

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

50p

May 2011



O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906)

THE CHURCH OFFICE

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Open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm
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Church administrator: Miss May Livingstone

CLERGY

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

Time to get “organ-ised”!

As you will see from page 10, we have started down the road of refurbishing the church organ. It is clear that a substantial sum of money will have to be raised, and a coherent fundraising strategy is being worked on. In the meantime, fundraising events are taking place, the next one being a chance to have fun at a

Quiz Night in the church on Friday 6 May at 7pm

Teams of 4 to 6 people. £10 per team; bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Easter thanks

Thank you to the very many people who have worked so hard for our Easter services: to Scott and Paul for leading our worship and for the thought that has gone into all the services, to the choir for their tuneful and accomplished singing of anthems, hymns and plainsong, to the Flower Team who have made the church so beautiful on Easter Day. Thanks also to the many people who have donated money towards the Easter lilies; the list of those commemorated has been inserted on the back page of the Diocesan News insert.



Lent Boxes - Bishop's Lent Appeal

This year's Appeal is to support the work of Mercy Ships, an international Christian charity that provides free medical and humanitarian care to some of the world's poorest people. Please return your Lent Boxes **as soon as possible**.

Tuesday 10 May Bishop's Teaching Evening

Easter Encounters, an exploration of the Gospel Easter narratives
St Silas', 69 Park Road 7.30pm

There will be no Rector's Hour on 11 May.

Included in this issue:

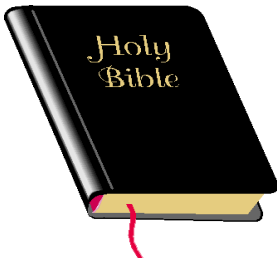
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Scott writes.....

As you probably already know from Jim's articles in recent issues, there is a very special anniversary this year. The Authorized or King James Version of the Bible is 400 years old. As you might expect, there are numerous events, radio and television programmes and publications to mark this historic occasion. I, myself, will be attending a day conference in Edinburgh in May.



The cultural significance of the Authorized Version of the Bible cannot be underestimated. The former poet-laureate, Andrew Motion, does not overstate the case when he writes, "To read it is to feel simultaneously at home, a citizen of the world, and a traveller through eternity". It has been suggested that no



less a light than Shakespeare had a hand in the creation of this literary icon. Whilst this is probably no more than a romantic notion, it is beyond question that Shakespeare knew his Bible and freely used it in his own work. Throughout its existence the KJV has remained a touchstone for those who wish to speak with any form of seriousness. Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech adopts its language. Having placed his hand on Abraham Lincoln's King James Bible,

President Kennedy's inauguration speech in 1961 is littered with allusions to and references from it. Even Karl Marx quotes from it in his *Das Kapital*. As Melvyn Bragg puts it, 'This Bible has had more impact on the ideology of the last four centuries than any other creed, manifesto or dogma.'

Like all good things, however, there is the ever-present temptation to make an idol out of this particular version of the Bible. It is possible for some folk to argue in all seriousness (I know because I once met someone who did) that if the King James Version 'was good enough for St. Paul, it is good enough for me!' It is true that we can get a little carried away in our admiration for the credentials of the Authorized Version.

But the issue is broader than this insofar as folk can look at the Bible (of whatever flavour) as a kind of font of all knowledge, a kind of magical textbook that can respond unfailingly in every situation. The problem with this particular way of looking at Scripture is that it expects too much and ignores the more than obvious fact that the cultural context in which we read and re-read the Bible is never static. In fact it is clear that a careful reading of the Bible

reveals that there is just such a cultural development in its own presentation of what it sees as the will of God. A good example is to be found when you compare Deuteronomy 23: 1-6 with Isaiah 56: 3-8 – have a look for yourself. There are those who blithely state, ‘the Bible says...’ without realising that the Bible continually interprets itself. You would expect nothing else from a book which was written over a period of several hundred years by a variety of hands.

All of this is not to belittle the Bible. Far from it. It is actually to treat it with due seriousness. In a famous essay, the Swiss-German theologian, Karl Barth, outlined what he described as the ‘strange new world of the Bible’. By this he meant that we should not become over-familiar with this book. As the Old Testament exegete, Walter Brueggemann puts it, ‘There is something intrinsically unfamiliar about this book, and when we seek to override that unfamiliarity we are on the hazardous ground of idolatry.’ In other words, it is all too easy for us to remake the Bible in our own image, to fulfil our own ideological agenda. Much harder, but infinitely more rewarding, is to struggle with this extraordinarily rich book and hear, really hear what God is saying in our own day and age.

So let us rightly give honour to the King James Version in this anniversary year, but let us, too, be vigilant to hear the Word of the Lord that we may proclaim with integrity the loving purposes of God.

Welcome to Maggie

I am delighted to say that Maggie McTernan will be joining us in September as a non stipendiary curate. Maggie comes from St Silas’ and is very much looking forward to being with us. I am sure that you will give her a warm welcome and make her feel at home in St Margaret’s.

Scott

Register

Baptism

10 April Nicolas Diaz (son of Kate and Daniel Diaz,
and grandson of Glen Heavenor)

Wedding

21 April Craig Allan and Gillian Watson



Israel and Palestine 2011

Penny Forshaw reflects on the spiritual and emotional challenges presented by a pilgrimage in March.

Some initial words as I reflect on my recent trip - complex, challenging, co-operative, communion, Christian.



I went with a close friend of nearly 40 years who belongs to the Church of Scotland Guild (formerly the Women's Guild). The main purpose of the organised trip was to visit 3 projects supported by the Guild, an Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel in Bethlehem, a creche in Jayyous (between Bethlehem and Tiberias) and a college project near Gaza that has Jewish and Bedouin female students together in a peace project.

We were away for 12 days, 23 of us in total, 20 women and 3 husbands from all parts of Scotland, Kirkwall, Wick, Aberdeen, Jedburgh, Perth, Grantown-on-Spey, Prestwick, Glasgow, Inverurie, West Fife and Birmingham.

Bulldozed rights

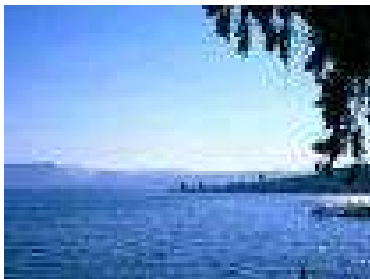
In part we were on pilgrimage - a challenge in itself, but for me the major challenge was the tension and politics of Israel and Palestine of which I had read and heard, but was in part unprepared for the visible impact of the walls, the checkpoints, the erosion of human rights, the creeping settlements and annexation of Palestinian land. We visited a bulldozed Bedouin village, classified as unregistered, and sat under an awning as the sheikh told us of the anguish of 500 people who looked for justice and the restoration of their homes.

A Christian Peace Team operates in Hebron, and in pouring rain we followed Bob, a Catholic priest, through rain soaked alleys covered overhead in wire to prevent the settlers throwing things at the Palestinian, Arabic population. The team escorts children to school across checkpoints and others who need to move within their own city. It was painful to hear the stories, as it was in Bethlehem with the work of the Ecumenical accompaniers, and to witness at first hand part of the struggle.

We worshipped at an Episcopal church at Raineh near Nazareth. The bishop in Jerusalem who comes from Nablus in Palestine no longer has a resident's permit to live in Jerusalem. I wondered what action we are taking in Scotland on his behalf. Earlier in the streets we had had the rather surreal experience of witnessing the relics of St Therese of Lisieux being processed with a band of scouts and young girls in white with baskets of flowers. Only 2% of the population are Christian. At night we were most of the congregation at the Church of Scotland in Tiberias.

Sabbath rest by Galilee

The trip was one of the constantly unexpected. We stayed at Tiberias and went on the sea of Galilee. The leader of the trip, the Reverend Clarence Musgrave, a retired Church of Scotland minister, took pains to find quiet spots at sites to have a



biblical reading and time of reflection, prayer and quiet. So there were highlights, of a communion near the sea of Galilee and the church of the loaves and fishes, and of beautiful sunshine at the Mount of Beatitudes, contrasting with the chaos of tourists at the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, with different parts of the church held by different Christian groups, all apparently in conflict with each other.

Jerusalem, within thy gates.....

I visited Masada and floated in the Dead Sea. In Jerusalem our room looked on to the city walls and I wrote a bit and tried to reflect. There are glimmers of hope at the college with Jewish and Bedouin students, sharing ideals and attempting to remove barriers of misunderstanding and polarization; when we went to Yad Vashem, the holocaust museum in Jerusalem, it was as distressing and perturbing as I had expected, but hard to reconcile past Jewish suffering with present Palestinian suffering.

The visit was far too short to assimilate years of struggle in this half digested reflection. I have lists of websites and some photographs and would be happy to talk further with people as to my experiences.

Wanted – Your favourite Recipes!!!!

As part of our fundraising efforts for the organ, the Vestry thought that it might be time to revisit the idea of a St Margaret's Cook Book! Some of you may indeed still have the one that was produced some years ago. There are many gifted cooks and bakers in the congregation and this is the opportunity for a sharing of recipes.

So, I am looking for recipes for Starters, Main Courses, Veggie dishes, Puddings and of course Cakes and Biscuits. Preserves and Pickles would be wonderful too, as would some ideas for drinks and dishes with little ones in mind.

Please feel free to provide them in whatever form is easiest for you. If in writing, please leave them at the back of the church for me or send via email to jeanettewhiteside9@gmail.com; if possible by the end of June when I leave for Sri Lanka. I'll try to use all the ideas, but apologies if I can't! *Jan Whiteside*

Lent group

“All the lonely people..... where do they all belong?”

Alan Bennett’s “Talking heads” formed the subject of this year’s Lent Group discussions. We watched videos which featured skilfully crafted monologues depicting various characters (played by well known actors) reflecting on their situations: Irene the nosy neighbour who wonders why the child next door never comes out to play, Susan the disenchanted vicars’ wife, Celia the widow who thinks she knows all about antiques, Graham who worries about his elderly mother and Violet who worries about the telegram that might come. All were sad and somewhat lonely characters, living in “small town” worlds with secrets behind the lace curtains, but ended up finding some sort of fulfilment in unexpected ways.



The group enjoyed discussing the personality of the characters; each one was then linked with a gospel passage and we discussed issues such as redemption, judging others, materialism, betrayal, and old age. We sought in our Lenten journey to shine Christ’s light on those parts of our lives where it is needed.

The experience encouraged us to take time to put ourselves in others’ shoes and consider how we respond to their difficulties; thank you Scott for getting us thinking.

Book Group

The group met on 22 March to discuss two books.

“Alarm Call” by Quintin Jardine, featured pseudo detective Oz Blackstone on a jet hopping mission to rescue his ex wife’s child from an abductor and experiencing various surprises in the way, but its literary merit was not appreciated.

“The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” by Jean D Bauby, on the other hand, was a different matter. The book tells of how the author was paralysed by a stroke, and unable to communicate except by moving an eyelid. His body is trapped, as in a diving bell, but his mind is free to flit and roam, as a butterfly, and we read his thoughts about his childhood, his family, and the hospital in which he lies. The book is an inspiring literary achievement and makes the reader all too fully aware that someone apparently unable to communicate does have thoughts and feelings and does understand much of what is going on around them; a poignant reminder to anyone who may visit someone who has had a stroke.

The next book group meets on 3 May, to discuss Doris Lessing’s “The Sweetest Dream”.

Jim Gibson

Community Action

Alex Murphy, the local Alzheimers service manager, reports on the work done by the group that meets weekly on Thursdays at St Margaret's.

Alzheimer Scotland Glasgow Younger Persons Service (GYPS) supports people with dementia and their families across Glasgow. Our service specifically supports individuals who have a younger onset dementia. The term younger onset dementia is used to describe people who are under the age of 65 and who have dementia.

Last November I had the pleasure of attending the Wednesday Quilters annual craft fair and coffee morning at St Margaret's. The Quilters have long been great supporters of our service and have been terrific at raising money for the group. We have been able to use the donations we have received to provide those activities which are no longer feasible within our budget such as trips to art galleries, parks and museums.

Our staff, Margaret and Heather, work very hard to offer meaningful activities that have a positive outcome for the emotional and physical well being of those who attend. One trip they organised that sticks out the memory is the visit made to the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine. We made the journey to a present a 'Hooky and Proggy' mat of the QE2 designed and made by the folk who attend the Thursday group. The subject had been chosen by someone who had worked on the QE2. Although the weather was terrible it didn't dampen our spirits and everyone had really enjoyable day out.

No mention of the mats would be complete without paying tribute to the work of Issy Sanderson who worked with the group over many sessions to produce these wonderful objects. Issy has been an extremely committed volunteer and supporter of our service.

On a more sombre note, these are very difficult times for all charities and increasing financial pressures and cuts to services are the order of day. Our service was recently reviewed and although our funders were pleased with quality of our work the future is still very uncertain. Despite the challenges that this climate presents to us we carry on, 'boats against the current', to continue to offer individuals and families support so that no one goes through the experience of dementia alone.

Report from the organ committee

Following a meeting of the Vestry on 7 October 2010 a small committee consisting of the Rector, Michael Bawtree, Nimmo Davidson, Kenneth Watson and Maida Gibson was set up charged with the remit *'to evaluate the options open to the congregation regarding the present state of the organ including, repair, refurbishment and replacement and to report back to the Vestry by 31 March 2011.'* This was triggered by a report by Michael Bawtree in April 2010 stating that the organ was in great need of serious attention despite having been well looked after over the years.



It had been noted that one of the principal problems affecting the organ was the dry atmosphere in the church which had caused considerable damage in both 2009 and 2010. As a result of this the organ had stopped sounding almost completely; there were some weeks when the piano had to be used. As an emergency measure, and to protect the instrument for the foreseeable future, the Vestry agreed that a humidifier be purchased. This has now been installed and is making a difference.

The committee asked for three reports:

- 1. James A MacKenzie:** has maintained the organ for many years and knows it well. His report provided a history of the organ, and indicated that it required a good 'spring clean' and detailed refurbishment. He provided three options, with indicative costings for each.
- 2. Robert Lightband:** is a member of the Scottish Federation of Organists and is from Dundee. He considered that a building the size of St Margaret's needed a pipe organ as it would be difficult to find a digital organ which would provide the necessary quality of sound required for events when the church was full. To obtain a digital one which would be sufficiently powerful would cost a significant sum and might need repair within a shorter period of time than a pipe organ. It is known that digital equipment goes 'out of date' quite quickly and therefore there is a likelihood of expensive repair/replacement sooner than a pipe organ. (It is worth noting that the instrument in St Margaret's has not had major work done on it since 1963 – work well done will last for a long time.) He put forward the idea that a replacement instrument might be a sensible way forward.

3. John Kitchen: is Edinburgh City Organist, Senior Lecturer in Music and Organist at the University of Edinburgh and Director of Music at Old St Paul's, Edinburgh. He commented that the organ is basically good and serviceable and, after some restoration work, should give excellent service for many years to come. He recommended refurbishment with some rebuilding of parts of the organ which could be easily adapted to provide an even better instrument and more attractive to visiting organists. He considered this would be well worth the expenditure.

Aware that all three reports were very much in favour of retaining the present organ, the committee also wished to explore the possibility of replacing the present organ with a digital instrument. The committee considered, however, that there were many reasons why this would not be advantageous for St Margaret's; cost being one reason, our musical tradition a second and also the fact that once a decision like that is made it would be almost impossible to reinstate a traditional pipe organ because all the pipes, bellows etc would have had to be removed. The costs of a digital organ, and its upkeep, were compared with the refurbishment/rebuild of the current pipe organ and no real advantage in installing a digital organ could be seen.

The committee finally made the recommendation that the organ be refurbished/rebuilt as a traditional pipe organ.

The Vestry meeting on 4 April took a long time to discuss the report in detail and, after exploring all the options thoroughly, was unanimous in its decision to ask the committee to seek 3 tenders for the necessary work and to report by the end of September 2011.

Maida Gibson

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**Music Notes**

Michael Bawtree will be performing organ recitals in May:

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 21 May 7.30pm | Reid Memorial Church, Edinburgh |
| Monday 23 May 1pm      | Ayr Town Hall                   |
| Sunday 29 May 6pm      | St Ninian's Church, Troon       |

All concerts last an hour.

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May Calendar of events

- Sun 1st Easter 2
Tue 3rd Holy Communion 10am
Book Group 7.30pm in Upper Room “The Sweetest Dream”
Wed 4th Rector’s Hour at the church 6pm
Thu 5th Vestry meeting 7.30pm
Fri 6th Quiz Night in the church 7pm
- Sun 8th Easter 3
Second Sunday concert in the church 3.30pm
Rebecca and Alan Tavener perform music for voice and organ by Bach, Mozart and Vivaldi
Tues 10th Holy Communion 10am
- Sun 15th Easter 4
Tues 17th Holy Communion 10am
Wed 18th Rector’s Hour at the church 6pm
- Sun 22nd Easter 5
Tues 24th Holy Communion 10am
Wed 25th Rector’s Hour at the church 6pm
- Sun 29th Easter 6
Tue 31st Holy Communion 10am

Also:

Extend to Music every Tuesday 11am to noon

Thu 2nd June Ascension Day service at St Margaret’s 7pm

Readings for May

1 May Easter 2	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31
8 May Easter 3	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35
15 May Easter 4	Acts 2: 42-47 1 Peter 2: 19-25 John 10: 1-10
22 May Easter 5	Acts 7: 55-60 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14
29 May Easter 6	Acts 17: 22-31 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21

Fair Trade spot - Easter brings Good News for farmers

Traidcraft likes to celebrate good news with all our supporters, regardless of faith. For a Christian-based organisation like Traidcraft, the Easter story of resurrection, of hope replacing despair, is central to what we are and what we do.

Around the Iriaini tea factory in Kenya, for example, training in beekeeping is giving new hope and opportunity to families who otherwise faced destitution, and restoring life to land that was formerly unusable.

On South Africa's Orange River, at Eksteenskuil, secure orders and an additional premium are helping raisin farmers to recover and rebuild after floods swept through vineyards across the region early this year.

And in the Tamil Nadu region of India, we have helped thousands of women and young people resurrect the economic life of communities devastated by a tsunami.

Thank you for your support. *Liz Bryce (also see page 21 for Quiz answers)*

Where are they now?...Issy Sanderson is bustling with energy in Yorkshire and challenges our commitment to outreach..

Latvian Festival in York

In the first week of June I will be organising a "Latvian Festival" with two famous Latvian musicians, Evita Raituma, a soloist with Latvian National Opera, and Kristine Adamaite, a well known organist and pianist.

Their first concert will be on 1 June at St. Columba's Church York. The second concert on 3 June will be an "Historic Link" Concert at The Parish Church in Easingwold. The main event takes place on Saturday 4 June in the Tithe Barn, Poppleton, when Evita and Kristina will be joined by the colourful Latvian Traditional Folk singers and Dancers from the Latvian community in Leeds (*we remember their visit to Glasgow in 2009 - Ed*). The final concert on Sunday 5 June features Kristine and Evita in All Saints Church, Poppleton.

All of the artists are giving of their services free to enable funds to be raised at all these events for the Day Centre for the Elderly in Riga, Latvia.

The Day Centre, which I founded 15 years ago, is held in the undercroft of the Church of St. Saviour, Riga, the only Anglican church in the Baltics, and is a vital community service for the elderly poor living without family support in very reduced circumstances. The church congregation, itself somewhat impoverished, also provides a Soup Kitchen for the homeless on Saturdays, and supports a Home in the countryside for children and young people who have suffered abuse, often related to parental drug and alcohol addiction.

St Saviour's was founded in 1857 by a small group of British traders, one of whom was the grandson of Rev. John William Armitstead, Vicar of Easingwold Parish church, whose son George had gone out to Riga as a flax merchant in 1812. Members of the Armitstead family were to become great benefactors in Riga, with the most famous one, George Armitstead, great grandson of the Easingwold vicar, becoming one of the most dynamic, philanthropic, far-sighted and successful Mayors of Riga ever. The Queen, on a state visit to Latvia five years ago, unveiled a statue of George Armitstead saying "descended from a Yorkshire vicar, he had reflected the prosperous and civic-minded British community of a century and more ago".

This little church in Riga, which was desecrated during Soviet Occupation in 1940, then reconsecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1994, and has gradually struggled back to life, is a wonderful example of Christian Outreach, and could perhaps put many of our churches in this wealthier country to shame.

Puzzle page (answers next month)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the letters

S			I		A			E
		E				U	H	
	R	C			H	S		T
E		U	C					A
	A		S	H			E	
T		I			E	R		H
		T					U	
	C	S		A	U			
U			E		S	H		C

E U C H A R I S T

Downwords

The solutions to the clues are all nine letter words or names, the letters of which are contained in the grid below, at the rate of one per row in the correct order.

Each letter is used once only.

1. Leader of 100 Roman soldiers
2. OT prophet
3. Small parrot
4. Cut short
5. Places to live
6. Yellow weed associated with daisies
7. Man born again?
8. Tough, requiring effort
9. Portrayal

C Z N C D C B D D
 U O W I E U E E I
 T E N C C F C R P
 T L H K T T F I O
 A I A C A L D E U
 R E C R I R T I T
 C U L I M N I I I
 G O U E L O E A U
 H T S N L S P D N

Intercessions Easter Day 2011

We thank you Lord for the glories of Easter.
With all our hearts and minds let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for Christ's church
Gathering all round the world today in tiny churches and
great cathedrals
to praise you, to hear your holy word.,
Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go
Fill us with your love and hope
So through our witness
The world may see and believe God's power through Jesus.



We pray for countries where there is war, violence or only fragile peace
Give those trying to secure peace
a certainty of their calling and patience in their negotiations
So that those with hearts darkened by violence may find a better way
We pray particularly for peace in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for our City, for the community and for all who live here
For those of different faiths and backgrounds
That we may live in harmony together
For the poor, the unemployed, those in prison, the vulnerable
For the aged and the infirm
The sick and the suffering
Give us the compassion to remember them and help them if we can
Give strength to those who care for them.

We pray for all known to us
who suffer in body, mind or spirit
Comfort and heal
Give them courage and hope in their troubles.

Almighty God, bringer of joy and hope this Easter
Take away our doubts
Imbue us with your power
Make us witnesses of your resurrection
We ask this in the name of your Jesus Christ.

Amen

Dave Bryce

Communications group

A small group (presently consisting of the Rector, the Vestry Secretary and the Magazine Editor) is meeting to consider our congregation's overall communications strategy, involving the magazine, our website and other ways of communicating our vision and "whom we are and whom we serve", within the congregation and neighbourhood. The group is looking at, *inter alia*, the "housestyle" of our literature, the enhancement of the website, and the production of publicity material.



Anyone with any thoughts or ideas for consideration is welcome to contact anyone in the group.

In the meantime, **did you know that.....**

.....the church magazine currently has a print run of 160 copies, the majority of which are posted to former members of our congregation across the country. A dedicated team of volunteers makes sure that content is translated into copy every month.

.... the church magazine is available on line? Go to www.episcopalnewlands.org.uk (please contact the editor if you would rather not receive a hard copy of the magazine).

.....that if you google "St Margaret's Church Glasgow" ours is the first entry which appears!

.....in the last month, the website was visited 218 times by 177 unique visitors. Two-thirds of these are visiting for the first time. Over the past year, we have had people viewing the website from 35 different countries.



.....St. Margaret's will soon have a Facebook page so that former and current members of our extended church family can stay in touch with what's happening. Plans for the future include video and audio content so watch this space!

In the Garden.....

We conclude our interviews with what has been good and bad for our allotment holders.

Name - Kenneth Watson
Allotment Site - Queen's Park

Do you tend your plot on your own?

No, I am employed by the head gardener Angela Watson (my wife). Actually we work very well as a team; she tells me what to do and I do it!



How long have you been growing veg?

Only about 8 or 9 years although I have been involved in horticulture all my life.

Which crops grew exceptionally well for you last season? (2010)

As always, plums. I think the 'Victoria' variety is best suited to our climate. Tatties were good despite the dry spring, and the good weather early on got the Cucumber crop off to a flying start.

What was the most challenging aspect of the last season?

Lack of time; never underestimate how much of a commitment an allotment is. It was very dry at planting and sowing times in the spring and early summer, so watering was a problem. Mare's Tail has been spreading in from outside the fence, a real devil to eradicate.

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

Pigeons have always made brassicas impossible, but this year I built a walk-in netted enclosure which allowed us to grow sprouts and kale, and it kept the Cabbage White Butterflies out too, so no caterpillar damage.

What was the best moment on your plot?

This year, eating our first home grown grapes and having our own sprouts for Christmas dinner. We enjoy the odd BBQ but sometimes it is just the peace and quiet, the sun, a cup of tea and the birdsong.

Name one variety of vegetable you would recommend to others.

This year we grew a variety of lettuce called 'Giardina'. It had bronze foliage, tolerated both dry and wet conditions very well and headed up quickly. Great taste too.

Any tips to pass on to new veg gardeners?

A new plot can be a real challenge, especially if it is overgrown, but don't look at it as one big overwhelming problem, sub-divide it into a number of smaller problems, each one less daunting and more achievable than the whole thing by making paths and beds. You can then tackle them one at a time over the coming weeks, months or years. The chances are you will have at least one small area cultivated and planted in no time to give you a boost.

Name one famous person you would invite to have a cuppa with you on your plot.

The musical part of me wants to say Bach, but I guess he didn't have much time for gardening; and since it is a gardening article I had better say Percy Thrower, one of the first TV gardeners and a boyhood hero.

And the most useful tool in your shed?

Secateurs. Whether dead heading, pruning or cutting back in the autumn, a sharp pair of secateurs is a must. Buy them cheap and throw them away after one season or spend the money on a good pair; they must be sharp.

Reminding all theatre fans!

The High School Musical takes place at the SECC from May 21 to 23. Make sure you come! See Liz Bryce for information.

Sukhita Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride **Saturday 11th June 2011**

A warm invitation is extended to everyone for the above event.

This year we have opted for a change of venue and are relocating to the Drumpellier Country Park Coatbridge. The route will cover a distance of 13 miles. We will have our usual BBQ lunch and games (weather permitting). Bikes can be transported to and from the event if required.

Sponsorship forms are available with all proceeds going to the Sukhita Child Humanitarian Project in Sri Lanka.

Please come and join us if not as an active cyclist then as a volunteer to help with the children and refreshments.

[For additional information please contact John & Linda Fisher.](#)

The “Big 5” interview. This month we hear from Nick Rynn.

Who is your hero / heroine and why?

Is hero the most overused, and so often ill deserved accolade in the English language? For me a hero is somebody I admire and respect for doing something that requires extraordinary physical or, more often, moral courage. So that excludes entertainers, sport personalities, celebrities and venal politicians. We are surrounded by heroes; we just need to see people for what they are and recognise the extraordinary things they do. I have no single hero.

What is your favourite piece of music, favourite painting; favourite poem?

Music – the sublime Faure’s Requiem. The Agnus Dei is my perfect moment of music. Favourite painting - Claude Monet’s Field of Poppies; one of a series of “Poppy Paintings”, full of colour, movement and one can sense the close warmth and countryside. Favourite poem - it depends what mood I’m in but if pushed it would be The Windhover by Gerard Manley Hopkins. My favourite verse however comes from a whimsical piece of Victorian love poetry, Francis Thompson’s An Arab Love-Song:

Leave thy father, leave thy mother
And thy brother;
Leave the black tents of thy tribe apart!
Am I not thy father and thy brother,
And thy mother?
And thou—what needest with thy tribe's black tents
Who hast the red pavilion of my heart?

To be able to write something like that!

My favourite book? My favourite book is an anthology of poetry “Other Men’s Flowers” chosen by Field Marshall Lord Wavell during World War II. It contains many of the usual suspects, and a few surprises, but what makes it so special is the notes Wavell adds explaining why he chose the poems. I have carried my copy around the world for over 3 decades. It is dirty, battered and worn and I have dipped into it whilst in jungles and deserts, up mountains and down dales, in trenches and in the comfort of 5 star hotels. I still find something new every time I open it.

My most significant memory of St Margaret’s? The Passion Play – singing in the gospel choir was an extraordinary, and fantastically uplifting, experience. I had never done anything like it before. It just goes to show you’re never too old to try something new (except of course Morris dancing and bungee jumping); heaven knows you might enjoy it.

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

Any one of: Harry Houdini – we would be out in a flash; Charles Dickens – never short of a good story; or a master wine grower, but only if he brings along a few bottles to try.

These are the facts you needed to know to get full marks in the Fairtrade Fortnight quiz:

1. Humans have made use of bees for 8,000 years - cave paintings in Spain from 6000 BC show our ancestors collecting honey from wild bees nests.
2. 60,000 bees will live in a hive at the peak of summer.
3. A bee travels 3 miles from the hive.
4. A flight to forage for nectar will last 45 minutes. The bee visits 100 flower heads and collects 50mg of nectar.
5. 3 million flowers are visited to collect enough nectar to make 1lb of honey.
6. A bee can travel 2,000km on 1g of honey. Honey is very fuel efficient. Humans can travel 0.05km on 1g (walking at 4 mph)
7. One bee can pollinate 18,000 flowers in a day.
8. Traidcraft bought 87 tonnes of honey from Apicoop in 2009.
9. Each Fruit, Nut and Honey Geobar contains 4.6% honey.
10. Bees fly at 15mph but at only 12mph when returning fully laden to the hive.
11. Lime trees are the source of a peppermint flavoured honey.
12. Queen Honey Bees go to a drone congregation area to mate.
13. Honey bees communicate with each other by doing a Waggle dance.
14. In the UK we consume 25,000 tonnes of honey each year. In a normal year the UK can only produce 4,000 tonnes.
15. Apart from nectar and pollen Water and Propolis are also collected by honey bees.
16. Pollen is rich in protein and is essential for the growth and development of larva.
17. Furniture and candle making are 2 commercial uses for beeswax.
18. A bee can see colour. Their eyes are sensitive more to the blue end of the spectrum and into ultra violet. They are totally red blind.
19. Bees do not sleep at night but most remain totally motionless at night reserving their energies for the next day.
20. Bees do not have knees. They have legs with joints like an insect but as they do not have anything resembling kneecaps they cannot be called knees.

So now you know!

Liz Bryce

“.....and a sword shall pierce your heart also” (Luke 2.35)

The all age worship service on 3 April (Mothering Sunday) included “reflections” on the lives of women in the Bible who showed care, courage and compassion. Here Mary’s brother reflects on Jesus’ childhood and the encounter with Simeon.

My sister Mary loved all her kids the same, well, all the same, but all different as well. With James she would always be joking, taking the mickey out of his long straight hair saying he looked just like her. With Sarah, she would just go walking for ages and they’d never stop talking – walking and talking. Joseph used to roll his eyes when I went round to see Mary. “She’s out with Sarah, yes, still out with Sarah”. The family thought it was incredible – especially the boys. How could they talk so much? – exhausting. But then Hannah, she didn’t get it either. She didn’t gab too much – I think it was too much effort. A bit lazy, our Hannah. Mary would encourage her to help around the house with a bit of baking and occasionally cleaning. Joseph would just tell her straight! And they’d argue quite bad sometimes. But Mary gave her an easier time – and probably got her to do more by just pulling her along.

And with Jesus, well the thing was, she’d known from the start that there was going to be a problem. Simeon told her. What a guy, I could’ve throttled the idiot. I didn’t believe him anyway. And neither did Joseph. But Mary did – she took him dead serious.

So that was bound to affect what she was like with Jesus. She tried to treat him the same. But she always knew she was going to lose him. I could see it lots of times. I remember going round at bath time. When she bathed him as a tot – she took ages, just looking at him and enjoying him being in the water. Splashing him. He loved it as well. She took twice as long with him as any of the others. Just playing and holding on to him.

And when it happened, the crucifixion..... the thing was, it felt like this was what she had prepared for all along. Not like it wasn’t terrible like the end of the world. Because it was! If it wasn’t for the support we gave each other, particularly for Mary, I think she couldn’t have pulled through really.

But when she started to come round a bit, it seemed like the fact she’d known all those years had helped her prepare. She’d cared for him all that time knowing she was going to lose him. She’d kept hold of him more then, because she knew she was going to lose him.

Maybe that Simeon wasn’t such an idiot after all.

Bryan Evans

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	E Smith
Rector's Warden	J Whelan
Secretary to the Vestry	A Panickar
Treasurer	M Gibson
Lay Reader Emeritus	A Linnegan
Creche Organiser	F Graham
Sunday School contact person	<i>vacant</i>
Youth Group Co-ordinator	<i>vacant</i>
Other contacts	
Altar Linen	<i>vacant</i>
Archivist	C Fowler
Catering Co-ordinator	J MacDonald
Child Protection Co-ordinator	C Ball
Domestic Bursar	F Campbell
Fair Trade Co-ordinator	L Bryce
Flowers	O Parkes
Freewill Offering Secretary	G McKendrick
Garden Co-ordinator	<i>vacant</i>
Gift Aid Secretary	M Kennedy
Hall Convener	M Livingstone
Lay Diocesan Representative	J Whiteside
Magazine Distribution	C Fowler
Magazine Editor	J Gibson
Pastoral Care Team	E Smith
Property Convener	M Maddox
Readers' Rota	J Girling
Roll-keeper	J Gray
Stewards' Rota	E McIndoe
Sunday Coffee Rota	F Campbell

The Last Word The Easter message - primary version

A 5 year old boy was telling his grandmother what he had learnt in school about Easter.

“It’s very simple”, he said, “Christians believe that Jesus died in the Easter holidays”.

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
Scottish Charity No SC 008953

Next issue 29 May

**Copy deadline
Wednesday 18 May 6pm**