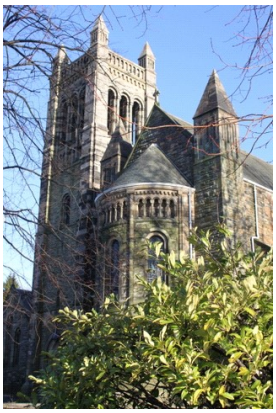
St Margaret's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Magazine



50p
March 2019

Spring is here!

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8.22)

THE CHURCH OFFICE

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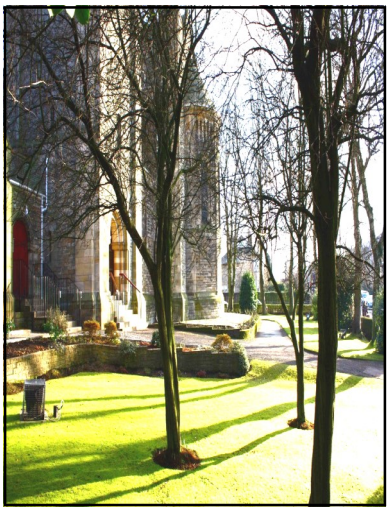

A warm welcome to St Margaret's

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.

St Margaret's on the internet: www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk
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or in the drawer marked "Magazine Editor" at the back of the church

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Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is on 21 April. If you wish to donate lilies in memory of a loved one please complete the form included with this magazine and hand it in to church, ideally by Sunday 31 March. Suggested donation £5 per lily.

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Clocks go forward

Spring forward, fall back! Clocks go forward at 1am on Sunday 31 March. Don't be late!

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Rolling off and rolling on ……

June Gray has been the Church Rollkeeper for many years and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for the way in which she has done this task unobtrusively, efficiently and meticulously.

She has now handed over the baton to Gerry Wells, and know that the job will be safe in his very capable hands.

Scott writes……..

I have a number of comedy heroes, including folk like Tommy Coper and Robin Williams. But I have to say that my all-time favourites are Laurel and Hardy. They are not to everyone's taste. My mother can't stand them, particularly the famous Piano Men film, where, no matter how hard they try, they cannot get this upright piano up this enormous flight of stairs. My mother would get really frustrated with them: "Why can't they just get that bloody piano delivered!" But for me they were, and remain, comedic geniuses. So, it was a real treat to go with my son, Craig, to see the new film, *Stan and Ollie*, which portrays them in the twilight of their career. Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly as Stan and Olly respectively, were fantastic and the whole movie I found deeply affecting. The thing that comes across so clearly, is that, despite the obvious tensions that developed between them over the years, these were two men who loved each other on and off screen.

It's sad and ironic that we have to find ourselves in the realm of the comedic or even farcical to discover the truth of love between two men. It says a lot about how men still find it difficult in our culture to express themselves to themselves, let alone anyone else. Recognising all too well the many political, economic and social struggles that women have had (and still have) in our world, I have to say that, speaking from experience, I think it is actually hard to be a man. Genetic, familial and societal pressures can all too easily constrain men into an unhealthy self-image, and a perceived way of being in the world. Much of that focuses on an emphasis on independence, strength and a general capacity to cope with life – the archetype being the strong silent type, so beloved of Westerns.

But what do you get with Laurel and Hardy? You have two hapless characters whose individual weaknesses and vanities are all too evident. They don't attempt to disguise these frailties and, just as importantly, neither do they disguise their need of one another. Every time Stan puts Ollie into a tight spot (which is often!) he equally as often strives, with varying degrees of success, to make it better. These two genuinely love one

another. They exhibit that determination which flies in the face of all that would seek to tear them apart. That, for me, is what the Piano Men sketch is all about. It isn't an exact echo of the myth of Sisyphus, who was condemned to roll a boulder up a hill for eternity. Rather, these two frail but glorious men wrestle with all that life throws at them, not with bravado or an assumption that they can succeed by sheer will power. No, what they do is live with hope, a hope that is rooted in their love for one another which enables them to face seemingly impossible situations.

In real life Laurel and Hardy felt that they had been overtaken by new comedians – Abbott and Costello among others. But people, for all their fickleness, sometimes remember. When Laurel and Hardy visited Ireland, as the boat docked in the harbour, the bells of the town rang out with their signature tune. The story goes that they wept.

And I like to think that the same tune rang out in heaven as they arrived there. A testament to love, and a reminder to all of us of the importance of true companionship. Because, without being remotely flippant, Laurel and Hardy and the love they shared are an image of the Trinity.

Scott

Lent Events

Repeating the pattern of recent years, the following events will be held:

Ash Wednesday services on 6 March at 10am and 7.30pm (Note: there will be no Tuesday morning Eucharist on 5 March).

Lent Reflections at 7pm on Tuesday evenings from 12 March to 16 April.

Lent Study Group on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm from 13 March to 17 April. Topic to be advised.

Around St Margaret's for March

Second Sunday concerts

……..and still they streamed in…. We had probably the best attendance ever, when around 140 came to hear a superb concert on 10 February featuring Richard Scholfield on saxophone and Michael Bawtree on piano. Many of the audience came from Clarkston, where Richard is the director of the Clarkston Community Choir, and from Giffnock South Church, where he is organist and choirmaster. Less well known are his astounding abilities as a saxophonist, and we were treated to a superb performance of works by 19th and 20th century American and French composers (Gershwin, Worley, Debussy, Ravel, Francaix and Maurice). Particularly impressive were the haunting sound of music imitating the pipes of Pan, played from the corridor outside the church, and the short final piece from Maurice (the saxophonist's equivalent of 'The flight of the Bumble Bee') played with extraordinary prestidigitation. Michael provided a wonderful accompaniment throughout.

The concert on 10 March will feature the Roth classical guitar duo, Sam Rodwell and Emma Smith from the Royal Northern College of Music performing a programme of music by Takemitsu, Piazzola, Bach, Reich, de Falla and Peter Maxwell Davis.

Choral events

There will be a service of Compline on Sunday 3 March and Words and Music for Lent on Sunday 17 March.

Family Film Night

Brief Encounter was the film shown on 7 February and was enjoyed by those who came. Another classic film is planned for 7 March - "Breathless" by Jean-Luc Godard. After the film there will be an open discussion on it. Refreshments will be provided. Do come along!

Diocesan Electoral Synod

The Preparatory Committee has announced the list of candidates for the position of Bishop in our Diocese. They are Kelvin Holdsworth (Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow), Michael Paterson (Director of Spiritual Care with the NHS and assistant priest at Rosyth), and our own Scott Robertson. Candidates will be interviewed on 9 March and the election will be held on 16 March. Please continue to pray for all those involved, whether as candidates or electors.

Children's Holiday Scheme - Thank You

Ann Rawson writes: It may seem rather late - as we are now looking forward to spring! But, thank you, anyway, for supporting the Christmas Toy Scheme (see the letter of thanks on the information table). Once again, you have been very generous and caring.

The Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme can now plan holidays for children and appreciative families who would, otherwise, not be able to enjoy a break. One family were on holiday during the heavy snow in March last year but enjoyed the disco, the swimming, the park and the beach. Mark, aged 4, said it was fine as he had his wellies for the snow!

Leaflets and some feedback are on the Information table at the back of the church. Please take them if interested.

Pub Philosophy

The meeting on 23 January was billed as a discussion on capitalism, based on texts from Paul Collier's book 'The Future of Capitalism'; there was plenty to think about although the discussion did end up being more focussed on Brexit, with thoughts about democracy in Europe, the tribalist antics of the House of Commons, the nature of capitalism and the fractured nature of society. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27 February on the topic of 'Social Media - bane or blessing?'

St Aidan's lectures

Pictish stones, Romanisation, St Columba and whether there really was such a thing as Celtic Christianity, the role and influence of abbots, monks and Bishop Jocelin in 12th century Scotland - these are some of the subjects being touched on by Dr John Davies in his lectures on the Church in Mediaeval Scotland on Monday evenings at St Aidan's in Clarkston. The lectures display a wealth of learning and it is hoped that they will appear in book form in due course.

Book Group

At February's meeting the group discussed 'From a low and quiet sea', by Donal Ryan. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 March, and discussion will be on 'Princess Sophia Suffragette' by Anita Anand.

Church and the Academy

At the meeting on 31 January Dan Cruickshank spoke on the esoteric sounding subject of 'From the sublime to the ridiculous: Ritualism and Anglo Catholicism in the evidence of the Royal Commission into Ecclesiastical Discipline 1904-06'. There was good engagement on the topic.

March's meeting will be held on 28 March, when the speaker will be Dr Debbie Lewer of Glasgow University.

Rag Bag

Since August we have received £76 for the items collected. Keep them coming!

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March 2019

This year's service is entitled "Come - Everything Is Ready" written by Christian women of Slovenia.

St Ninian's Episcopal Church Hall, Pollokshieds at 2pm. All Welcome

If something can go wrong, it will.....!

The St Ninian's / R.A.T.S. presentation this spring will be 'Celebration' by Keith Waterhouse & Willis Hall, a comedy about a family making plans which do not turn out as expected.

Place: Tramway Theatre, Albert Drive

Time: Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 March 2019 at 7.15pm and Saturday 30 March at 2.30pm

Tickets £10.00 (£8.00 concession) from Joyce Maxwell on 0141 616 2391

Fairtrade News

Fairtrade Fortnight is now upon us. This year's focus is on helping the farmers who grow the cocoa beans which make our chocolate, to ensure that they are paid fairly and able to live a dignified life. We have decided to put our two main events in the middle weekend this year. All usual, help will be much appreciated and any new ideas and offers most welcome.

The Big Brew coffee morning will take place at my house from 10 till 12 on Saturday March 2nd.

The following morning on Sunday 3 March we shall be serving Brunch between the two morning services and after the 10.30 service. Everybody is most welcome. Perhaps this is the time to invite people we haven't seen for a while or to bring friends and family. Just sign the sheet at the back of Church so that we can be sure we have enough food.

Any contributions would be welcome but we try to adhere to the LOAF principles of Local, Organic, Animal Friendly and Fairtrade.

As always you can see someone at the Fairtrade stall for more information.

Liz Bryce

Vestry corner

Among matters considered at the meeting on 13 February were:

- Reports from Glasgow Disabled Scouts, Pollokshaws Woodworking Group and Pollokshaws Advice Network about how they have used the grants we have given them.
- Agreement in principle to do a leaflet drop to the new houses which have been built near the church.
- Further development of our financial strategy following on from the paper presented at the AGM.
- Consultation document from the Province about proposed changes to the SEC's Unit Trust Pool, which would have the effect of removing the ability to apply ethical considerations to at least part of the holdings.
- Agreement to repair damaged stonework around the gutters at the East end of the church building (we also noted that the repair of the damp proof course around the Newlands Road side of the church has been completed successfully).

What can I give Him? - a guide to giving

"I will not sacrifice to the lord my God offerings that have cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24.24)

The papers presented at the AGM concerning our financial strategy give an opportunity for everyone to review their giving. There are a number of different ways in which you can give financially to the church:

1. By standing order; forms are available at the back of the church, or you can contact your bank direct or use internet banking to set up or amend a standing order. If it is some time since you set up your standing order, please consider whether you might be able to increase it.

2. By blue Freewill Offering envelope; this enables you to set aside money each week if you are not able to come to church.

3. By white Gift Aid envelope, which can be found on the back of the chairs; if you have been in the habit of filling in one of these each week, you might like to consider setting up a standing order or using the blue Freewill Offering envelopes.

4. By cash in the offering plate.

If you are a taxpayer, the church can reclaim the income tax on your offerings if you complete your name and address on the back of the envelope (method 3) or have signed a Gift aid Declaration (Methods 1 and 2). The Gift Aid Small Declaration Scheme does however allow the church to reclaim tax on gifts under £20 without having to complete the declaration on the white envelope.

If you would like to find out more about any of these methods, please speak to Maida Gibson.

Gift Aid It!

Remember that casual gifts can be gift aided. Please use the gift aid envelopes in the back of the seats if you intend giving £20 or more. The wording on the envelopes reflects HMRC regulations, which are intended to ensure that donors are fully aware that (a) the tax paid by donors in any one tax year is at least equal to the tax reclaimed by all the charities to which the donor donates and (b) gift aid can be reclaimed only on income tax or capital gains tax; VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Finance Corner

Here is a summary of our ordinary income and expenditure in January. (Expenditure on our 2020 projects is not included in these figures.)

	January		
	£		
Income			
Congregational offerings and tax rec'd	5,707		
Investment income	900		
Other income	1,476		
Total	**8,083**		
Expenditure			
Salaries and quota	5,255		
Running expenses	6,956		
Total	**12,211**		
(Deficit) / Surplus	**- 4,128**		

March diary of events

Sat 2nd	Big Brew Coffee morning 10-12noon at the Bryces' house.
Sun 3rd	Epiphany 8 - Fairtrade Brunch
Tue 5th	Short and Sweet 7pm
Wed 6th	Ash Wednesday services at 10am and 7.30pm
	Rector's Hour 6pm
Thu 7th	Family Film Night - "Breathless" by Jean-Luc Godard
Sat 9th	Electoral Synod St Mary's Cathedral
Sun 10th	Lent 1
Tue 12th	Holy Communion 10am
	Book Group 2.30pm . 'Princess Sophia Suffragette' - A. Anand
	Lent Reflection 7pm
Wed 13th	**No Rector's Hour**
	Lent Study Group 7.30pm
Sat 16th	Electoral Synod St Mary's Cathedral
Sun 17th	Lent 2
Tue 19th	Holy Communion 10am
	Lent Reflection 7pm
Wed 20th	Rector's Hour 6pm
	Lent Study Group 7.30pm
Thu 21st	Knit and Natter 10am to 12pm
	Vestry 7.30pm
Sun 24th	Lent 3
Tue 26th	Holy Communion 10am
	Lent Reflection 7pm
Wed 27th	Rector's Hour 6pm
	Lent Study Group 7.30pm
Thu 28th	Church and the Academy 5.30pm at 4 The Square, Glasgow University. Speaker Dr Debbie Lewer
Sun 31	Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

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

No Rector's Hour on Wednesday 13 March.

Readings for March

3 March	Exodus 34: 29-35
Epiphany 8	2 Corinthians 3: 12 to 4: 2
	Luke 9: 18-26
10 March	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Lent 1	Romans 10: 8b-13
	Luke 4: 1-13
17 March	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18
Lent 2	Philippians 3: 17 to 4: 1
	Luke 13: 31-35
24 March	Isaiah 55: 1-9
Lent 3	1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
	Luke 13: 1-9
31 March	Joshua 5: 9-12
Lent 4	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
	Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

What are churches for?

This was the topic of a thought provoking lecture given last October by Sir Kenneth Calman, at Glasgow University Chapel, under the auspices of Scotland's Churches Trust. Sir Kenneth is former Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, and then of England, a long-time church attender, Sunday School member and Scripture Union camper. He also attended Billy Graham's memorable visit to Scotland in 1955 at the Kelvin Hall, and is now a member at Glasgow Cathedral, with strong links to the Boys' Brigade. Here is an edited version of his talk.

Glasgow University

Jesus did not teach in a church, but on hillsides, lakes, houses; and yet churches often seem to present the importance of "religion" rather than "faith". Churches are places of peace and worship, welcoming places (but are they always?). And what happens after worship? They often seem shut, doors closed, no notices outside, not welcoming.

Importantly, the word "Churches" might have two meanings, first the building, and second those who worship there, the congregation. Central to my discussion about churches, are two related and relevant issues, the concept of God and the importance of Love.

First then the concept of God. God for me, is not the old man in the sky, but Paul Tillich's definition as the "ground of our being." My interest in the definition of God has been greatly influenced by John Robinson's book "Honest to God" **(**1963) and by other authors such as Paul Tillich, Martin Buber, Henry Drummond, Karen Armstrong and Richard Holloway.

Robinson begins by challenging the God "up there" and "out there". We all have the ability to Love, and in Tillich's words, God is the "Ground of our Being." God is in us and is expressed in the love we have for others. God is the Love within you and me. The soul is where our love resides. This completely changes the definition of God from "the supreme being, a power, a force and the object of worship," to" the depth of our own being, associated with love, our love".

Through love, we have the ability and power to change things for the better and increase happiness. Everyone has the capacity to love, to express feelings, feel concerned, want to help others, and help to achieve the greatest happiness for the greatest number. This is the great power of love, which is regardless of race, religion, gender or colour. Showing love does require action, energy, passion and in some cases personal hardship and sacrifice. Sometimes it requires special skills, but everyone can, and must, be involved if the world is to be a better place. This inherent love, inside us all, is the motivation to help others.

Happiness to me is the outcome of love which, in itself, is a deep inner passion to care for others. It is a process motivated both by faith for those who have one, and also in those with no faith. Happiness is the outcome of actions to help and care for others and comes from the heart. It can both be given, and received. As Henry Drummond says "There is no happiness in having or getting, but only in giving." Happiness is thus a by-product of doing something. It depends on action. Your happiness is a consequence, a secondary issue and not the primary aim.

Stuart MacQuarrie, Chaplain here at the University of Glasgow, has noted that while everyone has the capacity to love, not everyone has the capacity to accept **being** loved, or to be loved. Much effort has been spent trying to help people who could not accept that they could be loved. In such people their behaviour and conduct might be seen as attempts to prove that they could not be loved.

I can't believe in God as a man in the sky, up there or out there. But I do believe that there is a power, a spirit which binds us all, love. It is the depth of our being; it is the love within you and me. My faith rests on the power of Jesus, who, in his short ministry set out values which have lasted 2000 years, values of love and support for others. There remains a need to bring the various churches and faiths together to demonstrate the power that is available if we really work in partnership.

So how does all this fit into what churches are for? What are the uses of churches? Who goes to church in the 21st century? What do churches do? They can be sources of peace and worship, helping us to cope, to care and

leave the church with a purpose in mind; about ourselves, others, family, friends, work etc.

What else could Churches do? They could be the Centre of the community, a community hub, giving Community support and showing love, a place for fun, a place of inspiration, a place from which to distribute love. They can be a building, or a group of people who come together to share their faith, the congregation, to help each other, and to help others in the wider community.

Love is at the heart of faith. Somewhere I read that some church services are dull and boring. Not my own view of course! However, we need to ensure that the services mean something to people, and that they wish to come and share their faith with others. There must be a case for denominations of the same faith working together, and indeed links between different faiths. If the primary function of faith is, through love, to improve the lives of all people, then such links matter. Part of this might be the organisation of community support for those in need and there are some remarkable examples of this in practice, over the centuries and in different religions. Continuing to teach each other through speaking, and through prayer and example, are also relevant. This is the role of the church, to provide a focus for care and love.

Robinson notes *"The test of worship is how far it makes us more sensitive to those 'beyond our midst', to the Christ in the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the prisoner."* The religious ceremony in church, should fire us up to help others, and not just help our own souls. Worship is personally important for each of us, but it is what we do **afterwards** that matters.

Faith is the belief in someone, or something. It is a belief, and it is not a certainty, indeed it is the opposite of certainty. It cannot be proven. However, it is an important part of many lives. Christianity is one such belief in which the individual concerned is Jesus. It is a remarkable story. Jesus was born in a small country which was then part of the great Roman Empire. His work and preaching took place over a period of around 3 years. The four Gospels which record his life and work run to 150 pages, and the impact has lasted over 2000 years. Such a short time, and words and actions, associated with such power. The use of parables and speaking in a language understandable to all was clearly important. The power of the parables is significant and re-reading the Sermon on the Mount shows

just how effectively it conveys such important messages. These thoughts and words were taken forward by others, through speaking and demonstrating love in action. They then became fired up for action and the faith is carried forward.

Love then is thus the ground of our being. It gives coherence and purpose to life. One of the most powerful books I have read is by Henry Drummond, "The Greatest Thing in the World" first published in 1890. The greatest thing in the world is *Love.* He covers the characteristics of love, expressed in Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. These include, patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity. The key is to practice these attributes, amongst real people to assist with their needs. Drummond recognises that knowledge, will vanish and new knowledge will be discovered. Money, fortune and fame won't last. But love will last.

There is thus a real need for different branches of the Christian church to work more closely together. What a power of love they can make together. The fact that sectarianism remains an issue between faiths in a country such as Scotland, with the same background is astonishing. Love is at the heart of faith and should be capable of overcoming differences in which the faith is practised.

In a similar way, the different faiths coming together would be a very positive way forward. Using, once again, the power of love to help those in need and to work positively for the benefit of all. No matter what you do, baking bread, teaching students, preaching sermons, being a carer, it is through love that your purpose is achieved.

Led by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the way in which people with love, communicate with each other, through prayer, or through worship together. It is faith in action. It is the part of the Trinity which brings life to the faith and connects people across all ages and cultures. These "Circles of Sympathy" give contact and communication across families, communities and the world. The Holy Spirt gives life, by linking people to each other, and is the practical expression of faith. In Walter Scott's words,

it is the *Silver Link, the silken tie / which heart to heart and mind to mind / in body and in soul can bind.*

What is the way forward? How can the various Churches and Orders show what matters, and how the world could change?

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, a past Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, makes a plea for change. Like me and many of you, he loves the churches, the Cathedrals and the music and common worship we are used to. In his words "These are the core of my faith." He makes the point, however, that a real transformation has to take place, and recognises that people now use smart phones and communicate in different ways. He notes "The real truth today is that at the intersection of the church and real people, living on real streets, the rubber is not hitting the road and the traditional patterns of church life…are not going to change that." Congregations are beginning to change but more needs to be done.

But what then is the purpose of worship in church? It must be more than just enjoying the service. We need to take from it the inspiration to use the love we have to help others and to share with others new ways to go forward. There is a need to find inspiration in worship to go out into the world to help others. It is not just about saving souls. Much of the effort generated in this way has gone into helping those in poverty or deprivation and there have been some remarkable stories to tell. The work of people such as George McLeod in setting up the Iona Community to give a purpose to the lives of many people, Geoffrey Shaw in the Gorbals in Glasgow, and Richard Holloway in the Gorbals and elsewhere, are great examples of what can be done. In Richard's "Leaving Alexandria" he makes the following comment. *"It was obvious that, with or without belief in God, what Jesus demanded was needed as much in our time as in his. This was still a cruel unequal world, as cruel as when Jesus had startled its leaders by telling them that God was not on their side, but on the side of those they trampled on….you no longer needed to play conceptual games with God. What you had to do was to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and give cold water to the thirsty. God was no longer on his supernatural throne. The place to find him was amongst the dispossessed, among the wretched of the earth."*

There is an assumption in this discussion, that it is the poor and needy who need attention and that is top of the agenda. However, I have met the occasional doctor who might have benefitted from love. Likewise, the lawyer, the teacher, the banker, and many others. Those with power and money may not be as happy as they seem, and they also need care and love.

So what is the way forward, and what is the role of the church? Sacred places for worship and for inspiration, reflecting history and culture, acting as a community resource, a hub welcoming and open, bringing the community in, working with other organisations and faiths. Churches do have a role and this is what churches are for.

My conclusion is that we do need churches!

My stall in the Chapel has above it my coat of arms. It is difficult to create one, and, in particular, the motto. My motto is Cum Scientia Succurro, "Through knowledge I help others".

What lessons have I learned in my life? What is all this learning for? Mark Twain said that there are two important days in your life. The day you are born and the day you discover why.

I had not seriously considered my purpose until recently I began writing my memoirs, and perhaps that is the way it should be. But now that I am old I can look back at what I have done, and, more importantly, what I have not done, or failed to do. In the same way we can all look back at the churches we were part of, and look at what they have contributed, to members and the wider community.

Looking forward, what more can churches do, through love, to make the world a better place? Churches are about you and me, those who stand with us, and the wider community. It is about sharing the love with others., following the example of Jesus**,** the Way, the Truth, the Life. If God is the ground of our being, the source of love, joy and happiness, this is the **Way**. Jesus is the person who gave us the **Truth** to understand how best to live. The Holy Spirit, in our souls, is the **Life** which we pass to each other using the power of love within each of us. **End**

Intercessions

Loving Lord, today as we recall the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the beginnings of a life of love and service to all men and women, we open our hearts and minds to Christ and bring our cares and concerns for your world and your people.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Our world is marked out by greed and selfishness and by the inhumanity which is so much part of our lives and the lives of everyone around us. Help us to learn how to put the needs of others more firmly before our own. May those who exercise power and authority in our communities use it wisely, and may we, and they, serve the Lord with gladness.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

The world into which Jesus was born was like our own, divided by war and pestilence. We hear daily the news of fighting in so many places. We are glad that there is now an armistice in Gaza and Israel, praying that the green shoots of hope may blossom into a lasting peace. But we remember all those other countries, known and unknown, where fighting is part and parcel of daily life. We ask for peace in those places and that we may be peacemakers wherever we can.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Jesus came into our world bringing your promises of grace and freedom for all. We rejoice in the great body of people who form your church and to whom we are glad to belong. We pray for Christians everywhere and especially for all those who follow You in Glasgow. Bless the work of our ministers and leaders and help us all, in home, work and leisure, to be clear witnesses of Jesus' life.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

We pray in the quietness of our minds for all whom we know have need of You, those who are sick, in hospital; those who are badly affected by the present financial troubles or weather, those who are lonely or depressed, those who have no family help. Bless them and give them

comfort and assurance, and give us courage to do what we can to help. Give your grace and strength to all whose life is built round caring for others.
Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Jesus is the light of the world and as we consider Christ's light we remind ourselves of those who have died and gone before us. We remember them and those who mourn them……..

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

Naomi Browell (3 February, sourced from thisischurch.com)

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On Faith

There is more to see in Hebrews chapter 11 every time one reads it. Think of the power that the Unseen had on the lives of those mentioned. They heard the voice of their God, or, in some way not told us were caused to know what He wanted done. There was nothing visible to help them, and nearly always there was much to go through that must have been very hard for the flesh to bear; but to each it was given to go on, to endure, as seeing Him who is invisible.

They were caused to hear and caused to know and taught how to do the will of God. Things *not seen* mattered more to them than things *seen*. So in this chapter we have battle stories, pilgrim stories, martyr stories and stories of long walks with God; and each one who fought the fight, lived the pilgrim life, and walked the patient walk, began by looking, not at the seen but at the Unseen. "For the things that are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal", and does not the Eternal matter more than anything of time ever can?

(Amy Carmichael of Dhonavur)

Reaching Out

There is a lot going on at St Margaret's. The Vestry has been reflecting on all the various activities which go on under the banner of our community outreach. These include:

Social Activities

- Monthly Knit and Natter
- Monthly Book Group
- Weekly Tots Singalong for under 5s and their carers
- Film Nights

Ecumenical links with Glasgow Churches Together, being developed by Maggie

Social and environmental justice

- Fair Trade stall, and events such as coffee morning and brunch
- Links with Eco-Congregation Scotland

Community access; there are plans afoot to open the church in the summer on a Wednesday afternoon.

Grants to local charities; in the last year these have included MusicALL, Pollokshaws Hub, Homestart, Glasgow Disabled Scouts and Pollokshaws Area Network.

Plenty for us all to get involved in!

The Last Word

The Vestry at St Agatha's was discussing the deteriorating condition of the rectory windows. After much debate they passed a motion, 'We move that a committee be appointed to look into the rectory windows.'

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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