St Margaret's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Magazine

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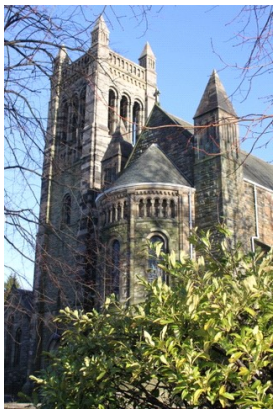
February 2017



Their sound is gone out…..St Margaret's on air (see page 3)

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace how pleasant Lord, they be!
(Psalm 84, metrical version)

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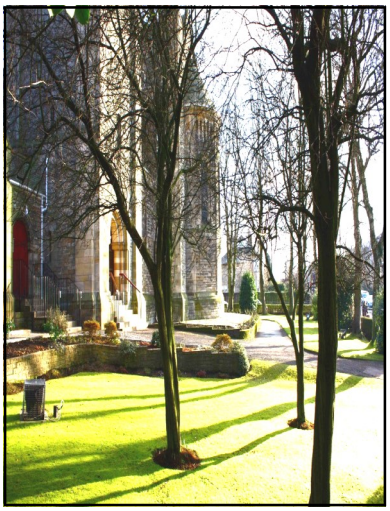

A warm welcome to St Margaret's

Should you wish to speak to the Rector, he is regularly available at the Church on Tuesdays 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.

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St Margaret's live on air….

5….4…..3…..2….1…..The nationwide Sunday Worship service on Radio 4 at 8.10am on 8 January came live from St Margaret's. Scott and Maggie led the service on the theme of Epiphany, light in the darkness and the gifts brought by the Wise men. At a time when many in the world see darkness and despair all around, Scott reminded us that it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Glasgow Chamber Choir led the worship (and had to be ready for rehearsal at 7am!) and sang a beautiful rendering of We Three Kings of Orient Are. As well as Bible readings we heard UA Fanthorpe's "BC:AD" and a first performance of Philip Cook's setting of Laurie Lee's poem Twelfth Night.

The event was certainly a musical tour de force. Radio 4's Sunday Worship service goes all over the world and the BBC engineer told us that sound goes to the equator and back in only 30 seconds. It is also amazing to think that a million listeners heard the broadcast.

The Chamber Choir was rewarded for their efforts by breakfast bacon rolls provided by Jan – much appreciated!

…….opening the door on hidden secret of Glasgow

A visitor to the Sunday concert on 8 January was the Herald columnist Ken Smith, who had come to interview Michael about the story of the Second Sunday concerts. His major feature article in the Herald the following Tuesday told of his 'epiphany moment' in discovering our beautiful church - "Everybody knows it, yet at the same time nobody knows it". He then went on to write about the building's history, St Margaret, the organ refurbishment, the success of the concerts and the perfect acoustics. "As we step out into a cold, darkening Glasgow afternoon," he concluded, "we are indeed soothed by the music, and also thankful that the city's forefathers were willing to invest their money in buildings that would still be bringing pleasure for generations to come". Praise indeed.

Scott writes……..

As we move into 2017, we could be forgiven for feeling more than a little apprehensive. A new year brings with it a new US president, a new Britain, a new Europe. We usually use the word "new" to describe something positive especially about ourselves at this time of year. Advertisers go out of their way at this time of year to help us to discover the 'new you' in order to sell us everything from herbal medicines to the latest Dyson Hoover. There's a sense, though, in which the word "new" can be reframed as "uncharted". On the mediaeval maps such "new" territory was marked by great sea serpents with the accompanying cheery legend: "Here be dragons". It is certainly true that the decisions of 2016 have led us into uncharted territory in 2017. "Here be Donald"; Here be Brexit".

But, of course, those of us who have been around long enough might find ourselves asking: "What's new?" The world was ever in flux in one way or another. In January 1849, in an issue of a journal called *The Wasps*, the French essayist, John Baptiste Alphonse Karr immortalised himself with the line, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." This could be seen as fatalistic, but I like to think a bit more positively. If anything is alive it changes. It seems to me that this is good, it is an indication of life. That of course doesn't mean acquiescing to change for change's sake, nor does it mean reacting against all change and dwelling in some kind of imaginary, static Xanadu (which, of course, is the stuff of nightmares).

Stuff happens, but it is how we deal with it that matters. Asking why does this happen may be useful and interesting sitting in a seminar room, but it won't get us very far as we try to live with change. Human beings live with change. If we didn't we wouldn't get out of bed in the morning. But those of us who call ourselves Christians not only live with change, we *believe* in change. Not in the way that the enlightenment thinkers did – where change was all about progress and breaking new ground, and in particular shaking off the shackles of authority (not that this is necessarily a bad thing). The kind of change the Christians believe in is where light can be found in darkness; hope can be found in the midst of despair; where promise can be glimpsed in the most unpromising life; where healing can be found in the deepest malady. The theologian, John Swinton, makes this point when he describes the early church's response to one aspect of change, namely

suffering: 'Suffering' [he writes] 'was not a metaphysical problem needing a solution but a practical challenge requiring a response.'

If you think about it, that is what life is – an opportunity to face the inevitable changes and chances of this world with courage and good humour; to challenge what needs challenging and to celebrate the goodness we discover. In all of this, we recognise the faithfulness of the one who made this world, and without sentiment we can faithfully respond, "Change and decay all around I see, thou who changest not, abide with me."

Scott

'BC:AD'

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

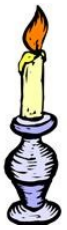
This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven. *(UA Fanthorpe)*

****

We are sad to hear of the death of Bill Graham at New Year. Formerly of Corrour Road in Newlands, he had been in a nursing home in Edinburgh. Our prayers and sympathy are with Daphne and the family.



Christmas at St Margaret's 2016

Advent Sunday

Charlotte's Advent sermon gave us plenty to think about; the householder, the paradox of the thief in the night being linked with Christ's coming, the "Cyrus factor" (from Isaiah 45, when God uses Cyrus, a foreign king, to release Israel from captivity). Is God using unusual people and global uncertainty to teach us something as we enter the New Year?

The Words and Music service for Advent that evening continued the theme of thoughtful preparation.

Church Family Christmas Party 18 December

And what a great party it was!

We had a delicious three course meal with wine, which was possible only because of the generosity of everyone who contributed different elements of the meal, making it well and truly a team effort. With more than 60 hungry people to feed [many wearing festive jumpers and with Jenny adorned in long lasting, hair enhancing tinsel!], the lunch would not have reached the tables had it not been for Jan and everyone else who helped prepare and serve the meal. Special back-pats for the stalwarts who stayed behind to help with the massive task of tidying and clearing up. Thank you so much to you all - you are fabulous, Team St Margaret's!

It wouldn't have been a proper Christmas party without silly games and carol singing, both of which were entered into with enthusiasm and gusto [congratulations to Elaine McIndoe and Dave Bryce the winners of the musical statues game and to the children who were the judges]. Towards the end of the party, there was a surprise 'gift' for all of us – it was a music video made up of clips filmed in church over a number of weeks in November and December 2016 (you may recall being asked to dance while I recorded you on my phone – yes, that was for this video!). It was a lovely and joyous tribute to the happy people of St Margaret's [absolutely hilarious as we saw well known faces in highly incongruous poses].

You will be glad to know that, thanks to Jan and Robert, all the food we had leftover was taken to the night shelter, where it was very warmly welcomed.

If you weren't at the party, have no fear – this is now a regular event in our church calendar and there will be another one this year that I anticipate will be just as much fun.

Kalpana Panickar [with editor's comments!]

O Little Town of Bethlehem…..

Our theatre critic writes: The Nativity show at St Margaret's was again excellent. The back of the church resembled a theatre "green room" as children were dressed up in assorted garments as shepherds, innkeeper and wise men and fitted with microphones. Parents, friends and relatives of the children filled the front rows of seats and there was a keen air of anticipation. Hay freshly brought from the farm added authenticity to the stable scene.

Elliott Osmond, fresh from his solo in the Concert Hall singing "Walking in the Air" the previous evening, lit the Advent Candle, and the show commenced. A key figure was a hirsute John the Baptist, played convincingly by a finger wagging Callum McKendrick, calling on all and sundry, particularly the choir, to Repent. The script had suitable comic touches, especially when the innkeeper (played by Charlotte Gates) told Mary that she couldn't accept payment in Nazareth money because it wasn't a stable currency. Around 15 children took part, playing shepherds, Mary and Joseph, the wise men and others, and Margot Grant's solo singing for Away in a Manger was enchanting. A more modern musical accompaniment was provided by Aidan Smith on the guitar singing his own song "2000 Decembers ago".

Well done to Alison and Adrian, the directors, and June the piano accompanist. It was another five star show.

Christmas Eve

The 8pm 'Carols by Candlelight' service lived up to its fine reputation; the day had been wet and windy, and perhaps in response to the dismal political climate in 2016, the attendance was the largest for some years, with an estimated number of 220. The effect when the LED lights were switched on at the start of the service was again magical, setting the scene for a wonderful service. In his welcome to the congregation, Scott reminded us that while some may see Christmas as a time to escape into fairyland, God did not escape, but came down to engage with the world. Carols for choir and congregation were interspersed with traditional

readings from Isaiah and Luke's gospel. The readings were all read with superb expression and sensitivity and the choir sang a wide variety of carols, including 'This is the truth sent from above', 'Up! Good Christen folk and listen', 'Angelus ad virginem', 'Lo, how a rose e'er blooming', 'The shepherds' farewell', John Rutter's 'Born in a stable so bare' and 'Glory to the Christ Child', a carol with 17th century words but now set to a new tune composed by Hugh Macdonald. The choir had been thoroughly and painstakingly rehearsed by the "double Macdonald act" of Hugh and David, and it showed, for they sang confidently, joyfully, clear in their diction and melodious in their harmonies. It was a thoroughly accomplished performance.

The midnight Eucharist with around 40 present was quiet and reverential; Scott in his sermon talked of the "quiet embarrassment" of Christmas, when God the Father reconnects with us His children. Hugh's playing of Frederick Kelly's organ Prelude on Good King Wenceslas during Communion added a nice touch.

Christmas Day

On Christmas morning a lively congregation of around 50 assembled to celebrate Christ's coming with carols and a 'short form' Eucharist. The children demonstrated their presents and "listened to Jenny" as she read the story of the shepherds. The musical accompaniment was provided by June Rynn on piano, Adrian Osmond on flute, and included a superb interlude with Leila Osmond playing "The Little Drummer Boy" on the harp. Scott focussed our attention on the true essence of Christmas. A happy celebration for all.

The Vestry had decided to support the Glasgow City Mission with the proceeds of the Christmas collections, and we are delighted to report that, including Gift Aid recovery, the sum of £1,200 has been raised.

Thank you again Scott for all the thought and preparation which went in to the services.

Around St Margaret's February 2017

Magazine subscription renewal

It is now magazine subscription renewal time! The cost of the magazine remains at 50p per issue, ie £5 for the year 2017 if collected at church and £10 for the year if posted. If anyone wishes to make an extra contribution over and above the subscription, that will be warmly welcomed by the Treasurer. Alternatively, it may be sent by e-mail - at no charge!

The magazine is normally issued on the last Sunday of the month (if collecting from church please remember to collect your copy promptly!!).

Please complete the renewal form included with this magazine, put it in the enclosed envelope, along with your subscription, and place it in the offering plate or post it to church.

Please do respond and mark your option clearly. Many thanks. *June Gray*

Leaf day 26 November

The weather was excellent; cold after a light frost. Numbers were smaller than in some years, but boy were they all very willing to work (suitably fortified at half time bacon and egg rolls produced by Collette). There was plenty of exercise filling barrows and bins, and (of course!) jumping on the skip. A lot was achieved and what seemed like mountains of greenery was pruned; what a difference to the garden.

World Aids Day 1 December

The church again participated in marking World Aids Day by floodlighting the church in red from 29 November to 1 December. The church looked most impressive; thank you to Gerry Wells for installing the filters.

Academy of Sacred Music - Choral Classics for Christmas

An inspiring concert of festive choral music was brought to St. Margaret's by the Academy of Sacred Music on 9 December. The music included Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Vaughan Williams, Vivaldi's Gloria and pieces by Tallis, Palestrina, Britten and Howells. The singing from the youngsters was wonderfully clear and the orchestral pieces fitted in well.

Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme – Christmas 2016 Toy Scheme
A big "thank you" for this year's generous response. The coordinator, Douglas Wilson, has written to say that 150 children have been supported from 46 families. It must be quite a sight to see the volunteers who busily wrap so many presents – like Santa's elves; and even better to see the faces of the children opening them. A case of "Joy is the simplest form of gratitude" (Karl Barth). Also appreciated are the monetary gifts. Added to that, it was a delight to collect knitted items from Bunty McSkimming. Thank you, Bunty. I know these were knitted under trying circumstances. Well done! *With appreciation, Ann Rawson*

Beyond Belief – Reformation 500
2017 sees the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and Martin Luther's 95 Theses. Charlotte is heavily into Reformation Studies and has been working on a review for the Times Literary Supplement of 6 books on the Reformation. She was on the radio "Beyond Belief" programme on Monday 2 January, taking part in a studio discussion on the Reformation and what it means for us today.

Second Sunday concerts and Choral Evensong
The concert on 11 December featured flautist Leslie Holland and pianist Donal McHugh. Their programme was extremely varied, containing works by Telemann, Mozart, Enesco, Gaubert, Denhard (a memorable piece for piccolo and alarm clock, which certainly tested the flautist's ability!), Palmgren and Bowen. On 8 January we welcomed soprano Jemma Brown and pianist Maryam Sherhan presenting a patriotic programme of Burns settings by Britten and Schumann, works by contemporary Scottish composers Claire Liddell and James MacMillan and songs from other parts of the British Isles by Ireland and Howells.

The concert on 12 February will feature a variety of renaissance music performed by Annemarie Klein, recorders, and Eric Thomas, lute and theorbo *[a large double necked bass lute; sounds interesting! – Ed]*.

There will be a Choral evensong on Sunday 19 February at 6.30pm.

SEC Marriage Canon
St Margaret's will be hosting 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. Members of our sister churches in the South Regional Council will also participate in these discussion sessions, and they are taking place at St Margaret's on the following dates:

Saturday 28 January from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Tuesday 31 January from 11am to 1pm

Thursday 2 February from 7.30 to 9.30pm

This is an important issue and it is hoped for a good turnout, so that the congregations' Lay Reps can attend the Diocesan Synod on Saturday 4 March with a clear sense of people's views on the topic.

Spring Organ Festival

Sunday 5 February 6.30pm. Young American trombonist Henry Van Engen visits us from Germany to perform music by Franck, Guilmant, Caccini and Schnittke with Michael at the organ.

The organ festival continues on the first Sundays of March (5th) and April (2nd). Watch this space for more information.

Lent events

Lent will be upon us soon; Ash Wednesday is on 1 March.; services at 10am and 7.30pm. The Lent Reflections will take place every Tuesday during Lent, from 7pm to 7.30pm, on 7, 14, 21, 28 March, and 4 and 11 April.

The Lent Study group will meet on Thursdays during Lent, from 7.30pm to 9pm, on 9, 16, 23, 30 March and 6 April.

Floral Update

The floral calendar for 2017 is now available on the back table. There are still some dates available so please sign up! *Moira Atkinson.*

SECMA (Scottish Episcopal Church Missionary Association)

Copies of the latest issue is available at the back of the church and includes articles on tree planting in Malawi, refugees in Lebanon, schooling in South Africa, and disability in Uganda. In the UK we take so much for granted, and it is salutary to read of the work being done in our name for those who have so little.

February Diary of events

Tue 31st Jan	Holy Communion 10am
	Canon 31 discussion 11am in the church
Thu 2nd	Canon 31 discussion 7.30pm in the church
Sun 5th	Epiphany 5
	Organ and trombone recital 6.30pm
Tue 7th	Holy Communion 10am
	Rector's Hour 6pm
	"Short and Sweet" Reflection 7pm
	Vestry 7.45pm
Sun 12th	Epiphany 6
	Second Sunday concert in the church 3.30pm
	Annemarie Klein, recorders, and Eric Thomas, lute and theorbo
Tue 14th	Holy Communion 10am
	Rector's Hour 6pm
Thu 16th	Knit and Natter 10am to 12.30pm
Sun 19th	Epiphany 7
	Choral Evensong 6.30pm
Tues 21st	Holy Communion 10am
	Rector's Hour 6pm
The 23rd	Church and The Academy, 5.30pm 4 The Square, Glasgow
	University; speaker Rev John McLuckie on Mystical Theology
Sun 26th	Sunday before Lent….
	……preceded (and followed) by Fair Trade Brunch
Tue 28th	Rector's Hour 6pm

Wed 1st March Ash Wednesday services 10am and 7.30pm

Please note that until the summer the Rector's Hour will be on Tuesdays at 6pm instead of on Wednesdays.

Readings for February

5 February	Isaiah 58: 1-12
Epiphany 5	1 Corinthians 2: 1-12
	Matthew 5: 13-20
12 February	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Epiphany 6	1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
	Matthew 5: 21-37
19 February	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18
Epiphany 7	1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23
	Matthew 5: 38-48
26 February	Exodus 24: 12-18
Sunday before Lent	2 Peter 1: 16-21
	Matthew 17: 1-9

Beautiful Snow

This poem was found during the American Civil War amongst the papers of 22 year old girl, once beautiful and charming, but who fell into prostitution and died disgraced, friendless and outcast, and yet, at the end, not without hope.

Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow! Filling the sky and the earth below;

Over the housetops, over the street, over the heads of the people you meet,

Dancing, flirting, skimming along - beautiful snow! It can do nothing wrong;

Flying to kiss a fair lady's cheek, clinging to lips in frolicsome freak;

Beautiful snow, from the heavens above! Pure as an angel, gentle as love!

Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow, how the flakes gather and laugh as they go,

Whirling about in their maddening fun - it plays, in its glee, with every one:

Chasing laughing hurrying by, it lights on the face, and sparkles the eye;

And the dogs, with a bark and a bound, snap at the crystals that eddy around:

The town is alive, and its heart in a glow, to welcome the coming of the beautiful snow.

How blithely the crowd goes swaying along, hailing each other with humour and song!

How the gay sledges, like meteors, flash by, bright for a moment, then lost to the eye,

Ringing, swinging, dashing they go, over the crust of the beautiful snow –

Snow so pure, when it falls from the sky, as to make one regret to see it lie,

To be tramped and tracked by thousands of feet, till it blends with the filth in the horrible street.

"Once I was pure as the snow, but I fell – fell, like the snowflakes, from heaven to hell;

Fell, to be trampled as filth in the street – fell, to be scoffed, to be spit on and beat;

Pleading, cursing, dreading to die, selling my soul to whoever would buy;

Dealing in shame for a morsel of bread; hating the living, and fearing the dead:

Merciful God! Have I fallen so low, and yet – I was once like the beautiful snow!

Once I was fair as the beautiful snow, with an eye like its crystal and heart like its glow;

Once I was loved, for my innocent grace, flattered and sought, for the charms of my face;

Father, Mother, sister and all, God and myself, I have lost by my fall;

The veriest wretch that goes shivering by will make a wide swoop lest I wander too nigh:

For all that is on or above me, I know there is nothing so pure as the beautiful snow

Should fall on a sinner, with nowhere to go!

How strange it should be when night comes again, if the snow and the ice struck my desperate brain!

Fainting, freezing, dying alone. Too wicked for prayer, too weak for a moan,

To be heard in the streets of the crazy town, gone mad in the joy of the snow coming down -

To lie, and to die, in my terrible woe, With a bed and a shroud of the beautiful snow."

Helpless and foul as the trampled snow, Sinner"! Despair not; Christ stoopeth low

To rescue the soul that is lost in its sin, groaning , bleeding, dying for thee,

And raise it to life and enjoyment again: the crucified hung on the accursed tree;

His accents of mercy fall soft on thine ear - "Is there mercy for me? Will He heed my prayer?

O God! In the stream that for sinners doth flow, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow!" *(Contributed by Moira Linnegan)*

Favourite psalms

Psalm 45, referred to in the Psalter as an Ode for a Royal Wedding, is this month's choice. It repays study and offers plenty of food for thought.

[1] My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

[2] You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
[3] Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your glory and majesty.

[4] In your majesty ride on victoriously
for the cause of truth and to defend the right;
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.
[5] Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.

[6] Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever.
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;
[7] you love righteousness and hate wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
[8] your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
[9] daughters of kings are among your ladies of honour;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

[10] Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
[11] and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
[12] the people of Tyre will seek your favour with gifts,
the richest of the people [13] with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
[14] in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.
17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

This Psalm is one of a number referred to as Royal Psalms. They also include Psalms 2, 21, 72, 110, and some commentators would cite others in addition. At first sight, they commemorate either a royal wedding or else some festival or event such as a coronation or royal visit. As we know from William and Kate in 2011, a Royal Wedding catches the public imagination and is a time of national significance. We don't know which king's wedding is being celebrated in this psalm but it does not particularly matter. Remembering how Christ on the road to Emmaus opened the disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures, we realise that the Psalm points to something deeper and much more wonderful, the relationship of Christ to us the church, His bride.

Let us look at some of the themes which flow through the psalm.

Royalty

The psalmist addresses his verses to the king and reflects on his beauty (v2), his glory and his majesty (v3 and 4). Arguably we do not meditate enough on God, "infinite, eternal and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth" (Westminster Confession; Shorter Catechism).

As symbols of royal power the king carries his sword (v3) and aims his arrows (v5). For us the sword is the Bible, God's word, sharper than a two edged sword (Heb. 4.12) and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces (Jer. 23.29). A sword is no use if it stays in its scabbard and we are meant to engage intelligently and biblically with the issues of the day; as one saint has said, "You have your Bible and your knees; use them". We can also call on Christ the King of the church to act and to aim his arrows at people's hearts; we can argue with people about the claims of Christ until we are blue in the face, but until their heart is touched they will not respond.

Righteousness

Thoughts of royalty flow into thoughts about the King's throne and what it stands for. Justice and equity undergird the king's rule; verses 6 and 7 tell how he loves righteousness and hates wickedness, and as if to emphasise the point these verses are replicated in Hebrews 1.8. Righteousness as a concept is not exactly top of the hit parade in 2017, but it is at the centre of the relationship between Christ and the Church. Christ is not neutral in the battle between right and wrong and nor should his followers be. There is so much evil in the world (as some of us were discussing in the Pilgrim study group before Christmas), but what do we DO about it? We recognise that we are called to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6.8). But we all know that it is so much easier for us to love righteousness in theory rather than to stick our heads above the parapet and be its champion.

Our response to God's righteousness is to "hear, consider and incline your ear" (v10). That is what the church is to do; CH Spurgeon comments that "the whole faculties of the mind should be bent on receiving holy teaching". A holy church will be a powerful church and the "people of Tyre" ie the Gentiles will come flocking (v12). Why do we run away from holiness? Perhaps we have a muddle headed idea of what holiness is; it is not some monastic holy huddle, but a real and lively engagement with the world. The Scottish Episcopal Church today is rightly emphasising the primacy of Mission and Discipleship and we seek to follow that lead as we at St Margaret's engage with the community around us.

Rejoicing

Notice how the goodly theme makes the psalmist's heart overflow as he addresses his Lord; his heart bubbles over. Do we merely go through the motions of worship when we come to church or does our love truly overflow? Where is the joy and enthusiasm in our worship? Do we come to church in an expectant frame of mind so that we may go away filled with joy and an overflowing heart?

The more we focus on Christ as King the more we are likely to find our heart bubbling over. We are not to offer God that which has cost us nothing. Jesus is our king and we are to praise him with heart and voice and soul in joyful worship.

Verses 16 and 17 talk of handing on the message to future generations so

that people will praise God for ever and ever. The rejoicing goes on and the line of grace does not become extinct. God can, does and will raise up people to follow him and carry the Gospel on. Most of us can think of someone who has been particularly influential in our Christian life. For me, one such person was Rev Richard Gorrie, of Scripture Union, who died last September and whose memorial service I was sadly unable to attend as I was In India. He was someone whose quiet saintliness and faithful preaching has affected hundreds if not thousands of lives for Christ.

If we live as the King's subjects, eager and listening, caring and acting, faithful and joyful, who knows how many in generations yet unborn will have cause to give thanks and praise to the King?

Jim Gibson

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Fairtrade Fortnight - 26 February to 12 March

Fairtrade Fortnight is approaching fast. Following the success of last year we are planning a breakfast/ brunch following the LOAF (Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fair traded) principles. This will take place between the 9 o'clock (look out for an earlier start time for this service) and 10.30 services and then after the 10.30 service, on Sunday 26 February. All contributions of food and/or help will be gratefully received.

At the end of the Fortnight on Saturday 11 March 11 I plan to have a coffee morning at my house in Dumbreck (267 Nithsdale Road) with awareness raising activities and an enhanced Fairtrade stall. Please come and bring your friends.

We are maintaining a healthy bank balance for Saint Margaret's Fairtrade group although we are not increasing our sales. A cheque for £400 has been passed on to the Treasurer *(and gratefully received, says Maida)* , to be used for projects in connection with Eco congregation. If anyone has any ideas as to how we might increase our impact on the local community please let us know. See you at the Brunch!

Liz Bryce

Intercessions

Lord Jesus you invite us to come and see. We are drawn to you by a light of many kinds and colours, a light that does all sorts of things. It illuminates our inner self, shows us the way, gives us hope, shows us wisdom and draws us ever closer to you.

We give you thanks Lord for the light which shines from those *we* love, making *us* feel loved and valued. Help us to reflect that gift into the lives of others around us when we are out and about, in the shops, on the station platform, in the bus queue.

We ask for your healing when that light of love starts to dim and disappear. We pray for those experiencing difficulties in their relationships at home. We pray for those suffering dementia and for their partners. Lord Jesus protect the smallest of flames in our hearts and rekindle, through your grace, hope when all seems dark.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for your church and our faith community here at St Margaret's. We give thanks for Scott, Maggie and Charlotte who mentor us with patience, taking time with us, encouraging us to reflect, talk about and practice our faith, so that we may keep practising and practising and practising until we become true disciples, living with God.

We pray for our diocese, in particular for the health of Bishop Gregor. Grant our clergy wisdom, fortitude and the blessing of mutual support.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for your light to shine on the politics of our world, to bring hope in dark places. We give thanks for callings of leadership, callings of service, callings of insight, callings of challenge.

We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East, for understanding and dialogue where sectarianism is the cause of violence, for success of peace talks in Paris and for resumption of talks to unify Cyprus.

Let *us* be weapons of God with a purpose in word and deed. Give us courage to lobby for, and support the work of peacemakers. Let *us* be prepared for the hard work of sitting down with those whom we disagree to compromise, negotiate, and come up with creative solutions to our problems.

We will not doubt our efforts; because we have faith in You. Let us be God's beacon, God's light to the world.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Your wonderful world is full of light that is beautiful in every way we can imagine – the joy of sunrise, the soft sombre mood of sunset, the magic of the aurora borealis, the drama of lightning lit skies; the changing light throughout the seasons. We thank you Lord for your gift to us, planet earth. Teach us to care for your gift and treat it with respect. We give thanks for the scientists who explore and monitor the environment, for the activists who nudge us from our comfort zones and the technologists striving for sustainable solutions.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill, in particular for those suffering mental illness, especially young people in our community. We ask Lord for your healing and that your care and love surround and protect them. We pray for victims of stroke Lord, where your life light appears to have been put out. Give them hope and strength to recover, take away pain and distress, give them the patience to persevere.

We pray for the families and friends, the doctors and nurses, the home carers and therapists. Give *them* your light and hope, build their skills, strengthen and sustain them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
We pray for those for whom the light of this world has finally been extinguished, but who now bathe in the light of your heavenly kingdom, in everlasting life, eternal peace.

We ask you to be the light for all those who grieve, whose loss of a loved one has left them devastated and empty. Fill that emptiness with you love, reach out for them and comfort them; bring them hope.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you have called us by our names; we are loved and we belong You give us a light to lead us to your dwelling So we ask you Lord in faith to accept our prayers this day and always. **Amen**

Jan MacDonald (15 January)

Using my LOAF - Catering at St Margaret's

I love catering for others; to see folks come together, enjoying each others company. Sharing food together is about so much more than just the food, it also says what we value about ourselves and others. The quality and provenance of our food is important which is why when I do catering events at St Margaret's I try, as far as possible to use LOAF principles:

L Local
O Organic
A Animal friendly
F Fair Trade

This is a simple sequence of choices. Try and buy local first, if that's not available buy organic from further afield. Buy more veg; eat less meat and when you do buy meat, buy the best-for-the-animal you can. Finally choose fairly traded products and ensure workers abroad benefit from your purchase; trade is good if it's fair.

My menus are often based around seasonally available vegetables, most of which can be purchased locally, often coming from Glaswegian, Scottish or UK growers. They may have organic certification; many small businesses don't register as it's expensive, but a little research reveals a commitment to organic principles. There are so many great vegetarian recipes that the meat bit can often be greatly reduced; good for costs and good for health. We can spend a bit more on better quality meat and meat products with higher welfare standards such as free range chicken and eggs. Look out the 'Freedom Foods', RSPCA Approved' 'Red Tractor' logos, buy British and support some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world. Organic meat production of course includes high standards of animal welfare and much lower use of veterinary drugs.

There will always be a requirement for ingredients from other parts of the world and there's much in season from sunnier climes to brighten our winter, such as citrus fruit. When purchasing food that comes from beyond UK shores, Fair Trade products ensure producers get a fair price, are sustainably farmed and include some kind of community payback.

Using your LOAF guidelines doesn't mean restricting your diet but it does help make more sustainable food choices which has to be better for all of us living on this wonderful gift of God's earth. *Jan MacDonald*

The Last Word

It wasn't the apple that caused the trouble in the Garden of Eden; it was the pair on the ground.

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

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