungo's will make their way to St. Augustine's. As that develops, my role will gradually cease.

I do a few other things in the diocese and province, but a main role is being the Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain. Primarily at the moment done through Zoom. I suspect in the next 12 months I might be able to visit other MU groups in the diocese. I would say that these last few months have been a good insight into the workings of the MU and as I suspected, they do a considerable amount of good work for those on the margins.

Returning to our own congregation, I am very aware that there are many people I haven't mentioned who do a whole power of work. With Covid I think it's only right that I mention Sheila Baker who has been relentlessly working the phone through most of this year. A really tremendous job looking out for people and reporting back to me with those in particular need – that has been invaluable during this crisis. Thank you Sheila and to all the others who have really gone out of their way to help those with shopping etc.

As I always do, I'd like to end with acknowledging my heart felt thanks to Anna, who just carries on behind the scenes, making a considerable difference oiling the cogs of our

Rector's Report (continued)

community. There have undoubtedly been some frustrations this year not least with the Drumfork Centre and all that we had planned with Eco Baby. Thanks to our earlier advertising people knew about our service and had contact details which enabled Anna & I to distribute clothing etc. to needy families even during the pandemic. We're grateful for everyone's help in washing and ironing these items. It's a holding game at the moment – it will happen! More than ever though your care and natural ability to communicate with people, has come into its own – on behalf of St. Michael's, thank you for your ministry in 2020.

Even with the stress and strain of this year and all the new challenges which have come our way, I can still say with total conviction, it has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your rector through this year – there has been many wonderful moments to remember.

Dominic Ind, Rector

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 3rd November, the last meeting of 2020.

RECTOR'S REMARKS: New Bishop. Bishop Kevin Pearson is now well established in his official residence in Newlands S Glasgow. Despite covid restrictions we enjoyed the opportunity to meet him on first visit to St Michaels on 22nd November. Dumbarton/Alexandria. Revd Heller Gonzales has started his ministry at St Augustine's Dumbarton. St Mungo's church Alexandria remains closed and is likely to be de-consecrated after a final service at Easter 2021. It is likely that St Augustine's will then take on pastoral responsibility for the small congregation at St Mungo's. Eco Baby. The project is meeting needs with some items being supplied to needy households in Drumchapel and Glasgow. A good stock has been retained for when access is finally granted to the shop in the Drumfork Centre. St Michaels' community. The 2 services each week seem to be well established. The Sunday service is routinely attended by a congregation of 50 which is the maximum permitted. The introduction of a cantor has provided a welcome musical dimension. The Wednesday morning said Eucharist has attracted a congregation of around 20. The 21 minute 'keep fit' class held in the upper hall every other Wednesday has been well subscribed with 15 socially distanced participants permitted each session. Covid. We are fortunate that, in spite of new restrictions being imposed, churches are currently permitted to remain open in Scotland with those in levels 0-3 allowed to travel to their normal place of worship.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: Balances. Premium account: £40,013. Current account £23,950. We received £16,155 from Gift Aid which makes our current account look very healthy, however there will be bills to pay, notably the expensive insurance bill due in March. Bills. The outside painting of the rectory has been completed at a cost of £2,650. Some of the woodwork had no paint left on it at all, so it is a good job to have had done. Unfortunately,

Vestry Report (continued)

due to stricter health & safety rules, scaffolding had to be hired at an additional cost of £2,470. Grants. A response is still awaited to our application for a grant from the Miss Bell Trust. VAT. We have not been able to reclaim VAT from the 'Listed Buildings Scheme' because our low spending during the financial year had not been sufficient to exceed the threshold. Accountant. The new accountant, Caroline Kerr, has been a pleasure to work with.

TRUSTEES REPORT (TAR) & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: The Trustees Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Notwithstanding that income is reduced, the Rector observed that we are fortunate to be in a relatively healthy state financially. Many charities are facing closure. The Vestry thanked the Honorary Treasurer for her work and agreed to adopt the TAR and Annual Accounts as presented.

PLAN FOR THE AGM: Government restrictions regarding covid mean we could not hold our AGM in the traditional public meeting format and the diocese had ruled out the alternative of holding a meeting tacked on to a routine act of worship. After some debate, including discussion of the possibility of doing the AGM via 'zoom', it was agreed that all AGM documents could be made available on the St Michaels Website with paper copies at the back of the church. The Rector could highlight the information at the end of Sunday services with congregational input being invited by Sunday 6th December. This would essentially be a 'virtual' AGM.

PROPERTY MATTERS: Church heating. The boilers were turned on permanently on 17th September as an experiment and in accordance with the diocesan architect's advice, with the thermostat set at 12.5°C. The Rector commented on how comfortably warm this had made the church. The Property Manager had noted a significant and welcome drying out of the structure, especially in the SW corner. From readings taken on 31st October it appeared that the fuel cost was £498, or approximately £100 per week. It was considered too early to assess how much more the continual heating of the church would cost and whether the benefit of a warmer and drier building is going to be affordable. The vestry agreed to continue the experiment, noting that keeping the doors shut helps considerably. Church exterior. The Rector stressed the importance of a well-presented church exterior which makes a statement to the community. To that end 4 replacement half barrel planters have been obtained to replace the planters in the worst condition. Gerry Quickfall & Jo Scott volunteered to manage the planting. Baby Changing facility. A Baby Changer had been purchased for £134.99. It was not possible to fit it in the disabled toilet, but it has instead been neatly installed in the far toilet in the crypt.

MALAWI: Africa seems to have avoided the worst effects of covid and building is progressing, financed by the £2,300 sent from Helensburgh and the £14,000 already held. There are some good pictures at the back of the church, and information has also been sent to the Digital Missioner for diocesan publicity.

/continued on P. 12

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

JANUARY

Sunday 3rd January – Celebration of The Epiphany of the Lord

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

Wednesday 6th January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Thursday 7th January

No Monthly Coffee Morning

Sunday 10th January – Baptism of Christ

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

Tuesday 12th January

6:30pm Vestry Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday 13th January – Feast-day of Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop, c603

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

Sunday 17th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Wednesday 20th January – Feria

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

Sunday 24th January – Christian Unity Sunday – Fourth of Epiphany

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

Wednesday 27th January – Feria

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

Sunday 31st January – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas)

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

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3rd February – Feast-day of the Saints and Martyrs of Europe

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

Sunday 7th February – Second Sunday before Lent (Eighth of Epiphany)

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

Wednesday 10th February – Feast of Scholastica, Religious, 543

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

Change of Timing

/FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday 14th February – Sunday next before Lent

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

Wednesday 17th February – ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30pm Said Eucharist (1982 rite) with imposition of ashes - no refreshments

Sunday 21st February – First Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday 24th February – Feria

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

Sunday 28th February – Second Sunday of Lent

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

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.

Vestry Report (continued from P. 9)

SAFEGUARDING: There were no safeguarding issues to report.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. The World Day of Prayer is Friday 5th March 2021 and it is St Michael's turn to host it. Covid restrictions permitting, it is hoped to invite other churches to participate.

The Vestry meeting closed with the Grace.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

All the AGM information had been made available for a month before the scheduled AGM date of 6th December.

The Constitution specifies the following business at the AGM:

- (i) Elect Vestry members (up to 3 places to be offered)
- (ii) Elect Lay Representatives
- (iii) Appoint independent Examiner for the accounts
- (iv) Receive the TAR and accounts
- (v) Any other business

The Rector delivered his AGM Report from the pulpit on 6th December. In lieu of a formal meeting after the service, the Vestry Secretary briefly summarised the AGM outcomes as follows:

- (i) Vestry. Standing down: David Ronald. Jane Davies.
- (ii) Elected to the Vestry: Beth McLeod. Sammy Harris.
- (iii) Lay Representatives. Lay Rep: Richard Horrell. Standby Lay Rep: Richard Smith.
- (iv) 2nd stand by Lay Rep: Margaret Wardil.

Trustees Annual Report & Accounts. The TAR & accounts had been available on the St Michaels website with 50 printed copies at the back of the church, most of which had been uplifted.

Independent Examiner. The Hon Treasurer was pleased with the support given by Caroline Kerr and she was duly re-appointed as our Independent Examiner.

AGM 2020 was then declared complete. Notes from the AGM summarising the outcomes are available on the St Michaels website and at the back of the church.

Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary

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:

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

This year has been exceptional, making everyone aware of not accepting that life is flowing along the way we want it to. Everybody has had to make adjustments to what our new normal is. This pandemic has made us aware that we should be paying much more attention to Global concerns. Less navel gazing and acting selfishly as if the world revolves around us and our families instead of being responsible for taking care of those less fortunate than ourselves. Our congregation has cared for many with chains of phone calls and helping out where we can by showing Christian care in the area.

Next year we will be called upon to show even more care by supporting the efforts of those who are ramping up to host the COP26 event in Glasgow, there are calls out to extend hospitality in homes within easy reach by public transport and the use of spaces such as church halls for hosting discussion groups or even sleeping spaces. It is to be hoped that St Michael's congregation will rally round as we have in the past to host overseas students and visitors to Scotland. We must revive our care for our environment and as Dom said on Advent 2 be aware of the impression created by our outward face as well as our beautiful interior. There have been many positive reports on the Rectory impressive garden improvements, our tubs are in the process of being upgraded, sadly they do not last forever but thanks to Gerry and Trevor Quickfall they will look just as good as in the past when cared for by the Sanders. The outside surroundings would benefit from the removal of moss and weeds from the exterior, it is not one persons responsibility we all must do our bit. We must also be looking towards an upgrade in our Eco- Congregation award status. It is some time since we gained our bronze award so if you are willing to be part of the our local Helensburgh and Lomond Eco-congregation Network which includes the United Reformed Church and the Helensburgh Parish Church and churches in Balloch, Alexandria and Luss please pass your name onto Margaret Horrell or Ann Packard.

Social Programme 2021

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

A Poem

At the end of yourself?
Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your courage instead of your fears;
Count your laughs instead of your tears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

Anon – Submitted by Gerry Quickfall

Helensburgh House Staffroom

Tom Bowden writes, "Hi team Helensburgh, I hope you are well. I am not sure whether you are receiving the updates on WhatsApp. I hope you are! The project is progressing beautifully. The team in Malawi are doing a brilliant job. Here are some favourite shots of the build so far. Thank you for making it possible. Many thanks."

Tom Bowden



Helensburgh House Staffroom (continued)



News from SEI

MICHAELMAS ORDINATIONS: Four 2020 leavers were ordained Deacon at Michaelmas in services across the Province. On Saturday 3 October, Rebekah Cansdale (right) was ordained by the Rt Revd Kevin Pearson in St John's Cathedral, Oban where she will serve her Title. Beki is the first Mixed Mode candidate to be ordained in the SEC, and so it was very fitting that the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady should be the preacher on that occasion. The next day two further services took place. Dr Josh Cockayne (below left with Richard) was ordained by the Rt Revd Ian Paton in St Andrews, St Andrews. Josh will serve as Assistant Curate in that congregation while also working as Lecturer in Analytic and Exegetical Theology in St Mary's College, the School of Divinity in St Andrews University.



That same afternoon in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, David Todd and Russell Duncan were ordained by the Rt Revd Dr John Armes. David (below left) will serve as Assistant Curate in St Mark's Portobello and Russell (below right) in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield. While only 50 guests were allowed in the Cathedral, nevertheless the service had a majestic feel. Members of St Mary's Music School offered instrumental music during Communion, and the newly overhauled Henry Willis organ thundered in the voluntaries. Those attending these services will have heard these words that the College of Bishops have permitted for use:

In a distinctive way, deacons are a sign of the proclamation and humility which mark all service offered in the name of Christ, bearing witness to the Lord who laid aside all claims of dignity, assumed the nature of a slave and accepted death on a cross. In the name of the Church, deacons are sent to declare the kingdom of God and to care for those in need, serving God and the world after the pattern of Christ. They have a commitment to outreach and witness, advocacy and prophecy, flowing from their historic ministry for the poor, needy and sick, and seeking out the careless and indifferent. They are called to build bridges between the Church and the world, and to be an expression of the unconditional love of God.



ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

WALKS 2021

When the Walking Group Committee met back at the beginning of September we tentatively put together a program of local walks but sadly this wasn't to be as the before the first walk was scheduled the COVID 19 restrictions were changed (outdoor meetings for 6 adults from 2 households only) and it was agreed that our program would be put on hold while these restrictions remain in force.

Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to resume our regular outings to enjoy our beautiful countryside and the companionship of walking.

Please contact me by phone or email if it is proving difficult for individual outdoor exercise and we can look to arrange something on a one to one basis. Stay safe.

Gerry Quickfall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Julia Gourd, Geoff Mason, Pete Ashton, Gerry Quickfall (trevgerry@talktalk.net)

READERS' LIST – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

DATE	8:00am	10:30am	6:30pm
3 Jan	No Eucharist	Alex Laing	No Evensong
10 Jan	No Eucharist	Chris Packard	No Evensong
17 Jan	No Eucharist	Patricia Robertson	No Evensong
24 Jan	No Eucharist	Rebecca Parry	No Evensong
31 Jan	No Eucharist	Iona Gibson	No Evensong
7 Feb	No Eucharist	Helen Gibson	No Evensong
14 Feb	No Eucharist	Jeannette Scobie	No Evensong
21 Feb	No Eucharist	Jane Taylor	No Evensong
28 Feb	No Eucharist	Richard Smith	No Evensong

House Communion

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

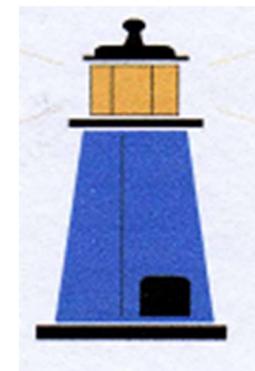
SIDEPERSONS' ROTA – 3rd January to 7th March 2021

DATE		10:30am	
2021	3 January	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
	10 January	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
	17 January	Nick Parry	Carol Parry
	24 January	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
	31 January	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
	7 February	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
	14 February	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing
	21 February	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
	28 February	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
2021	7 March	Nick Parry	Carol Parry

The Beacon Trust

Oh, how we all crave for a return to normality! However, as every week goes by, we are getting back into our normal cycle of activity at the Beacon Trust. We are now managing to move more and more household goods and we are starting to experience a bit of a "pre-Christmas rush". It is great to be able to supply more people with the basic essentials that they need at very low cost. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated their surplus furniture and appliances and apologise to those who we had to turn down due to lack of space. We hope that these optimistic signs bode well as we move towards 2021 and wish all at St. Michael's a blessed Christmas!

Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust



LECTIONARY – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (NRSV)
3 January The Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60.1-6 - Psalm 72.1-7,10-14 - Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	<i>Epiphany</i> -Psalm 96, 97 Isaiah 49.13-23 John 2.1-11
10 January Baptism of Christ	Genesis 1.1-5 - Psalm 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11	<i>Epiphany 1</i> Psalm 45, 72 Isaiah 49.1-13 or 45.9 John 1.19-34
17 January Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139.1-5,12-17 1 Corinthians 6.12-20 John 1.43-51	<i>Epiphany 2</i> Psalm 33, 34 Isaiah 52.1-12 Matthew 5.1-16
24 January Epiphany 3 (Christian Unity)	Jonah 3.1-5,10 - Psalm 62.6-14 1 Corinthians 7.29-31 Mark 1.14-20	<i>Epiphany 3</i> Psalm 144, 145 Isaiah 62 Matthew 5.17-32
31 January Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	Malachi 3.1-4 - Psalm 24.7-10 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40	<i>Purification of Virgin Mary</i> Psalm 122,132 Haggai 2.1-9 Luke 2.15-24
7 February 2nd Before Lent (Epiphany 8)	Hosea 2.14-20 Psalm 103.1-13,22 - 2 Corinthians 3.1-6 Mark 2.13-22	<i>Sexagesima</i> Psalm 139 Genesis 8 Matthew 7.1-14
14 February Next before Lent	2 Kings 2.1-12 - Psalm 50.1-6 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9	<i>Quinquagesima</i> Psalm 30,31 Genesis 13 Matthew 7.15-29
17 February Ash Wednesday 7:30pm	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 Psalm 51.1-18 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	
21 February Lent 1	Genesis 9.8-17 Psalm 25.1-10 1 Peter 3.18-22 Mark 1.9-15	<i>Lent 1</i> Psalm 119 vv. 1-32 Genesis 25.27-26.5 Hebrews 2.14-4.1
28 February Lent 2	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16 Psalm 22.22-30 Romans 4.13-25 Mark 8.31-38	<i>Lent 2</i> Psalm 119 vv. 33-72 Genesis 27.30-28.10 1 Corinthians 3.9

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

