

**St Margaret's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Magazine**

50p

**December 2016 - January 2017
Christmas Edition**



But out of you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel..... He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. (Micah 5: 2,4)



Christmas Market, Leipzig (with live sheep!)

THE CHURCH OFFICE

353/355 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands, Glasgow G43 2DS
Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm Tel: 0141 636 1131

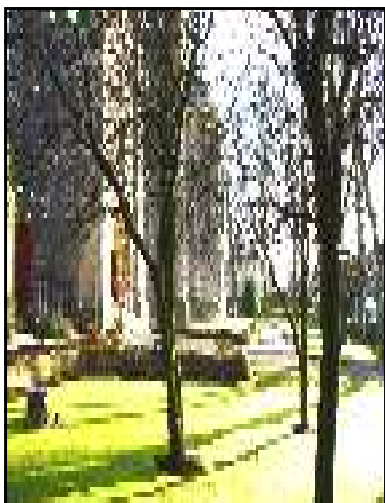
Church administrator: Juliet Mugwanda

CLERGY

Rector: Reverend Canon Dr Scott Robertson BD MA PhD
22 Monreith Road, Newlands, Glasgow G43 2NY
Tel: 0141 632 3292 Email: revscottrobertson@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Reverend Canon Dr Charlotte Methuen
2/1, 34 Keir Street, Glasgow G41 2NW
Tel: 0141 429 4716 Email: charlotte.methuen@glasgow.ac.uk

Assistant Priest: Reverend Maggie McTernan
Flat 0/1, 9 Kennoway Drive, Glasgow G11 7UA
Tel: 0141 337 2604 Email: maggsmct@googlemail.com



A warm welcome to St Margaret's

Should you wish to speak to the Rector, he is regularly available at the Church on Wednesdays between 6 and 7pm (if the church does not appear to be open, please ring the bell at the left side of the small door to the left of the main West door). Otherwise he can be contacted on 0141 632 3292.

St Margaret's on the internet: www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk

email: stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com

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

Magazine submissions to stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com,

or maidagibson@hotmail.com, marked "Magazine",

or in the drawer marked "Magazine Editor" at the back of the church

Index

Bishop's Christmas Letter	Page 4	The Flight	
Page 21			
Around St Margaret's	Page 6	A Christmas Bell	Page 22
AGM Report	Page 12	Kirsty in Thailand	Page 23
Vestry Report	Page 13	Sukhita Report	Page 26
Calendar and Rotas	Page 16	Intercessions	Page 28
Finance Report	Page 18	Advent Poem	Page 30
Some Corner of a foreign field	Page 20		

Christmas at St Margaret's

Sunday 18 December

10.30am Christmas Nativity Special, featuring Sunday School and other stars!

Church family "bring and share" lunch after morning service

Saturday 24 December

8pm Christmas Family Carol Service

11pm Midnight Eucharist

Sunday 25 December

9am Christmas Day Morning Prayer

10.30am Christmas Day Family Service

Collections at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services will be taken in aid of charity.

Notes for January 2017

- Sunday services as normal
- Tuesday communions resume 10 January

Bishop Gregor's Christmas message

For this month's pastoral letter it is appropriate to share Gregor's Christmas message.

As I write, the clocks have gone back and things are getting darker. People now talk of light deprivation as a medical condition and it does seem that some of us are susceptible to all of that.



But, at this time of the year, there's a lot of extra light around. Crowds of people out shopping and enjoying themselves among the brightly lit streets. Christmas lights and Christmas attractions. And, here in Glasgow, down at the St Enoch Centre, the wooden booths of the Christmas market, gluwiein, bratwurst and those wonderful German Christmas robins, like the one I bought a couple of years ago, on sale once more. Wet, grey, dark there of course too, but surrounded by light, colour, life and fun.

It's easy enough, it's fatally easy enough, for Christian people like us, to dismiss all of this as so much tinselly trivia, utterly unrelated to what we like to call the "true meaning of Christmas". Well, if you have thoughts like that, let me try to persuade you this Christmastide to give them up, once and for all.

People like us who will gather at the Christmas eucharist to welcome the true light who lightens everyone coming into the world, have no business being sniffy about people's desire at a dark time of the year to enjoy light and warmth and being together in that light and warmth. We should have the imagination to sense that, however vaguely, this is a very natural, very human, and so ultimately God-given reaching out for something better that lies beyond the often dark and grim realities of the world we live in – and, God knows, they are dark enough.

So, for us, far from being nowhere near the true meaning of Christmas, the Christmas lights in streets, on countless trees, the reindeers and snowmen plastered all over houses or wherever, should point us towards another light. And here's the difference - sometime in January all the Christmas and seasonal lights and all the Christmas and seasonal attractions will disappear, put away for another year. Like many people I hate taking all my own lights and cards and tree down – the house looks so bare – but I ought to remember that the light we have been celebrating in the twelve days of Christmas shines all the year round and can never be taken away or extinguished.

One of the simplest and yet most powerful testimonies I ever heard to this great hope of ours was offered by one of my curates when I was Rector of St Ninian's in Pollokshields on the south side of Glasgow. He was taking some children round that wonderful church and they noticed the white light burning above the altar of the side chapel, where the sacrament of consecrated bread and wine was kept. Why was that light burning away there? Well, he said, it is there to remind us that Jesus the light of the world is always with us so that, even if we came into this big church in the dark we needn't be afraid because Jesus is here, Jesus is with us, the light still burns.

The poet, John Betjeman, put it like this:

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue'd fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

My only quibble with Betjeman, and it's an important quibble, is really a theological one and I want to end with it. It's not really that all the sweet and silly Christmas things, or carols, or bells or even human love can't compare with the truth that the light of the world was human in Palestine and lives today in bread and wine, it's that we should allow them, in heart and mind and spirit, to point us once again towards that single, world-changing, all-important truth, the Light of the World. He came into the world all those years ago looking for us and He comes into our midst this Christmas on the same quest, to embrace us with joy and wonder so that we may do the very same to Him.

+ **G r e g o r**

Around St Margaret's December 2016

Confirmation

Bishop Gregor conducted a wonderful service on 30 October, confirming Callum McKendrick and Elliott Osmond. He asked the youngsters and the congregation what they liked about St Margaret's and revealed that he likes the dignity of the service (as well as the church magazine and the Rector's letter with its theological insights). In confirming Callum and Elliott he talked about the power of the words we have in the liturgy whereby "In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange". The words of the closing prayer of dismissal seem particularly relevant:

As the seed grows secretly in the earth, as the yeast rises in the dough, may the power of God be at work in us. Like a city set on a hill, like a lamp in the darkness, may we witness to the glory of the kingdom.

We look forward to Callum and Elliott playing a growing part in the life of our congregation.

Choral events

The combined choirs from St Ninian's, Sherbrooke St Gilbert's and St Mary's Hamilton, took part in a choral evensong on 30 October, to mark All Saints Day. Forthcoming events include Words and Music for Advent on Sunday 27 November.

Treble chance

Angela Watson is delighted with the progress being made with her small group of young treble singers. They meet on Thursday evening in the church at 6pm for an intensive practice and have great fun as well as improving their music skills. We look forward to hearing more from them.

Time to Remember

This took place on Saturday 12 November; around 50 people gathered for another thoughtful and well constructed service prepared by Eileen Smith. The theme was pilgrimage, with readings and meditations drawn from the psalms, John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, and other writers, poets and theologians, together with apposite hymns. Thank you Eileen for this

ministry; the comments on the “remembrance tree” clearly show how much the service is appreciated by those who come.

Second Sunday concerts

The concert on 13 November featured Richard Leonard and his “Slide Too Far” trombone quartet performing music new and old by Tomasi, Saskia Apon and Puccini.

The concert on 10 December will feature flautist Leslie Holland and pianist Donal McHugh. January’s concert will be on 8 January, programme to be announced.

Academy of Sacred Music - Choral Classics for Christmas

Kenneth Watson writes: Why not ease yourselves into a Christmassy frame of mind with a concert of festive choral music brought to St. Margaret’s by the Academy of Sacred Music. This young choir never fails to charm and delight wherever they perform and their concerts also provide an opportunity to display some of the Academy’s amazing solo talent. The date to remember is **Friday 9 December and the time 7.30pm**. Admission is by donation programme available at the door. Music will include Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams, Vivaldi’s Gloria and pieces by Tallis, Palestrina, Britten and Howells.

Don’t forget that foil!

Jan MacDonald reminds us that with Christmas coming please remember to save up your foil and put it in the tin foil bin outside the church back door. The foil is taken periodically to a recycling point and the church receives a token payment for it.

Alzheimer coffee morning

The Coffee morning and Crafts sale in aid of Alzheimer Scotland took place on Saturday 5 November in the Church Hall. There were the usual unique hand-made crafts, tea, coffee and home baking and the raffle of the Wednesday Quilter’s masterpiece quilt (pictured overleaf), which this year was the amazing ‘Jitterbug in Moda Chic Neutrals’ and was won by Tanya Lamington.



Irene Dunbar, the Treasurer of the Wednesday Quilters writes: Once again, let me express a very inadequate "Thank you" for the generosity of the Church in supporting our Quilter's craft sale. It makes such a difference to the funds that we can send to Alzheimer Scotland. The hospitality is incredible and the home baking as delicious as ever, if only I could sit and appreciate it all properly. I thought it was an enjoyable morning and the arrival of Issy and Arthur Sanderson was such a surprise (*They were on a brief theatre related visit to Glasgow - Ed*). The initial figure of £1,200 is creeping up and I will give a final amount as soon as I can. In the meantime on behalf of the group my thanks to all who supported us, it means a lot. Very best wishes for the coming Festive Season.

Oh yes it is!!!..... The St Ninian's pantomime

It's not too late to book your ticket for the St Ninian's pantomime, taking place from Wednesday 30 November to Saturday 3 December, at 7.30pm, with the Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. This year's show is Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and will no doubt live up to its usual high standard. Tickets are priced £8 and £6.

Our Swedish connection – walking in fellowship

Maria Ottenston and a group from Gothenburg were in the diocese from 17 to 20 November, to mark the end of the formal link between our diocese and Gothenburg. They arrived at lunchtime on 17 November, spent the Friday in Galloway and participated in a Festal Eucharist at St Margaret's on the



Saturday. The readings at this service were all on the theme of unity and walking with God, and in his sermon Bishop Gregor noted the dates of February 19 and April 9 which commemorate Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In our link with Gothenburg we have honoured Lutheran ways, learnt a lot about each other through exchanges of youth groups, Mothers' Union groups, and taking part in study groups and Synods. It is hoped that the relationships which have been formed between

various churches in the dioceses will continue. The service ended with a hymn sung to the rousing tune of Highland Cathedral.

At the morning service on 20 November, the gospel lesson about finding the pearl of great price was read in Swedish and Maria preached on the need to step back from the Western world's obsession with self expression and secularisation, and seek the pearl of great price, in the form of deeper fellowship and interdependence.

Church and The Academy

November's meeting was on 17 November (with our Swedish visitors as guests). Dr Susanne Rappman (Church of Sweden) spoke on "Theology and Disability". Her starting point was the broken body of Christ at the crucifixion and how that should make us feel grieved at the hurt and exclusion which so many disabled people experience. There followed a lively discussion on the modern day obsession with "perfect" bodies, the meaning of "disability", the resources required to integrate the disabled into society, and the need for interdependence in the body of Christ.

The December meeting will be on Thursday 1 December, with Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowle speaking on Anglican-Orthodox Relations. January's meeting will be on 26 January, when Dr David Jasper will talk about his work in China.

WFO envelopes

Envelopes for 2017 are now available at the back of the church. Please make sure you collect your supply.

Hall Floor

The Hall floor is to be given another coat of varnish on 28 November. This essential maintenance will keep our floor in good condition.

Who would a Pilgrim be?

The Pilgrim study groups continue fortnightly on Wednesdays 7 and 21 December. Each session stands alone, so come to however many you can.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Moirra Atkinson writes that a letter of appreciation has been received from The City Mission and is on the corridor notice board.

Services restart at the New Victoria

Jan Birchby writes.... On Thursday 1 September a service was held at the New Victoria ACH (*aka Ambulatory Care Hospital; does this mean that one is not allowed to lie down in the hospital?! – Ed*). This was for patients of wards one and two. It was well attended by patients, and now after three services, numbers are increasing to 16. The service is held on the first Thursday of each month at 11 am in the day room of ward 1. All are very welcome.

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to all who have helped in this venture: to Margaret and Stella, who have been with me in the chaplaincy for the past 14 years. To all the other volunteers, who come from a variety of local churches: Jane, who plays for the services, Isabel, Doreen, Susan, Eileen, and Priscilla. It was so good to meet up again at the services after so many years at the Victoria.

Thanks also to Joanne, the event's organiser and the nursing staff of wards one and two for setting up and bringing the patients to the service. Finally, many thanks to Rev Ishaku Bitrus, who leads all the services.

The Christmas services will be held on Thursday 1 December at 2 pm in Ward 1 Day room. All are very welcome.

World Aids Day 1 December

The church will again participate in marking World Aids Day by floodlighting the church in red from 29 November to 1 December.

Floral Update

Moiria Atkinson writes: As 2016 draws to a close I just wanted to express appreciation to all those who have so generously donated to allow us to provide flowers in church throughout the year. The colours you have requested are always fun to generate and we are very fortunate to have a wonderfully reliable source of blooms in Linda Culshaw, which helps enormously. In addition, others have offered practical support in various ways including for example by agreeing to water arrangements and whilst this seems insignificant it maintains the quality of the flowers for a lot longer.

The 'team' as such varies according to commitments but please make contact if you would like to be involved in any way regularly or from time to time. The new floral calendar for 2017 will shortly be available on the back table.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Bishop Gregor writes: We have now been able to send the final cheque for the Bishop's Lent Appeal to the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation. It amounted to the wonderful total of £14,123.55.

So, once again, all over the Diocese, you have been hugely generous in your response. I am deeply grateful to and very proud of our diocese. I thank you all as warmly as I possibly can!

SEC Marriage Canon

As mentioned in previous issues of the magazine, it is planned to host a discussion on the proposed new marriage canon, with the same programme running on three separate occasions to allow as many people as possible to contribute. Our sister churches in the South Regional Council are also keen to participate in these discussion sessions, and they will take place St Margaret's in the New Year, in advance of the Diocesan Synod on Saturday 4 March. Watch out for further details.

Diocesan Advent Quiet Day

This will be held at Holy Trinity and St Barnabas church in Paisley on Saturday 3 December, at 10 for 10.30am until 3pm. Speaker Maureen Brough on "Encounters".

Days For Girls

Issy Sanderson's Days for Girls workshop (being run for St. Columba's-by-the-Castle) will take place on Saturday 10 December in the Augustine United Church Conference Room (41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh). There will be two sessions, morning and afternoon and people can choose which one they want to attend, probably from around 10.a.m. to 12.30, or 1p.m. to 3.30p.m. For further information or to book a place, contact Liza Coates on 0131 447 5372 or email lizfurseroberts@gmail.com.

AGM report - 20 November

The Vestry's Report for the year (an abridged version of which is reproduced on pages 13 to 15) together with summary accounts, reports from the Lay Representative, the South Regional Council, the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator, the Property Convener and the Sunday School Co-ordinator had been circulated in advance. Salient points from the accounts are shown on pages 18 and 19. In answer to a question about the level of deficit, Scott agreed that the size of our ongoing deficit was worrying and that the Vestry would shortly bring forward proposals to address the issue. Ultimately it would be a question of members putting their hands in their pockets. The various reports were approved.

Gordon Ward was standing down from the Vestry after a three year term and Ann Rawson was standing down as People's Warden. They were thanked for their contributions to the Vestry. Naomi Browell and Heather Macdonald were elected for a three year term. Kalpana Panickar, Jim Gibson and Adrian Osmond were appointed as People's Warden, Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative respectively.

Maggie reported on progress with the 2020 Vision Project. While progress might appear to be slow, the Vestry had spent time in defining the areas in which they wished to support projects, discussing protocols which should apply and making links with community groups. Three community projects had been identified and it was expected that a decision on these would be taken shortly and the relevant information communicated to the congregation.

In his Rector's remarks Scott thanked the many people who play a part in the life of our congregation. He went on to note that last year's decision to release reserves had been the easy part; the hard work of putting it all into practice now had to take place. One of our Swedish guests had recently said that the fundamental questions facing the Church are "Who are we?" and "Where are we?"; as we sought to answer these questions as they applied to St Margaret's we were encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities we have of prayer and worship, such as the daily prayer services, "Short and Sweet" services as well as Sunday worship, in order to discern God's will for us.

St Margaret's Episcopal Church

Report of the Vestry for the year ended 31 August 2016

Charitable Objectives

The church's Mission is to be an inclusive, affirming, non-judging community, where all are welcome to explore faith and doubt, to come to a deeper understanding of God's call in their own lives and to engage in the wider mission of the church.

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities are:

- Worship
- Young people and whole congregation engagement
- Community and charity involvement

Achievements and Performance

- Worship is central to the church. Regular services occurred in line with the church calendar. Morning and evening prayer services were also held each weekday, other than Tuesday when a Eucharist was held. Evensong was held periodically. Occasional special services were also arranged, including the regular "Time to Remember" service held in November.
- The Sunday School ran during the Sunday morning service and played a central part in Christmas Nativity and Harvest family services. Ways of engaging young people of the congregation were regularly explored. Confirmation classes have taken place. A Pastoral Care Team assisted the clergy in home visits. Study groups and reading groups were arranged regularly, aligned with the church calendar. Ten issues of the church magazine were circulated.
- The church seeks to engage with the local community through opening up its buildings for communal use, and by providing community accessible activities. The community children's choir has continued throughout the year, with the church providing additional funding when the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant expired in March 2016. A number of charities were supported during the year, with Christmas collections going to The Well Multi-Cultural Resource Centre, Lenten donations to the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, and other collections arranged for Epilepsy Scotland, Christian Aid and Erskine Hospital. The church participated in World

Aids Day, and Glasgow Doors Open Festival. A 50th anniversary celebratory service was held for the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme in June 2016.

The Growth Strategy, and its Mission Action Plan signed off in 2014, with its focus on "welcome and integration" and "worship, prayer and spirituality" has underpinned and directed vestry endorsement of developments. Thus the 20/20 Vision has evolved, commencing, prior to last year's AGM, with congregation consultation on the proposal to amend the wording of the church's reserves policy in order to permit its endowment fund to be used for the provision of capital, or income, for the purposes of mission. The 2015 AGM subsequently approved this change in the reserves policy. Criteria for determining expenditure decisions have now been concluded – there is to be a focus on social inclusion and creative arts projects based in St Margaret's or elsewhere in the South side of Glasgow. Through the pastoral group activity congregational prayer requests have increased. The church has been grateful for and welcomed the donation of a memorial votive candle holder during the year. Short monthly reflection services on a weekday evening have been led by members of the congregation.

The rich musical heritage of the church has continued, and under the Director of Music the choir has contributed greatly to Sunday morning worship, including joint services outwith St Margaret's. The choir has been prominent in evensongs and special services. The vestry has encouraged the recruitment of trebles during 2016. The St Cecilia Fund has been utilised to support a young person to attend a week's residential Junior Choral Course in Cheltenham. The second Sunday open concerts have also continued to bring appreciative audiences into the church space.

The commitment to fair trade and environment awareness has continued with the church designated an eco-congregation. A Fair Trade stall is opened each Sunday after the morning service, recycling is strongly promoted and there is a policy of purchasing only eco-friendly cleaning materials.

Careful attention has been given to the maintenance and enhancement of the fabric of the church and ancillary properties. Externally attention was necessary to the lightning conductor, downpipes and one of the doors. Internally a major upgrade of the hall kitchen was completed and the hall floor was re-conditioned. Health and safety guidance in operating the new kitchen was developed and a new hall letting agreement put in place. The

improvements to the hall and kitchen have led to an increase in hall usage and income. Many maintenance and fabric issues have been relatively small scale with cost implications minimised through the generous giving of time and skills by members of the congregation.

Responsibilities for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) feature at all vestry meetings. An annual return was made to the Diocesan monitoring officer. The church's PVG co-ordinator attended one vestry meeting. The PVG co-ordinator will submit a separate report to the AGM.

There were no changes in staff appointments during the year.

The vestry heard feedback from the 2016 SEC General Synod. The vestry has resolved to promote congregation consultation on the Synod resolution on marriage and to increase congregational awareness of other resolutions.

Statement on Risk

The major risks the charity is exposed to, and strategies for mitigating them are summarised as:

- Governance and management: Regular vestry meetings. Mixed skill set. Effective communication systems. Record keeping. Succession planning. Limits on terms of elected trustees.
- Operational: Delegation of responsibilities. Training. Investment in technology.
- Financial: Finances reviewed and actions approved at each vestry meeting. Changes in reserves policy put to AGM. Rigorous attention to fabric of properties.
- Compliance (law and regulation): Sound knowledge base. Trustee/ vestry member code of conduct. Compliance with Provincial guidelines in critical areas.

Plans for Future Periods

The key objective for the coming year is to continue to provide a welcoming non-judgemental environment within which to continue the mission of the church.

There will be further implementation of the 20/20 vision arising from the 2015 AGM decision on the reserves policy. This will involve the deployment of some funds for supporting inclusive projects in and around St Margaret's in line with agreed criteria and protocol. *Gerald Wells, Secretary*

December Diary of events

Thu 1st Church and the Academy, 5.30pm 4 The Square Glasgow University; Speaker Rt Rev Dr Geoffrey Rowle on Anglican Orthodox relations.

Sun 4th Advent 2

Tue 6th Holy Communion 10am; Advent Reflection 7pm

Wed 7th Rector's Hour 6pm

Pilgrim Study Group 7.30pm in the church

Sun 11th Advent 3

Second Sunday concert in the church 3.30pm

Flautist Leslie Holland and pianist Donal McHugh

Tue 13th Holy Communion 10am; Advent Reflection 7pm

Wed 14th **No Rector's Hour**

Thu 15th Knit and Natter 10am to 12.30pm

Sun 18th Advent 4 - Christmas Nativity Service followed by lunch

Tues 20th Holy Communion 10am; Advent Reflection 7pm

Wed 21st Rector's Hour 6pm

Pilgrim Study Group 7.30pm in the church

Christmas services as on page 3

Readings for December and January

4 December Isaiah 11: 1-10, Romans 15: 4-13, Matthew 3: 1-12

Advent 2

11 December Isaiah 35: 1-10, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

Advent 3

18 December Isaiah 7: 10-16, Romans 1: 1-7, Matthew 1: 18-25

Advent 4

25 December Isaiah 9: 2-7, Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-20

Christmas

1 January Numbers 6: 22-27, Philippians 2: 5-11, Luke 2: 15-21

Naming of Jesus

8 January Isaiah 42: 1-9, Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 3: 13-17

Baptism of the Lord

15 January Isaiah 49: 1-7, 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9, John 1: 29-42

Epiphany 2

22 January Isaiah 9: 1-4, 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18, Matthew 4: 12-23

Epiphany 3

29 January Micah 6: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31, Matthew 5: 1-12

Epiphany 4

St Margaret's Newlands

Financial Report to the AGM 20 November 2016

The financial year which ended on 31 August 2016 showed a deficit (excluding investment gains) of £27,697 compared with a deficit of £43,329 in the previous year. Extracts from the signed accounts are attached and may be summarised thus:

	£	£
Income		
Offerings including tax recovery	64,296	
Hall donations and property income	18,642	
Investment income	23,961	
Legacies and other income	<u>8,177</u>	
		115,076
Expenditure		
Stipend and salaries	61,328	
Quota	15,195	
Property costs	53,276	
Other costs	<u>12,974</u>	
		<u>142,773</u>
Deficit		27,697
		=====

The deficit on the general fund was £36,639, compared with £40,165 last year. In the last 15 years we have managed a surplus only once and the deficits over this period have averaged £22,000 per year. We need to take a serious look at the level of our ordinary giving.

Some of the issues in the accounts which are worth noting are:

1. **Income:** Freewill Offering income showed a decrease of £1,712 to £44,794. A healthy level of Freewill Offering income is vital to the church and our mission to the community. I am grateful to those who do review their giving on a regular basis and to those who have made new pledges during the year, and again I would ask all members to consider how best to support the church financially.
2. **Heritage Project:** The £2,067 remaining in the project at the start of the year were duly spent on the youth choir and the final instalment of £6,000 HLF grant was received. The balance of £6,387 in the Project Fund was transferred back to the Endowment Fund.
3. **Investment income:** As a congregation we remain far too dependent on this source of income. While the portfolio has a good yield, the capital value is volatile; this year there were gains on our portfolio of £56,932.
4. **Hall users:** Income from hall users has increased by £2,117. The refurbishment of the kitchen and the efforts which have been made to recruit new users have borne fruit.
5. **Property costs:** The major item of maintenance was the kitchen refurbishment costing £22,500. I am extremely grateful to Douglas Pearson for his work as maintenance and handyman and to Chris Lennox who keeps the hedges neat and tidy. Heating and lighting costs have been reduced as a result of a better deal from a new supplier, but it is still the case that we spend nearly £200 per week on heat and light before any other costs are taken into consideration.
6. **Salary costs:** These represent nearly half of our ordinary expenditure and are only just covered by our freewill offerings.
7. **Second Sunday concerts:** The amount generated from them remains modest at £805, but the outreach to the wider public is important.
8. **Charitable income disbursements:** In addition to our congregational income, donations of £3,321 were made to various charities.

Maida C Gibson

Some corner of foreign field.....

Frederick Kelly remembered

Hugh MacDonald's concert in the borders village of Greenlaw on Remembrance Sunday 13 November was a spectacular event, which Edward Cais and I



were privileged to attend. The concert set out to commemorate the First World War, and featured music and readings by composers and poets who died in the war, and some who survived. In particular It included works by Frederick Kelly (pictured), an exceptional young man who had won a gold medal for rowing at the 1908 Olympics and who joined the Royal Naval Division at the outbreak of war. He was billeted in Greenlaw, served in Gallipoli and was killed on 13 November 1916, the last day of the Battle of The Somme.



In his diaries Kelly writes about playing the organ in Greenlaw church, which is still there, unaltered, and composing a Christmas prelude on Good King Wenceslas which he played at the battalion's Christmas Day service and which was later published. Kelly was a close friend of Rupert Brooke and another young composer killed in the war, Dennis Browne. The concert featured Kelly's organ piece, almost completely forgotten since his death, played on the same instrument that he wrote it for and played it on in December 1914.

There were also some other appropriate pieces for organ, some songs by other WW1 composers (such as "Roses from Picardy") and Kelly's Violin Sonata in G major, his "Gallipoli Sonata", a major piece for violin and piano which he wrote on the ship that, following their Greenlaw training, took his regiment out to serve in Gallipoli. The performers in the concert were the distinguished Edinburgh-based organist Philip Sawyer, the tenor Jamie MacDougall, the violinist Catherine Manson (who comes from Greenlaw) and the pianist Peter Evans.

The musical items were linked by readings from Kelly's diaries (including the entry from the last page, the day before he was killed), and by poems

from people like Rupert Brooke, who was a great friend of Kelly; these were all narrated with great empathy and feeling by Derek Watson, formerly an actor at Glasgow's Citizens' theatre (where his stage name was Derwent Watson). Hugh brought his radio producer's ability to ensuring that the whole programme ran seamlessly, resulting in a performance of great poignancy that left no one unmoved.

For me, an added bonus was to meet up with distant cousins and to learn more of my family tree.

Hugh tells us that the concert has raised over £1,500 for charity and that he and Philip Sawyer are working on a video production of Philip playing Kelly's Prelude on Good King Wenceslas, which will be available on U tube.

Jim Gibson

The Flight

We scooped our baby up
like Moses from his basket,
took the donkey, made a run
for it. Herod had his revenge
on those we left behind.
Even now the low drone
of lament haunts my dreams.



Egypt gave us refuge.
I got some joinery work.
We managed somehow,
stayed in that oasis
till the killing stopped
and there was a bit of peace
and we could go home.

Hamish Whyte

Christ Bell

This is an awesome e-mail. Someone took a lot of time setting up this message.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ 's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16). I am complete in Christ. (Col. 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil. 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are?

■

Kirsty in Thailand

An edited version of Kirsty's latest blog....

Hello to whoever is currently reading this blog entry and sorry it has taken me so long to actually sit down and write this!

The past few weeks have been incredibly busy; The month of October is a month that is now filled with memories I'll likely never forget. School closed at the beginning of October until the start of November, so on the 2nd of October my friend Shannon and I climbed onto a bus to start our 19 hour bus journey to Chiang Mai, where we spent the next three weeks attending a language course with the rest of the Thailand volunteers. We stayed at the "Libra Guesthouse", a family-run place nestled in the centre of the old town in Chiang Mai. Our balcony looked onto the surrounding mountains where late at night we could see a temple glistening from one of the hilltops.

Our weekdays consisted of attending our language course from 10am – 3pm, after which we had free time to do as we wished. We learned Thai through reading over vocabulary, creating games to practise new words and completing exercises testing our knowledge. My Thai is still embarrassingly bad compared to so many Thai people's English, but I'm practising and fully intend on continuing to do my best to pick it up throughout the year. I now know how to introduce myself and tell people a bit about who I am as well as how to order a wide range of food, ask for the different prices of food at markets, count up to some pretty large numbers and ask for/ give directions in Thai.

During our free time we visited the Sunday walking street market. Here, we were given access to some of the best street food available as well as some of Thailand's most beautifully crafted items. We also visited an ex/prisoner's massage centre a couple of times; the centre employs and trains female ex-prisoners so that, once released from prison, they are able to work for a reasonable salary as well as having time to get back on their feet. We also visited the Grand Canyon water park one weekend and enjoyed leaping to and from different inflatable items whilst lifeguards who resembled ninjas did their best to make us fall into the water. It was great fun – well worth looking like lobsters for the following week due to a whole day spent under the intense

glare of the sun!

The following Saturday we got up at 6am and piled into two song tows (like taxis but in the form of small trucks) before driving into the leafy mountains in search of some elephants. Chiang Mai offers a wide range of elephant experiences, and our guest house arranged for us to visit an elephant sanctuary where we could play with the elephants, feed them and bath them. The early morning drive was fantastic in itself, but arriving at the sanctuary to walk through a long grass field to be greeted by four large elephants and two baby elephants was magical. For a few hours we enjoyed being chased by a young elephant which went on a rampage stealing



bananas from our bag, posing with the elephants for photos and feeding them. We were also given the opportunity to bath the elephants in a near-by river: an experience which quickly ended up in a full scale water fight involving all of the volunteers, the men who worked at the sanctuary and the elephants themselves (their trunks were effectively water guns). Afterwards, we were driven to another point of the river where we climbed onto bamboo rafts and floated

through the jungle. Some of us were given the opportunity to guide the raft and I can now confidently say I will never pursue a career in driving bamboo rafts!

One highlight of my trip to Chiang Mai was when we visited Mount Doi Suthep temple. We drove there after our course and wandered up an extensive staircase to gaze over the city of Chiang Mai and explore the golden temple grounds. We reached the top just in time to watch the sunset and were lucky enough to observe monks praying in front of the emerald Buddha. Exploring a mountaintop temple at sunset to listen to chiming bells and observe monks pray surrounded by candles and golden buildings is something I hope to never forget.

Our language course finished after three weeks and ten of us had one week free until we started teaching, so decided to travel to Pai where we spent the following five days staying at the 'Famous Pai Circus Hostel'. Our time at the hostel mainly consisted of relaxing in the infinity pool which looked out

over the rest of Pai and the mountains beyond, browsing the picturesque streets of Pai's main street and going to lots of lovely little bars in the evening until the early hours before retiring to our bamboo bunk beds for a relatively comfortable night's sleep. We paid £4 a night to stay here and had a brilliant time. While we were in Pai, we visited the Pai Canyon, hot springs, an amazing waterfall and some incredible caves.

When Shannon and I arrived back in Kut Chum, we were finally able to unpack and move into our wee house. We live in one of six houses within our school grounds and as each day goes by it feels more like home. Our walls are filled with pictures and paintings by past volunteers and we have both decorated our rooms with photos and sentimental items from home. The house is basic compared to U.K. standards but it has everything we need. We have been out for dinner with teachers from our school (one evening we were at a teachers house from 4:30pm – 12:30am and only once all 18 bottles of beer were consumed were we able to go home), started teaching our official timetable and have enjoyed exploring Kut Chum and meeting new people.

It would be wrong for this blog post to only speak about the very happy memories I have in a month when Thailand was struck with the devastating news that King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was also the world's longest reigning monarch, sadly passed away. Being in Thailand around this time has been sad but also informative and somewhat moving. Seeing how much Thai people loved their King and truly mourn his death has given me a greater idea of the sheer level of respect embedded in Thai culture. For a whole year, all teachers will be expected to wear black to work (including us) and for 30 days, loud music and celebrations have been put on hold. The fact that an entire country is able to share such a sense of loss and show so much respect for someone who was widely loved and appreciated is incredible. It's an amazing historical event to be able to observe.

Shannon and I are finally settled in and I'm excited to really get stuck into teaching. I'll now be teaching for the next four months until March and will look forward to updating you soon with what life is like living in Kut Chum.

Love to you all *Kirsty*

Report from Sukhita

John Fisher reports on how the charity has used its funds in 2016.



Sacred Heart Convent Galle

Sister Alex works towards income generation and continues with the Mushroom growing and Vegetable/Chilli Garden within the convent. She still continues to support many vulnerable children and single parents in the Galle area with the provision of food and employment (to tend the garden/mushrooms). Very recently however, Sister Alex was admitted to hospital where she underwent further Tracheotomy surgery. Her recovery has been slow, however I am pleased to let you know that she is now out of hospital and recovering well. Her speech is a whisper given the type of surgery and she needs to avoid infection for the initial few weeks. Given this, Sister Alex is currently staying with Joy (Manacare) where she will receive the best after care. Our funding for Sister Alex will continue to support those vulnerable children and single parents.

Our donation this current year to Sister Alex:- £2,500.

Manacare

Joy at Manacare continues to strive forward with the sewing business, that receives corporate orders from the 5* Hotels in the region. The Nursery school continues to receive good attendance. For the children, they would receive no education otherwise. The two special needs families who stay in the bungalow accommodations within the property are all in good health, receiving medical treatment on a regular basis. The priority issues for Manacare surround the Nursery school and specific fabric relates issues with the property. This is due to the Sri Lankan climate. So in an effort to support the Manacare project, Ranil (our Sri Lankan Co-ordinator) is working with the Manacare manager (Rajah) to establish priority needs as we continue our support to ensure a safe and clean environment for the children. The next stage for Manacare is to re-energise the tourist income by encouraging more visitors to Manacare who will in turn provide much needed income.

Our donation this current year to Manacare:- £2,800

Child Action Lanka (Street Kids) a child's story

When Sumali came to us she was the older sibling of one of our pre-schoolers. She had barely been to school herself though she was seven years old. So she joined our catch up class for those who have not been to school and after one term she started school. She joined her sister in Grade 1 even though she should have been in Grade 3. She continued to attend catch up classes in the afternoon (not to mention a healthy lunch). Now in one year she has been promoted to Grade 3 and won school champion awards. We are so proud (Debbie's words).

We continue to support children like Sumali and our donation this current year to CAL:- £2,500

CPS Nepal

After the devastating earthquake in Nepal we decided to look at some way to help, and I subsequently had a casual conversation with Nick Rynn who advised me that he knew of a small charity in England similar to ourselves who were active in Kathmandu with orphans. So after numerous emails, phone calls and meetings we came to the conclusion that we should support this group. We are now happy to say that we provide an educational bursary for 2 named children for 5 years at a total cost of £1,250 per child (to include lunch provided by the orphanage).

Also one of their orphaned teenagers has been successful in securing a college place to study IT. This is a three year course, the cost for this £900 which we have agreed to fully fund.

Hopefully in the future we can consider further support to CPS.

Craighalbert Centre Cumbernauld

Craighalbert is a Specialist National Education and Therapy Centre for children with Motor Impairments. We provided support through an Auction they had by donating various items. Lee compered and raised over £4,000 of which £3,500 was from our goods. We will continue to Support Craighalbert in the future.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank all of you who have donated to Sukhita in the past year without that support none of the above would have been possible. Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Intercessions

Let us pray to the God of heaven who stands among us now.

Heavenly Father we come before you now with our thanks and praise for your living presence among us.



Lord we ask you to look with mercy on our world.

We pray for our political leaders in this country as the issues of the day cloud our judgement.

We pray for the United States of America as the people of that country face the final days of a close presidential race, we pray that the result might bring hope and promise for the country both at home and abroad.

We pray for all areas of ongoing conflict and fighting in the world.
We pray for the people forced to leave their homes and those who are trapped in dangerous situations.

We continue to pray for the thousands of people left homeless and frightened, following the recent hurricane in Haiti and also the people of central Italy following another devastating earthquake.
We remember all in the emergency and rescue services.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church.

We continue to remember Bishop Gregor, Scott, Maggie and Charlotte, thanking you for their gifts which they freely share with us.
We thank you for all the women and men who work for your kingdom;

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember before you all who are struggling or losing heart, give them your heavenly encouragement and patience.

In a moment of silence we remember those known to us.

We ask for your protection and healing in each of their situations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died recently and for those who will die today.

We remember all who sit and wait. Comfort and protect them in your loving arms.

We ask you, Lord, to rid us of our anxieties and help us to cast our fears aside.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jenny Whelan (6 November)

The ultimate question for a responsible man is to ask not how he is to extricate himself heroically from the affair, but how the coming generation is to live.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and papers from prison)

Poetry Corner

Advent

Don't walk across my space.

It's fragile.

I know about:

the sound that isn't there;

a lead-weight feather;

vanishing gossamer trees;

the aroma of scentless water.

So, don't walk across my space.

But behind the space?

It's free. You're always welcome.

Besides, there's a presence in the air.

Ann Rawson



The Last Word

A six year old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go and get her. Then, when she's finished her visit, we take her back to the airport."

St Margaret of Scotland, Newlands



Service details

Sundays

9.00am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist,
Crèche, Sunday School & Youth Group

Tuesdays

10.00 am Holy Communion

Morning and Evening Prayer

Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri 9.00am and 5.30pm

For other services not listed please see Diary inside

Church Website address: www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk

Scottish Charity No SC 008953

Next issue 29 January

Copy deadline Sunday 15 January 6pm