

**St Margaret's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Magazine
50p**

June 2016



When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awakening cries,
'May Jesus Christ be praised!'

(Anonymous German hymn, early 19th century)

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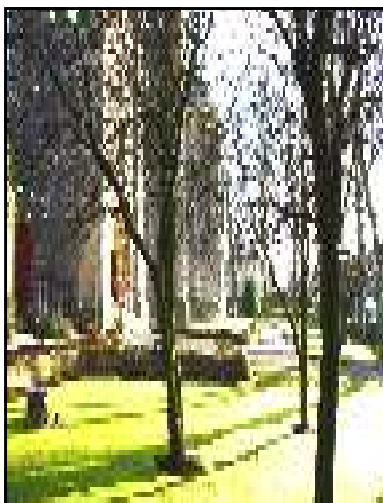
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A warm welcome to St Margaret's

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

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Young choristers



You may have noticed that Elliot Osmond has joined the choir (see photo). He has been coming to the Junior Choir which has been meeting on Thursdays at 4pm in recent weeks and is designed to be a “feeder” for the senior choir. If there are other young people in church who would like to come along and join this junior choir, please get in touch with Angela Watson. There is of course also plenty of room for more singers in the senior choir.....please do not hesitate to ask any member of the choir if you would like to join.

The Leprosy Mission

Mattie Davidson writes: In the most recent letter from the Leprosy Mission Scotland they are telling us that St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Glasgow has contributed at least £1,182.24 in the last 5 years! I am absolutely amazed and I am sure you will be also, considering that in most cases people are saving 5p, 10p and £1 coins.

The Team at TLMS are thanking everyone at St. Margaret's for such wonderful support. I will display the letter at the back of the church.

I am now passing on the job of collector to Jan Whiteside, as from the beginning of June, as I think it is time for someone younger to take over. I inherited the Collector's role from Elaine Huntriss when the family moved to Bournemouth 13 years ago. My thanks to all who have supported the cause and I am sure we can do even better with Jan - no pressure then Jan !

Scott writes.....

I met recently with my appraiser (clergy have to be appraised roughly every year – I don't mean appraised *roughly*, but, well, you know what I mean!) At the appraisal, I'm supposed to review my year and have goals set for the next 12 months. One of the goals I've been set is to do a little more on the writing front. I have restarted my blog which is called *Understandabel*, <http://understandabel.blogspot.co.uk/> where I take some time to reflect on life Ministry and everything. I hope to be able to post something once or twice a month to begin with, time permitting.



Writing is something I have a sort of love hate relationship with. Sometimes it is a pleasure, at others it is just simple hard work. Sometimes it is like water flowing easily, other times it feels stagnant with nowhere to go. There is, I find, always something rather terrifying about a blank sheet of paper. Ernest Hemingway once wrote: 'There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.' One never knows what is going to appear there for good or ill.

The Greek philosopher, Plato, didn't trust writing. He thought it was too open to misunderstanding. Far better, he said, to speak plainly, for then you can be understood. He clearly never spoke much to politicians! He despised poets and believed that they should be firmly escorted to the border in his grand vision of the Republic! In one sense though, Plato was onto something. Writing can be subversive. It can lead to all sorts of alternative futures. Next year will mark the 500th anniversary of the 16th century 'blog' known as *Luther's 95 Theses*. In this blog he questioned various aspects of church practice. This single document brought about a chain of events we now know as the Reformation. The pen (or, in today's terms, the keyboard) can indeed be mightier at times than the sword.

So writing can be subversive and revolutionary, but it can also be cathartic. Many people use journaling as a spiritual discipline and find it helpful in charting their relationship with God and others. It may be something which you would find helpful in your own spiritual journey.

And, of course, writing can be life-changing. I suppose the best example I can offer is one of the last lines from St John's Gospel, where the writer tells us: 'These things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing, you may have life in his name' (John 20:31). John may have started with a blank piece of paper, but he finished with a document that has had an impact on the entire world over the last two thousand years.

And, of course, there is that one mysterious piece of doodling/writing/blogging which, for me, surpasses all others – Jesus writes in the dust. In this one act of writing Jesus is able to turn the religious world on its head and reveal the deep truth that God is not about condemnation but about liberation. What did he write? We haven't the faintest idea.

Isn't that great?

Scott

Register

Wedding *"And Jesus was present at the wedding" (John 2.4)*

14 May Colin Macdonald and Roslin Wright

Funeral *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Revelation 14.13)*

23 April Kenneth Kirk



Around St Margaret's June 2016

Organ recitals

The latest Spring Organ festival concerts took place on 24 April at 6.30pm when the Royal Conservatoire Voices returned to give a very polished performance of pieces by Gesualdo, De Grigny, MacMillan and Messaien, interspersed with Michael playing pieces on the organ by Bach. Michael again demonstrated the power and versatility of the organ.

As we go to press we look forward to Michael's organ recital on 22 May with its varied programme of music by James MacMillan, Bach, Buxtehude, Maxwell Davies and Elgar, plus some surprise guests!

Second Sunday concerts

In a change from the advertised programme, the audience at the concert on 8 May enjoyed a recital by three young students, Olivia Hemmings (soprano), Francesca Calvert (mezzo soprano) and Sam Marston (tenor) from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, accompanied by Ana-Thea Panainte. They sang a selection of love songs, including pieces by Mozart, Schumann, Donizetti and Roger Quilter, with expression and enthusiasm.

We understand that the trombonist Richard Leonard, who was to have played for us, will be with us in the autumn.

The concert on 12 June, the last of the current season, will feature cellist Elias Rooney performing sonatas by Beethoven and Brahms, with pianist Norman Beedie.

Choral Evensong 26 June

The choir will be joining with the congregation of Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Pollokshields on Sunday evening 26 June at 6.30. Please come along and support them there.

Don't forget to cut the grass!

The rota for grass cutting is now at the back of the church. We divide the summer into fortnightly slots and ask people to sign up for a slot. If you would like to



help but are not sure of the 'drill', ask Douglas Pearson! A number of local residents appreciate the beauty of our gardens, so please do take a turn in keeping the grass tidy.

Scottish Church Census 8 May

We joined with many other local churches in Scotland in the most comprehensive survey ever undertaken of churchgoing in this country.

This was the fourth Scottish Church Census, and like those in 1984, 1994 and 2002 was a comprehensive survey of all denominations and every local church in Scotland, seeking to measure trends in churchgoing, and also explore certain factors which are thought to lie behind some of the recent changes in churchgoing patterns. The outcome of the Census will assist the Churches in their mission in Scotland as well as being reported in the media.

Many thanks to all who filled in the slips of paper for the census; it made the task of collating the statistics very much easier:

- 82 were present on the day, approximately 60% female and 40% male.
- 10% of the respondents attended twice weekly, 70% weekly and 20% fortnightly or less frequently.
- 21% have been with us for less than 3 years, 15% between 3 and 5 years, 17% between 6 and 10 years, 23% between 11 and 20 years and 24% more than 20 years.
- 28% live less than half a mile from church, 52% between half a mile and 3 miles and 20% over 3 miles.

We look forward to receiving the conclusions drawn from the census in due course.

2020 Vision

The Vestry met for the morning of Saturday 30 April to discuss plans for turning the vision into reality. At our meeting we considered the question "What is the Christian message". We reflected on the "Zeitgeist" of our present age, that of a changed and changing

context, of an openness to varieties of belief and spiritual experience, and yet with an underlying anxiety about the state of the world.

We discussed what we mean by community; we need the courage to go out of the building, and the way we approach people in the community is important.

We thought about the various ministries we can offer. We set up three sub groups, one to consider what we can do in the area of creative arts, another to consider what we can do in the area of social inclusion and another to draft protocols which would guide how we use our resources.

These subgroups will report to the June vestry meeting.

Au revoir Danielle!

We bade a fond farewell to Danielle Corrigan on Sunday 8 May as she left us to get ready to take up her post at the Isle of Man hospital near Douglas. Au revoir and not goodbye!

Danielle wishes to pass on her thanks to Scott and everyone for the gifts; she managed to open them all during the week in the middle of packing and they're lovely.

CHAS service 4 June

Ann Rawson writes: There will be a special service in church on Saturday afternoon 4 June at 2pm to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme. We have supported the Scheme for many years by giving toys at Christmas and so a good attendance for this special service would be appreciated. Refreshments will be available after the service.

Items for church website

If you have any items or information which you would like to have put on the church website, please send them to Juliet in the church office, and she will arrange for the website to be updated.

General Synod preview

The Provincial General Synod meets at St Paul's and St George's, York Place Edinburgh from 9 to 11 June. Scott, Jenny Whelan and Jim Gibson are delegates. Following last year's decision to change the Canon on Marriage,

the Faith and Order Board will bring forward proposals for consideration. The Synod will also consider, amongst other things, motions about support for refugees, the “Columba declaration” agreement between the Church of Scotland and the Church of England, and about issues of poverty, climate change and the Trident nuclear deterrent.

Pray for clarity of thought, wisdom from the Spirit and that the business may be conducted with grace and lead to renewed vigour and energy for mission in all our congregations.

Saint Margaret’s work for Fair Trade

The first part of 2016 has shown continuing commitment to the Fairtrade movement by St Margaret’s congregation. Thank you to all who supported the stall and the special events for Fairtrade fortnight.

We shall continue to provide a weekly stall through the summer months and look forward to seeing you all. Don’t forget to let us know if there are things you would like us to stock. You can look on the Traidcraft website yourselves to see the amazing variety there is.

We shall be at Newlands Gala Day as usual in September. This year the date is Saturday 3 September, from 2 to 4pm and there will be extra attractions namely a music tent with entertainment featuring several local community choirs including those run by Angela and Kenneth Watson.

John and Linda Fisher will also be bringing their stall for Sukhita.

Keep your eyes peeled for other events and please let us have your ideas.

Liz Bryce

Notes about magazine collection....

The magazine is normally issued on the last Sunday of the month. Those who collect their magazine from church are asked to remember to pick up their copies promptly. Magazines uncollected after two weeks are then posted out, but it obviously helps control costs if we do not have to post them out!

..... and stewarding rotas for July to December

Ajit has prepared the rotas for the 6 months from July to December; they are on green sheets; please pick yours up from the back of the church.

June Diary of events

Sat 4th Children's Holiday Scheme 50th anniversary service 2pm,
followed by refreshments

Sun 5th Pentecost 3

Tues 7th Holy Communion 10am
"Short and Sweet" service 7pm

Wed 8th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm

Sun 12th Pentecost 4

Second Sunday concert in the church 3.30pm
Elias Rooney, cello, with Norman Beedie, piano

Tues 14th Holy Communion 10am

Wed 15th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm
Vestry meeting 7.30pm

Sun 19th Pentecost 5

Tues 21st Holy Communion 10am

Sun 26th Pentecost 6

Choral Evensong at Sherbrooke St Gilbert's , Pollokshields
6.30pm

Tue 28th Holy Communion 10am

NB There will be no Rector's hour on June 1, 22 or 29.

Morning and Evening Prayer at 9.00am and 5.30pm on Monday,
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

"Christianity is walking and working each day with a senior partner." (Quoted by a missionary who worked in China).

Readings for June

5 June
Pentecost 3

1 Kings 17: 17-24
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7: 11-17

12 June
Pentecost 4

2 Samuel 11: 26 to 12: 10, 13-15
Galatians 2: 15-21
Luke 7: 26 to 8: 3

19 June
Pentecost 5

Isaiah 65: 1-9
Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39

26 June
Pentecost 6

1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21
Galatians 5: 1, 13-15
Luke 9: 51-62

Favourite Psalms

The older I get, the more I love the psalms. David, who has been called the “sweet Psalmist of Israel”, despite his faults, may or may not have written them all, but certainly all human life and emotion is there. We read of joy and sorrow, anger and stress, faith and doubt, and share the psalmist’s awe and wonder at God and what he has done for His people. On and off over the next few months I’d like to share thoughts on some of my favourite psalms.

I start with Psalm 8:

*LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

²*Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

³*When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*

⁴*what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

⁵*You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honour.*

⁶*You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:*

⁷*all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,*

⁸*the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

⁹*LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

This psalm speaks to us of many themes, which can inspire us not only to meditation, but to action:

God's Creation

This psalm might well be called the Astronomer's Psalm. "Surveying the solar system moderates pride and promotes humility", writes one commentator, and there is much in the aspect of the night sky to lift the soul. As an occasional stargazer I greatly enjoy looking up at the heavens and seeing the stars and the planets. It is surely no coincidence that God has made the sidereal day 23 hours and 56 minutes, 4 minutes shorter than the "normal" day; the result is that the stars rise two hours earlier each month and we see the monthly progression of constellations. I have very limited understanding of the science behind it all, the light waves, the red shifts, the pulsars, the quasars, the radio waves, the infra red and radio frequencies, and the gravitational forces, but I can certainly wonder at the mind who designed it all, and marvel at what He has done for me. God has set his glory in the heavens; it is there to be seen, and we are to seek it and bask in it, that it may give us strength, to reflect it as one would with a mirror, that it may shine in dark places.

God in Christ

When Jesus met the disciples on the Emmaus road, he opened the scriptures to them (Luke 24.32). Verse 2 of the psalm ("out of the mouths of babes and sucklings" in the Authorized Version) is quoted by Christ himself in Matthew 21.16, verse 5 is quoted by the writer to the Hebrews (Hebrews 2.6,7) and verse 6 by Paul in his chapter on resurrection (1 Cor 15.27). Christ is prefigured in many places in the Old Testament, and so it seems that in some way which we do not fully understand, the psalmist, led by the Spirit, speaks here not only of mankind in general but The Man Jesus.

God's Care

And yet God, who has created such a vast universe of beauty, cares for you and me. He has in fact set us a little lower than the angels. Angels are extraordinary beings; they are immortal, intellectual, holy, and glorious (and many will testify to the fact that they are not figments of imagination but active in the world today). So we are in exalted company.

Verse 4 tells us that God is mindful of us. Much space is given in magazines and self help books today to the subject of “mindfulness”, whereby one is encouraged to stop rushing through life and pay attention to what is happening around one and within one. Not only was the psalmist being mindful all those years ago, but he also reminds us of the greater truth that God is mindful of us; what an amazing thought!

The psalm shows God’s love and kindness to mankind in creation and redemption. The huge variety of terrestrial beings are all supported and nourished by divine beauty. We, like the stars, are meant to be people of beauty, radiating power and light and energy. Have we lost sight of our destiny? We are so often content with second best, we are cruel to others, we despoil the earth. We have a responsibility to care for creation and yet we are intent on consumption, consumption, consumption. The psalm challenges us to reset our priorities.

God’s commission

“Lord, our lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth”. The psalm starts with these words as a proposition, and finishes with them as a conclusion. Thus the psalm challenges us in our attitudes; is God’s name majestic in all the earth? To so many God’s name is at best an irrelevance, at worst an object of contempt or a swear word. Do we go along with the crowd by tacitly accepting what people say? We are called to take the good news of his saving name to all the earth, so the psalm is also an incentive to mission.

“Lord, our Lord”; we are called to own him and proclaim his good news. Let us do just that.

Jim Gibson

News from the Diocese

St Mary’s Episcopal Church in Hamilton has been shortlisted for a new competition to find the churches running the most innovative community activities made possible through the installation of new facilities. ‘The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects’ are designed to show the positive impact that installing new facilities such as kitchens and toilets has on churches and local communities and on harnessing

the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers. They are run jointly by the National Churches Trust and the Marsh Christian Trust. The first winner of 'The Marsh Awards for Innovative Projects' will be announced by the Dean of Wakefield, the Very Rev Jonathan Greener, at the Churches Trust Forum Annual Conference at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in York on 19 May 2016, and will be awarded a £1,000 prize. A runner up will be awarded a £500 prize.

Ten people (including Scott) returned to Glasgow from Gothenburg on Monday 11 April after a Service of Thanksgiving for nine years of partnership within the Porvoo Communion. The Diocese will host a return visit from our Gothenburg friends in November which will bring the partnership to a conclusion.



To mark the occasion a Eucharist was celebrated at Gothenburg Cathedral on Sunday 10 April where Bishop Gregor preached and Bishop Per

Eckerdal celebrated.

Bishop Idris Jones and Bishop Cal Axel Aurelius, the two bishops who originally signed the agreement offered reflections on our beginnings and endings.

News from the Province

Bishop's move...

The Rt Rev Dr Robert (Bob) Gillies has announced that he will retire from the office of Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney on 31 October 2016. At that point Bishop Bob will have just passed his 65th birthday and will be six weeks into his tenth year as Bishop.

Intercessions

Father, in you we are one. Our lives in you are interwoven. In you there are no walls, you call us to openness, to being receptive to the lives of each other and the gifts of your creation of which we are a part. So we refuse otherness thinking and look for commonalities immersing ourselves in a world teeming with your life and grace.



We celebrate the life we see in all our young people, their optimism, curiosity and hope. We pray for all the young people in St Margaret's asking that they will flourish in mind body and spirit and that St Margaret's will be for them a place of love, generous hospitality, fun, and challenge.

We pray for all those unaccompanied refugee children displaced by the troubles of the world, whose childhoods have been ripped from them. For those who will find their way to the UK, may they be unequivocally welcomed, nurtured and nourished. Help those working with them to understand and meet their needs in light of their experiences, restore to these children a trust in the basic goodness of life. We pray for peace in the chanel houses they have escaped, in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Father we pray for all the ancient Christian communities of the Middle-East and North Africa facing persecution; today we stand with them as brothers and sisters and pray for their safety and survival. We pray for points of contact, for opportunities for real engagement and dialogue between peoples of faith. We pray for this in defiance of the clamour for higher walls, fences and all that would separate and contribute to misunderstanding, distance and fraction.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for justice for the people of Palestine, that they will have their lands and homes restored to them and that ways of peace will be established between them and their Jewish neighbours. We look forward to a day when walls will be torn down.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for all those in Canada whose lives have been turned upside down by forest fires. We pray for the people of Fort McMurray traumatised by the destruction of their homes. We pray for all those living in vulnerable communities exposed to the threats resulting from climate change. As ever it's the poorest who suffer most, may their voices be heard in the assemblies of the powerful. We pray that long-term wellbeing and security will be prioritised over immediate economic gain. We pray for leadership in the world that sees the big picture, and has the courage to make the right decisions.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Father we pray for those we love, for those who are struggling with ill-health, loneliness and doubts about the future and in a moment's silence bring them before you....

We pray in particular for the comfort and recovery of Lynsey and for John, Rosie and Laurie.

We also bring before you those who annoy us and who we find it difficult to love. There is much for us to learn from our reactions and responses about ourselves. Help us to be open to new possibilities. In a moment's silence we bring them before you and ask your blessing for them...

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for St Margaret's, for the vestry, Scott, Maggie and Charlotte and the work of the Sunday School. We pray for wisdom in deliberations regarding how to use our resources and pray that St Margaret's can make a meaningful contribution to the life of its community.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus

Amen

(Colin Fraser, 8 May)

Sudoku

Last month's answer :

WHITSUN50

0	5	W	I	N	U	T	S	H
N	U	H	T	S	5	W	0	I
T	S	I	H	0	W	U	5	N
U	I	0	5	H	S	N	I	T
W	T	S	N	U	I	0	H	5
H	N	5	W	T	0	I	U	S
S	0	T	U	I	H	5	N	W
I	W	U	S	5	N	H	T	0
5	H	N	0	W	T	S	I	U

The Last Word

A young minister was conducting his first prison service but had not really thought about how he should begin. When the time for the service to start had come, he put on his best smile and said, 'I'm so glad you are all here today.'

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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