

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



**March 2011**



**28 February to 13 March**



**“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never  
failing stream” (Amos 5.24)**

## **THE CHURCH OFFICE**

353/355 Kilmarnock Road, Newlands, Glasgow G43 2DS  
Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm  
0141 636 1131  
Church administrator: Miss May Livingstone

## **CLERGY**

Rector: Reverend Scott Robertson BD MA PhD  
22 Monreith Road, Newlands, Glasgow G43 2NY  
0141 632 3292

Associate Priest: Reverend Paul Romano  
63 Westfield Drive, Glasgow G52 2SG  
0141 882 7026



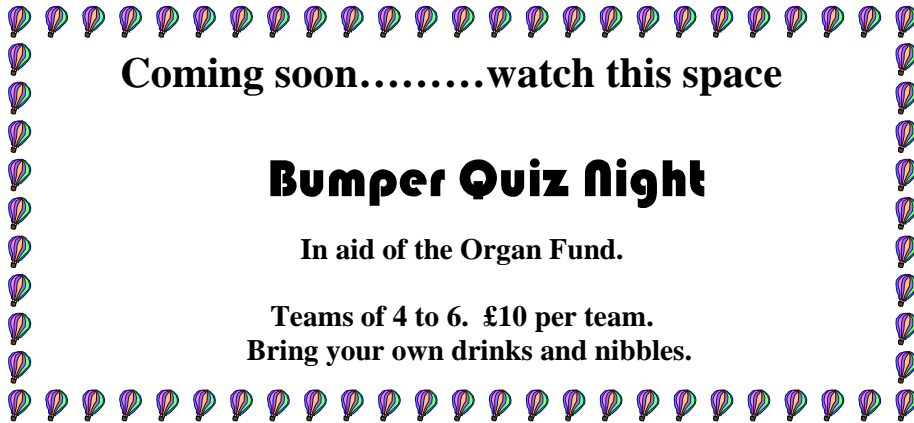
### **A warm welcome to St Margaret's**

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](http://www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk)  
email: [stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com](mailto:stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com)

Diocesan website: [www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow)

Magazine submissions to [stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com](mailto:stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com),  
or [maidagibson@hotmail.com](mailto:maidagibson@hotmail.com), marked "Magazine",  
or in the drawer marked "Magazine Editor" at the back of the church



**Coming soon.....watch this space**

## **Bumper Quiz Night**

**In aid of the Organ Fund.**

**Teams of 4 to 6. £10 per team.  
Bring your own drinks and nibbles.**

### **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, and help to beautify the church at Easter, you will find an order for in this month's issue. Please return the form as soon as possible, but **by Palm Sunday 17 April** at the latest, along with your remittance.

### **Reminders.....**

The church's new email address is [stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com](mailto:stmargaretsnewlands@btinternet.com)

Earth hour **Saturday 26 March 8.30 to 9.30pm**. Switch off all lights and help save electricity.

**Clocks go forward Sunday 27 March 2am** ("Spring forward, Fall back!")

**Sunday 3 April All Age Worship 10.30 am  
and Words and Music for Lent 6.30pm**

### **In this issue:**

Burns Supper Report	Page 6
Condors at Christmas	Page 8
Church Calendar	Page 10
Wise man from the East	Page 11
Eco Corner	Page 14
Intercessions	Page 16
From the Archives	Page 17
In the Garden	Page 18
The Big 5	Page 20
The Panama Hat	Page 21

## Scott writes.....

Dear all,

We will be, of course, moving into the season of Lent in the next few weeks. Lent, like so many of the Christian seasons (if not all of them) has its origins in pre-Christian traditions. In this particular case the word 'Lent', itself, most likely comes from the Old English root which means 'long' – the idea being that the days were lengthening, i.e. it was another word for Spring. The church from around the 4<sup>th</sup> century has used this period as a period to mark a different kind of growth – spiritual growth. To that end it encourages a greater engagement with traditional practices like prayer, fasting and self-examination. The shorthand for all of this has traditionally been to ask the question: 'What are you giving up for Lent?' Others, more recently, have regarded this long-standing approach as rather too severe or negative and have stressed that Lent ought to be an opportunity to take on new challenges or responsibilities rather than negating certain aspects of life. So we hear, "Giving up sugar is all very well but why don't you *do* something?" We are all well aware of this tension between self-denial and self-giving. But there is of course no reason why both can't be part of our Lenten journey.



Perhaps another way of looking at Lent is simply to remind ourselves of its origins as a means to marking life's journey. There is a risk that one can get rather too pseudo-spiritual here and start talking about 'circles of life' and other such clichés. Bearing that risk in mind, it does seem to me that there is mileage in seeing Lent as an intensification of what our lives are meant to be about. Lent can offer us a means to explore in a more defined, focussed way the story that we have told to the world and to God, and the story we are going to tell for the future. Instead of asking about denial or action, perhaps a good Lenten question to ask would then be, 'What story would you wish to tell?'

I'm reading Fred Buechner's autobiography, *Longing for Home*, and in that he says this,

Our stories are all stories of searching. We search for a good self to be and for good work to do. We search to become human in a world that tempts us always to be less than human or looks to us to be more. We search to love and to be loved. And in a world where it is often hard to believe in much of anything, we search to believe in something holy and beautiful and life-transcending that will give meaning and purpose to the lives we live.

Our story, according to Buechner, is to search for those things which bring us closer to home. Our story is about continually rediscovering the reason to believe. This isn't morbid introspection; it is simply to acknowledge that we each have a story to tell that is so precious and unique that the world misses out if we neglect to share it. And the first person we have to share it with is ourselves. Let this Lent be a time when we discover the story each of us has to tell and may we be blessed in the re-telling of the tale which leads us one step closer to our homecoming.

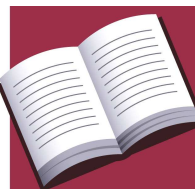
*Scott*

### **Lenten Eucharists**

Paul will again be leading our Thursday evening Eucharists, offering space for reflection, starting on Thursday 17 March.

### **Lent Groups**

This year for our Lent Groups we will be looking at a number of fictional life-stories in Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* series. These will be on Wednesday evenings, beginning on 16 March in the Upper Room.



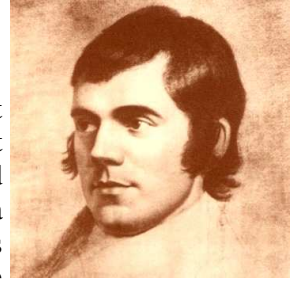
### **Report on Reading Group**

A small group met on 9 February to discuss the book "Easter" by Michael Arditti. The book featured events taking place during Holy Week in a fictional, but highly dysfunctional, North London congregation and traced the lives of clergy and parishioners through a tumultuous week. The lid was lifted what went on under the surface of an apparently respectable congregation; much pain was suffered and yet at the end suffering was redeemed by the events of Easter morning.

It was a stimulating evening, even if opinions in the group diverged as to the characterisation of the people in the story, the nature of the book's content as well as its literary merit. For this participant anyway, there were some thought provoking themes, such as the tension between Church and State, and how in practice the diverse group which is any congregation can work effectively together.

The next meeting will be on 22 March when we will be discussing "Alarm Call" by Quentin Jardine and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" by Jean D Bauby.

## Should auld acquaintance be forgot?



It wasn't the Lord Mayor of London's Banquet, but it might have been, so stunning did the church look for a most memorable Burns Supper on Friday 4 February, organised in aid of the Organ appeal. The nave was turned into a dining space, with the lighting showing the church in all its splendour, as some 80 people from very young to more mature, including 20 visitors and friends from outside the congregation, sat down to celebrate the Bard with true St Margaret's style and panache.

Jan MacDonald and Collette Foord provided a delicious supper with homely fare of soup, haggis, neeps and tatties, tablet and shortbread. The haggis was not "piped" in, but "fiddled" in to lilting traditional tunes played by Kristan Harvey from Orkney, winner of the 2011 Celtic Connections "Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year" competition. Aidan Smith delivered the Selkirk Grace most effectively and Richard McIndoe addressed the haggis with rustic energy and verve. Scott chaired the proceedings with style and wit, (*eg Shakespeare and Burns went to a pub one night but were thrown out, because they were both "bard!"*). He also gave us a dynamic and masterly rendition of Tam O'Shanter, complete with dramatic theatrical effect when "in an instant, all was dark", and Scott ran round the church as if hotly pursued by Cutty Sark and her legions.

In toasting the Immortal Memory, Colin Fraser reminded us that Burns' work is known in some surprising places, and encouraged us, with quotes from Hugh McDiarmid, Terry Eagleton and Edwin Muir, to strip away the myth and hold on to what is lasting. A most dapper Paul Romano, dazzling in his snazzy trousers, toasted the lassies with aplomb, even if to the uninitiated observer it might have appeared that the average man paid more attention to his dog than his wife! Liz Bryce responded energetically and vivaciously, reminding the men of the myriad things women do for their menfolk, since "a woman's a woman for a' that".

Further musical entertainment was provided by Kristan playing fiddle music from Orkney and Shetland, Lorna Wallace, accompanied by June Rynn, singing "Highland Laddie" and "Ae Fond Kiss", and Michael playing some further Scottish tunes on the organ. A mystery visitor, finely dressed in Victorian garb, then appeared and introduced himself as William Topaz McGonagall. Looking extraordinarily like Ken Watson, the poet paid homage to Burns while extolling the virtues of the city of Dundee, which stands on the silvery Tay, and expressing the hope that the Queen (Victoria of course) would soon be sending him a letter recognizing his own contribution to Scottish poetry.

Thanks are due to Scott for suggesting at the January Vestry meeting only a month before the date that we should have a Burns Supper, and to Jan Whiteside for organising it. The proceeds from the evening amounted to £1,300, an excellent contribution to our new Organ Appeal. This total reflects the fact that the cost of catering was met by a donation, and also that £275 was raised by the sale of a collection of malt whisky bottles generously gifted by a non whisky drinker.

More importantly it was a superb family occasion, greatly enjoyed by all who came, and an opportunity to show what wonderful use can be made of the space which we have at St Margaret's. Roll on the next event!

*Jim Gibson*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Vestry report**

### **Property**

The Vestry agreed that the Flower Room sink should be attended to, and also that the "Pub sign" (ie Scottish Episcopal Church sign) on Kilmarnock Road should be replaced. In view of escalating heating bills (increased by £2,000), it was agreed to research alternative gas suppliers to see if any savings can be made. The various recommendations in the Quinquennial Review from 2009 will be reviewed to ensure that all open points have been picked up.

### **Finance**



January more or less broke even and the deficit for the five months to January is £14,414. Investment income has increased by £1,600 but Freewill Offering income has dropped by £1,200.

£3,240 has been received for the Organ Fund.

### **Southside Festival**

Various events will take place on the South Side in May, culminating in a gala day in Queen's Park Recreation Ground on Saturday 28 May. A small group is looking at how St Margaret's can be involved as part of our community outreach.

### **Diocesan seminars**

St Margaret's will be represented at seminars on Fundraising (12 Feb), Diocesan Growth Strategy (3 March) and Charity Law (12 March).

### **Organ Committee**

The committee has been working hard and its report is expected at the end of March.

## Condors on Christmas Eve

As many people may know, I spent Christmas and New Year in Peru on an “Explore” holiday which claimed to be high on comfort and low on activity; panting up Machu Pichu, I doubted the latter! I met up with the other 6 travellers 3 days late as Amsterdam



airport was closed by snow. I was diverted via New York and flew straight to Arequipa, missing coastal Peru and the Nazca lines. We saw amazing sights and indeed on Christmas Eve did see three condors wheeling above in the sky. We did not parody popular carols on “Three kings” or “Three ships” but marvelled at the magnificence of such birds.

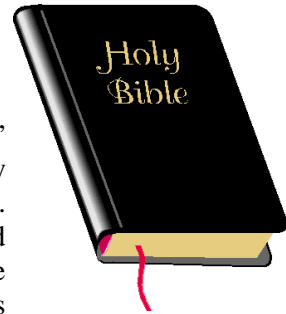
We had a Christmas Eve meal together at Puno on Lake Titicaca and three of us managed to find a church service in Spanish at the local catholic church at 7am on Christmas Day. We were very moved by the presence of many of the Peruvians with small cribs which they had brought from home to be blessed. These were swathed initially in plastic and paper bags as it was raining. The congregation was very mixed in terms of age. There were a number of men on their own with cribs, and we wondered if they had been despatched to church to get the cribs blessed! A choir of children accompanied by a choir led us in “Gloria in Excelsis Deo”, “Joy to the World” and what sounded like a Taize chant of Alleluia!

We exchanged peace twice, which enabled the many latecomers to be greeted, the collection bags were on long poles and we deciphered the lengthy sermon in Spanish as “Jesus is our only hope”.

It was a moving experience to celebrate in a different country and a different continent the coming of the Christ child, with the simple cribs that were to be blessed and taken back to the homes where they would be the presence of the true meaning of Christmas: “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”. We felt part of the family of faith, the three of us from Glasgow, Dublin and Sussex. We three then sailed with the others on Lake Titicaca, climbed up a steep hill on an island and attended a part of another church service, with all the congregation in colourful traditional costumes and the men leading powerful chanting. We saw no more condors, but felt that with their wings they could have been part of the angelic host! Christmas at St Margaret’s may never seem the same!

*Penny Forshaw*

## **400 years on from The Authorized Version** *Reflections on “The Word” - Pilgrim’s Progress*



Few books can rival John Bunyan’s “Pilgrim’s Progress” as a classic. We read how Christian escapes from the City of Destruction and starts his journey to the heavenly city. As he starts out on his journey he meets dubious and dodgy characters such as Mr Worldly Wiseman, Obstinate and Pliable, who try to dissuade him, but he also finds Help, Evangelist and Interpreter who guide him onto the correct path.

When Terry Waite was languishing in solitary confinement in a Beirut jail in 1987, hardly any messages got through to him, but one that did was a postcard of with a view of Bedford, where John Bunyan had been in jail. On the postcard was written a message of encouragement, and it was this that gave Terry hope.

Pilgrim’s Progress is full of Biblical references and analogies, serves as a guidebook for our journey of faith and many of the situations we meet along the way, and is a wonderful exposition of the timeless truths of the Christian life.

Here is the passage in which Christian is relieved of his burden:

“Now I saw in my dream that the highway up which Christian was to go was fenced in with a wall, and that wall was called Salvation. Up this way, therefore did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back.

He ran thus till he came at a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, at the bottom, a sepulchre. So I saw in my dream, that just as Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do, till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.”

What has often struck me is that Christian loses his burden on page 36 in my edition of the book, but he still has 155 pages to go. Becoming a Christian is only the start of the story and there are plenty of up and downs awaiting us before we reach our destination!

May Bunyan’s classic help you on your pilgrimage.

*Jim Gibson*

## March Calendar of events

- Tues 1st Holy Communion 10am  
Vestry meeting 7.30pm
- Wed 2nd Rector's Hour at the church 6pm
- Sun 6th Quinquagesima
- Tues 8th Holy Communion 10am
- Wed 9th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm  
Ash Wednesday Service 7.30pm
- Sun 13th Lent 1  
Second Sunday Concert in the Church 3.30pm  
Chamber Ensemble - Daniel's Beard  
(Music for horn, violin and piano)
- Tues 15th Holy Communion 10am
- Wed 16th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm  
Lent Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room
- Thur 17th Lenten Eucharist 7.30pm
- Sun 20th Lent 2
- Tues 22nd Holy Communion 10am  
Reading Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room
- Wed 23rd Rector's Hour at the church 6pm  
Lent Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room
- Thur 24th Lenten Eucharist 7.30pm
- Sun 27th Lent 3
- Tues 29th Holy Communion 10am
- Wed 30th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm  
Lent Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room
- Thurs 31st Church & The Academy - Rev Donald Orr  
At 4 The Square, University of Glasgow 5.30pm  
Edinburgh 2010 - The Sacred Undercurrent  
Lenten Eucharist 7.30pm

**Tuesdays 11am to 12 noon "Extend - Exercise to Music"**

## **Wise man from the East.....**

### *A visitor comes upon our All Age Worship*

On 6 February I went along to St Margaret's for the 10.30 Eucharist as I usually do when I am visiting the family. The service was advertised as being "All Age Worship" and as I had never participated in such an act of worship before, and it was one which I grew to find so interesting as the proceedings unfolded, I thought it might be worth recording whilst events were still fresh in my mind.

The service layout was normal, with an Altar table placed at the foot of the chancel steps. Chairs (St Margaret's does not have pews) were placed in a semi-circle in front of the altar and were occupied by the Rector, Deacons, members of the choir and other performers. The main body of the congregation sat in rows of chairs throughout the church. Only the Rector and Deacons wore vestments ... simple white albs and a stole.

The main message within the service was Fair Trade and how we as Christians can help disadvantaged people in the third world.

A projection screen to one side of the altar displayed images of people working to produce their goods. A table and two chairs were set in front of the altar and for the first part of the service there were several gospel readings interspersed with three playlets illustrating the production of tea, coffee and honey. These plays, set in a café, were performed by members of the congregation, and had two characters, a Vicar and a shop person. After each reading a song was sung by the entire congregation, accompanied by piano music played by the Director of Music. This part of the service proceeded for about 45 minutes with members of the Youth Group and Sunday School all participating. There was much joy, laughter and applause in evidence.

Then after this part, the table and chairs were removed and the Eucharist was celebrated. After a final blessing, a group of musicians comprising recorder, two guitars and choir members sang a South American folk song used in their worship, with the whole congregation joining in the chorus.

Well, that WAS different, but upon reflection I found it so stimulating and satisfying – it has stayed with me.

*Dick Gates (St Mary's Broughty Ferry, Dundee)*

## **Annual Bowling Club Lunch**

The Lunch at Glasgow Indoor Bowling Club is on Thursday 17 March (St Patrick's Day), at 1 for 1.30pm; this is to facilitate parking. Lifts will be available for those who need one. All are welcome to join us; please bring your friends and enjoy a good meal in convivial company. I will be happy to give you the details of menus and price and to put your name on the list. Please see me after church or phone me on 632 4734 or Connie Fowler on 637 2562.

The last date for names is **Sunday 13 March**.

*Prue Clark*

## **Thank you from Calcutta Rescue**

Thank you very much indeed for your wonderful efforts in raising £1,000 for Calcutta Rescue. This is very much appreciated and will be extremely important in enabling the activities of Calcutta Rescue in India to continue to survive and to grow.

Many thanks again for your support.

*Angus Kirk, Trustee*

## **Food for thought**

The river never drinks its own water.  
The tree never tastes its own fruit.  
The field never consumes its own harvest.  
They selflessly strive for the wellbeing of all those around them.

*Proverb from Rajasthan*

Yesterday I was clever.  
That is why I wanted to change the world.  
Today I am wise.  
That is why I am changing myself.

*Sri Chinmoy*

## Rotas for March

	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27
<b>Counters</b>	F Evans	T Pexton	J Gibson	R McIndoe
	E Smith	M Kennedy	C Foord	G Rawson
<b>Stewards</b>	C Wilkie	P Miller	G Rawson	J Gibson
	E Wilkie	P Gates	A Rawson	A Watson
<b>Reader</b>	L Bryce	P Clark	I Wilkie	C MacDonald

## Readings for March

6 March Quinquagesima	Exodus 24: 12-18 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Matthew 17: 1-9
9 March (Reader - J O'Donnell) Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58: 1-12 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6.10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
13 March Lent 1	Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11
20 March Lent 2	Genesis 12: 1-4a Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17
27 March Lent 3	Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-26

**“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared with what lies within us.”**

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Eco corner

Question: How many tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> does St Margaret's use in a year?



Answer: **85 times**



Readings of church gas and electricity have been taken during 2010, and have been converted using carbon calculator tables, thus:

	<b>Energy used</b>	<b>Conversion Factor</b>	<b>Kilograms CO<sub>2</sub></b>
<b>Gas Kilowatt hours</b>	412,000	0.185	76,238
<b>Electricity Kilowatt hours</b>	17,010	0.537	9,134
<b>Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Kilograms)</b>			85,372
<b>Total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Tonnes)</b>			<b>85</b>

Instinctively, this seems on the high side, but it gives us a benchmark for the future, and comparisons will be sought with other places. Watch this space!

Readers might like to measure their own domestic carbon use; the Editor will be interested to hear the results.

## Puzzle page

### Sudoku (contributed by Helen Cais)

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the letters - **S P R I N G D A Y**

	I	S		N		A		D
P				A	G		N	
	G	A					Y	R
A	D		N		P			
			G			Y		
	N				S		P	A
I		G				N	A	
	A		Y	P				I
Y				G	I	D		P

### Last month's solution - LOVINGCUP

N	U	C	V	L	P	G	I	O
V	I	P	O	U	G	L	N	G
G	O	L	I	C	N	U	V	P
U	C	V	P	N	O	I	G	L
L	N	I	G	V	C	P	O	U
P	G	O	U	I	L	N	C	V
I	P	N	L	O	V	C	U	P
C	V	G	N	P	U	O	L	I
O	L	U	C	G	I	V	P	N

## Intercessions

O God of love, in a world which is alienated from you, you sent your Son to turn mankind from their darkness into light, and from the power of Satan to yourself, the only true and living God. Overcome in us we pray, all pride and self-will, and remake us again in your true image, so that we will be well-pleasing in your sight.



Grant us your help as we wrestle with our ancient enemies, the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Assist us also as we struggle forward on our earthly pilgrimage.  
*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Father, we think of your ancient people Israel when they wandered through the desert so long ago. So we pray for all those who today are wanderers on the earth, the refugees, the homeless, all displaced people, and those who through fire, flood, or earthquake, have lost all their possessions.

We give you thanks for all those organisations and countries who are making it possible for them to rebuild their homes and lives by supplying aid freely.  
*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, we pray for your Churches here in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. We pray that filled with your Holy Spirit, they may be the means of bringing men and women and boys and girls to the knowledge of Salvation through Jesus Christ, through which they may find in Him comfort in their sorrow, and their hope in death.

There is such a fine line between life and death, but we who are in Christ know that if we cross that line, you will be there to welcome us into your everlasting Kingdom.  
*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

O God, whose Son taught us that whatever good we do for others is done to you, grant us grace to act always with love and generosity. And when offered the opportunity, grant that we may satisfy the needs of the hungry, befriend the stranger, nurse the sick, and visit those in prison. Heavenly Father, we live our lives with fragile bodies, therefore we ask you to bless all who are involved in the medical profession, those who cure sickness, or mend broken limbs, or lessen the burden of old age. Encourage them with the thought that they work with the great physician Himself, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Lord, mercifully accept these our prayers which we have offered to you through our Lord Jesus Christ. And with our prayers accept also our lives, for your service and for the glory of your Holy Name.

**Amen**

*Archie Linnegan (16 January)*

## **50 years ago.....From the Archives**

In early 1961 St Margaret's Magazine was recording:

'Fifteen miles north east of Glasgow the new town of Cumbernauld is being built – a town planned for an eventual population of seventy thousand – larger than Dumfries and Kilmarnock, and roughly the same size as Motherwell and Greenock. Houses, schools factories and shops are going up rapidly, and families – many without a church connection – are moving into their new homes every week. The situation facing the Church is one of great urgency and great opportunity.'



The Diocese, however, had not been idle in the new town. As the Magazine's correspondent continued: 'From the beginning of the new town, two-and-a-half years ago, one of our clergy, the Revd. George Sessford, has been living in Cumbernauld. He has been working there under the very difficult conditions that are inevitable where there is no church building. The Gospel has been preached and the sacraments administered in school rooms and in private houses. By the Grace of God the work has prospered and today there is a small living and lively Church...'

The time was ripe for the provision of buildings and a site had been acquired for the erection of a church, hall, and rectory which was to become 'The Church of the Holy Name, Cumbernauld'. The estimated cost of the work was £24,000 and £16,000 was already in hand with a promise of £1,000 from the local congregation. This left £7,000 to be raised by the Diocese. St Margaret's undertook to provide £400. Not only did the congregation exceed this sum with its handsome gift of £530 but Mrs Brereton, the Rector's wife, was asked to lay the foundation stone. The service at which this event took place was a notable occasion, attended by some 40 clergy and a congregation of about 2,000 from all across the Diocese.

*George Rawson*

## In the Garden.....

Ask any gardener what the last growing season has been like and you will more than likely be confronted with a litany of death, disaster, plague and pestilence with perhaps only a brief reference to what has been successful. Human nature being what it is of course we don't give ourselves credit for all the good stuff.



I wanted to redress the balance a bit by getting “The 3 Allotmenters” in the congregation to talk about what has been good for them in the last growing season (2010), but still leave a bit of bit of scope for the traditional “girnin” and “greetin” as well.

So thanks to Ajit Panickar and Jan McDonald for participating. I am the third allotmenteer, and Jan came up with the questions. The results will be published as space allows in the magazine in the coming months.

If you are a fellow allotment holder and we are not aware of you please make yourself known as we regularly chat and compare notes.

*Kenneth Watson*

Name - Ajit Panickar

Allotment Site – Sir John Maxwell Gardens, Pollok Park

Do you tend your plot on your own?

I have a huge allotment site which I was meant to share with someone else but they dropped out so, yes, it has been a single-handed effort from the start.

How long have you been growing veg?

I'm in my second year now, so still a novice.

Which crops grew exceptionally well for you over the past season?

Being quite new at all this, I've gone for stuff that will grow for practically anyone: potatoes, French beans, runner beans and garlic. All did well. I put in some strawberries and fruit bushes but didn't get around to netting them particularly well so the birds enjoyed most of it. Rhubarb was unstoppable. For this year, I've put in some perennials such as asparagus and globe artichoke, the latter more for its striking appearance. We'll see if it has survived the Alaskan winter.

What was the most challenging aspect of the past season?

Keeping on top of routine maintenance. The plot is huge, so weeding was a major feat. My sporadic attempts did not help; by the time I got back round to doing it again, it was a whole day's work. A neighbouring plotholder gave me some valuable advice: minimise the work and do a little frequently – it's meant to be enjoyable, not a chore. This year I've covered areas that are not planted with black polythene, laid down bark chips on paths to avoid weeding and made more of an effort to pop in more than once a fortnight!

What was the most challenging pest or disease on your plot?

Rampant horsetail – this prehistoric weed, 300 million years old, is practically impossible to eradicate using sprays. It has so much silicon in its structure that you need to bash it with a spade before any kind of weedkiller will penetrate. It used to be used as furniture sandpaper in the old days. The plot was full of it when I started. I don't use chemicals, so it meant lots of digging out to start with and attacking any freshly emerging shoots with vengeance. Very satisfying.

Best moment on your plot?

First harvest of potatoes – we're still using them four months down the line. My wife will now not buy supermarket potatoes so the pressure's on for next year.

One variety of vegetable you would recommend to others?

French beans – a doddle to grow, can be trained up frames, has loads of pretty flowers, crops vigorously if kept watered, fixes soil nitrogen and very good for you.

Any tips to pass onto new veg gardeners?

As my neighbour said "Keep it enjoyable." Start small, work your way up and don't let it become a chore. Just go for it, even if it's just potatoes in tubs or Gro-bags or herbs on a windowsill.

If you could invite one famous person to have a cup of tea with you on the plot, who would it be?

Nigel Slater – grows it and cooks it, with quite a loose, seemingly unstructured, instinctive approach to both. A brilliant writer with interesting perspectives.

Most useful tool in your shed?

Dutch hoe – the gardener's equivalent of the sniper rifle.

## **The Big 5**

Welcome to our regular interview slot. Each month we ask a member of the congregation 5 questions. This month, we hear from **Pat Stenhouse**.

*Who is your hero/heroine and why?*

Sir Winston Churchill - He gave us the strength to cope with the war with all its horrors.

*What is your favourite piece of music: favourite painting: favourite poem?*

Anything by Chopin, particularly the Preludes.

Van Gogh: Farmhouse with Two Figures

Walter de la Mare: The Listeners, one of the first poems I had to learn by heart.

*What is your favourite book?*

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

I was given a beautiful edition, leatherbound, by my Aunt Kathleen at the age of 10. I always identified with it as my parents were working abroad. My father was a research doctor with the Colonial Service investigating into the tsetse fly in Uganda and in general practice in Nigeria.

*What is your favourite significant memory of St Margaret's?*

I love the atmosphere of fellowship in the morning service.

*Who would you like to be locked inside St Margaret's with?*

It would be easier to have someone to dinner was my first reaction rather than being locked inside St Margaret's, but my answer would be my late husband.

In fact, what I would really like to do would be to take my wedding vows with him again.

## The Panama Hat....

... made from plaited leaves of the jipijapa plant, is worn in Panama in 2011 only by the odd tourist. So say Jane and Martin speaking to Max and myself from the sunlight Skype picture on our laptop. There is background noise; fair-haired Donald (3) is trundling his toy lawnmower up and down. He will come and chatter to us; at least he knows we are interactive grandparents and not a DVD. It is very hot, as usual.



Martin is based in Panama City for 2 years, working on the widening of the Panama Canal. He transhipped there with our daughter Jane and their three children eight months ago. They live in an outlying suburb in a gated estate in the rainforest. Walls and gate keep out the crocodiles, which cannot climb.

## There the ships go to and fro.....



Our family never ceases to be thrilled by the Canal itself and in particular the boats travelling towards the Miraflores Locks after they have passed under the splendid Bridge of the Americas. Pictures sent to our laptop have shown us the cruise ship, *The Coral Princess*, 88,000 tons, looking like a wide block of city flats that happens to be travelling along the ground, as it draws near to the Locks on its journey to the Atlantic. What a huge project, to make additional Locks that are even more gigantic and which will redefine the 'Panamax', the name for the largest ship that can travel though the canal.

Jane sends us albums of photographs to help us share in their life. We have seen the children on carousels in playparks and shopping malls; visiting national monuments, and rainforest parks with green iguanas; swimming in the sea; looking at turtles and starfish; Gavin (8) with a snorkel; Gavin and Katie boarding the school bus; all the family enjoying a party, or a meal in a Turkish restaurant (Panama food is bland), or crossing rope bridges while cold and wet high in the high mountains.

From Jane's pictures we know wayside shrines, Panama Cathedral, and the Spanish city centre (with its stray cats) set amid the modern skyscrapers. The religion of Panama is a merry Catholicism. The statue of Jesus Christ in the Cathedral stands ready on its sled to be carried shoulder high in the next Procession.

On arrival our family rented a flat in a tower block which overlooked the Pacific and the crowds of tropical birds at the Ocean's edge: pelicans, frigate birds and

vultures; egrets, and sometimes two or three ibises flying together. They moved inland when their furniture was released from Customs.

### **How many are your works, O Lord; the earth is full of your creatures.....**

In the estate of pink houses our five count forty green parrots visiting their bird table and filling the garden with chatter. There is a honey pot for humming birds with holes for their needle-thin beaks. A keel-billed toucan may fly overhead with yellow fruit from the forest in its beak.

Insect Woman Katie (6) loves creepy-crawlies. They stopped her from picking up a scorpion. She was the first to spot a green praying mantis climbing the house wall, while green crickets and giant earwigs are happy to parade up and down her arm - the breathtaking sunset chorus includes crickets and bullfrogs.

There are 3 unavoidable sets of domestic pet. Ants travel in single file all over the house. Dull-coloured small geckos eat some of them when not meditating upside down with all four feet clinging to the ceiling. Termites can't co-exist with ants so make do with the crevices in the garden wall. (Woodpeckers and ckickadees arrive to eat some of the termites, and fly away again.) From the garden our five have watched a coati run up a palm tree, pick a coconut and run down the trunk again carrying it. Travelling, they met a traffic jam where drivers waited, and waited - until a sloth finally reached the other side of the road.



I hope they know where they are with crocodiles. There is one in a pool round the corner outside the estate. Advanced on for a photograph, it fled into the water. Had they arrived in time to save the life of the lizard left on the bank? A crocodile Jane met while on her own flopped into the water and swirled round to glower at her from mid-river. Next moment, quick as a flash, a Jesus lizard raced over the surface of the water to the opposite bank. Summit Zoo has a crocodile in an open pool like a goldfish pond.

### **International family, friendship and cooperation**

Perhaps a *subconscious* awe of crocodiles explains why nearly everyone in Panama has bought a chihuahua. Tiny chihuahuas trot beside their owners along the two-mile Amador Causeway heading out into the blue Pacific.

The 'Loving' Causeway was built from earth and rocks excavated during the building of the Canal. The Panama Ship Canal serves the interest of everyone in the world and for exactly 130 years has attracted all nationalities to its workforce. International friendship is stressed, with parks dedicated to 'Amistad'. Kuna Indians, swarthy and daintily small, wearing on their legs jewellery they have made, mingle with the crowds of Panamanians and foreigners. The mood is easy, relaxed,

## **Church officials and key contacts**

**Bible Study/House/Prayer Groups** Scott Robertson  
**Organist and Director of Music** Michael Bawtree (as office)

**Church Wardens**  
**People's Warden**  
**Rector's Warden**

E Smith  
J Whelan

**Secretary to the Vestry**  
**Treasurer**

A Panickar  
M Gibson

**Lay Reader Emeritus**

A Linnegan

**Creche Organiser**  
**Sunday School contact person**  
**Youth Group Co-ordinator**

F Graham  
*vacant*  
*vacant*

### **Other contacts**

**Altar Linen**  
**Archivist**  
**Catering Co-ordinator**  
**Child Protection Co-ordinator**  
**Domestic Bursar**  
**Fair Trade Co-ordinator**  
**Flowers**  
**Freewill Offering Secretary**  
**Garden Co-ordinator**  
**Gift Aid Secretary**  
**Hall Convener**  
**Lay Diocesan Representative**  
**Magazine Distribution**  
**Magazine Editor**  
**Pastoral Care Team**  
**Property Convener**  
**Readers' Rota**  
**Roll-keeper**  
**Stewards' Rota**  
**Sunday Coffee Rota**

*vacant*  
C Fowler  
J MacDonald  
C Ball  
F Campbell  
L Bryce  
O Parkes  
G McKendrick  
*vacant*  
M Kennedy  
M Livingstone  
J Whiteside  
C Fowler  
J Gibson  
E Smith  
M Maddox  
J Girling  
J Gray  
E McIndoe  
F Campbell

## **The Last Word**

A minister was reaching the climax of his children's story, with the youngsters eagerly gathered round his feet: ".....and as they entered the forest, they saw something big and black and terrifying climbing up a tree in front of them. Have you any idea what it might have been?" A small boy replied, "It was Jesus. It's always Jesus!"

## **St Margaret of Scotland, Newlands**



### **Service details**

#### **Sundays**

9.00am Said Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist,

Crèche, Sunday School & Youth Group

#### **Tuesdays**

10am Holy Communion

For other services not listed please see Diary inside

Church Website address: [www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk](http://www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No SC 008953

**Next issue 27 March**

**Copy deadline**

**Wednesday 16 March 6pm**