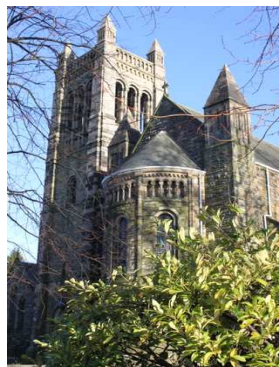


**St Margaret's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Magazine**

50p

March 2012



**Fair Trade Fortnight
February 27 to March 11**



Margaret Wanjiku, tea farmer in Kenya

“....enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed”



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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

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Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, and help to beautify the church at Easter, please complete the form enclosed with this magazine. Please return the form **by Sunday 25 March**, with your remittance, so that the list can be prepared.



Lent Boxes

This year's the Bishop's Lent Appeal is in aid of the work of Waverley Care, which provides care and support to people living with HIV and Hepatitis C, and to their partners, friends and families. Lent Boxes are at the back of the church and should be returned **by Easter Sunday 8 April**. Please give generously.

Thank you....

To all those who have sent back their magazine subscription forms so promptly. This is very much appreciated.

Music Notes....come and support the choir

Sunday 26 February 6.30pm Choral Evensong for first Sunday in Lent



Sunday 4 March 6.30pm Evensong with Strathclyde University Chamber Choir, conducted by Alan Tavener.

Thursday 15 March 7.30 to 9.30pm **BBC Radio recording of Easter Service**, featuring church choir and Glasgow Chamber Choir. An enthusiastic congregation will be appreciated!

Sunday 25 March 6.30pm Music and Readings for Lent.

Scott writes.....

Sir Elton John once sang, “Sorry seems to be the hardest word”, but it can be argued that it is difficult no longer. It’s a word used extremely frequently these days (unless you happen to be a politician who ‘apologises’ but never normally says sorry). We use it in all sorts of oh so British polite conversations. We say things like: ‘Sorry, but you’ve given me the wrong change’, or ‘Sorry, but I would like to say something.’ It has become a word to ever so gently break the ice, rather than its intended use as the expression of a broken heart. According to the OED, ‘sorry’ has its origins in the Old English word ‘Sarig’, meaning “distressed, full of sorrow.” Now we use it to mean everything from ‘What?’ to that most dreaded of Americanisms – ‘Whatever’. It has also been sharply politicized in recent times with various organisations (including the church) having to make public expressions of sorrow over past involvement in amongst other crimes, what, in the United States was known as the ‘peculiar institution’ - the slave trade.



It would appear then that the church has also moved with the times when it comes to saying sorry. But it can be argued that this has been going on far longer than that within the church itself. While I was in Edinburgh last week Alison, Craig and I took the opportunity to pay a visit to St. Giles’ Cathedral. St Giles’ most famous moment in its illustrious history involved a certain Jenny Geddes who, in 1637, as a protest against the prayer book being used in the service, threw a stool at James Hannay, the Dean of Edinburgh. It is said that the stool in question was a Cuttie Stool. This was a stool set aside for the public confessing of sins. The individual concerned would be called to account by the minister and told to stand or sit on the stool while their sins were pronounced to all and sundry. We don’t do that any more. Such public humiliation has been taken over by that most religious of bodies, the tabloid press.

So we might say that saying sorry in church has been somewhat sanitized, if not privatized. This has its advantages and disadvantages. It certainly removes the opportunity for unwarranted and lurid interest in the private lives of others. It is true, as Hobbes put it, that to accuse requires less eloquence than to excuse. We love pointing the finger. But we forget that, when we do, there are three more fingers pointing back at ourselves. So it is right that such exercises in public humiliation form no part of our church life. But I can’t help thinking that, human nature being what it is, there remains that perverse part of us which delights in the small humiliations of others. We replace the Cuttie Stool with gossip and we lose touch with the positive aspect of the theology around the Cuttie Stool, namely the

opportunity for reconciliation and forgiveness. We forget that the idea behind public penance was ultimately not humiliation but restoration.

That's where that most important and misunderstood word 'repentance' comes into its own. It's an important word because Jesus used it right at the start of his ministry: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' But it's a misunderstood word because it has been hijacked to foster a bleak assessment of the human condition. It has become a sandwich board word with all the negative connotations that go with that apocalyptic sensibility. This is a shame because it is a word that beautifully captures that tension between the greatness and weakness of what it means to be human. Repentance (meaning 'turning around') is an ongoing part of life. The capacity for us to reflect, to take a long look in the mirror, is what repentance is all about. It is not about indulging in abject misery for past wrongs. Rather it is a sober realisation that we are capable of barbaric and beautiful acts. The act of repentance is the spiritual filter by which we choose the right way rather than the wrong way, fully aware that we will at times stumble. Repentance is picking ourselves up when we fall, dusting ourselves off and moving forward.

Oh, and yes, not just saying sorry but meaning it.

Love

Scott

Register

Funeral

9 February Marjorie Cruickshank



Alice's last dance

For nearly 30 years a country dance class has met on a Wednesday evening at St Margaret's, under the eagle and expert eye of Alice McLean. The class has brought great pleasure to many people, whether dance beginners or experts, and its members have enjoyed the mental and physical challenges and the social fellowship which country dancing brings.



Sadly, Alice died on 28 January and the class is likely to cease unless a new teacher can be found. Our sympathy goes to Alice's family and her many friends in the dance world who have lost a teacher with an encyclopaedic knowledge of dancing and a kind and generous friend.

Around St Margaret's Notes and News

Coffee Rota

Please note that the rotas in the centre pages of the magazine now show those who are on the coffee rota, as it appears that some people have been forgetting in recent weeks!



Remember that the first named person is responsible for bringing the milk!

....and don't forget to make sure that you swop with someone else if you cannot manage your turn!

Many thanks

Fiona Campbell

Creche

We welcome parents with young children to the Sunday morning service. The "crèche" facility is more properly a play area where parents are able to be with their children, as we do not currently have a formal supervised crèche. The "crèche" area is linked to the church amplification system so that parents can hear what is going on in the service.

Do avail yourself of the facility and make yourselves at home!

Logs.....

The wood from the birch tree that had to be felled after the December storms has now all been removed from the church grounds. Some larger pieces of wood have been chopped into smaller pieces and are presently stored in my garage. If anyone would like them (in return for a small donation to the Organ Fund!) please get in touch with me on 423 8290.



Further wood will shortly become available when three trees at the East side of the church are felled (they have been causing damp ingress to the apse). Watch this space!

..... and Linen

A recent clear out of church cupboards has revealed a number of items of linen which are surplus to requirements. Anyone who would like them, please get in touch with me.

Maida Gibson

Update on organ appeal

The Vestry is hoping for a third quotation by the end of February; this will allow the Vestry to select an organ builder. It is hoped that an organ appeal can then be started in earnest. Further progress will be reported in due course.

Lent Fest

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow has put together a fascinating programme of cultural events for Lent. The programme includes a performance of woks by James Macmillan, an art exhibition, songs and recitals, talks about faith and many other worthwhile events. Booklets are available at the back of the church; please take one.

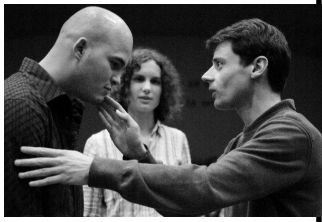
Annual Lunch at Glasgow Indoor Bowling Club

Just a reminder that this is on Thursday, 22 March, 1.00pm for 1.30pm. If I am not in church Connie Fowler or Fiona McCracken will take a note of your order.

Prue Clark

Earth Hour - come and celebrate! Saturday 31 March 7pm

An evening of fun designed to raise awareness of climate change issues and “Love Food, Hate Waste”. There will be singing, activities, competitions, fun and fellowship.....and, of course, this being St Margaret’s, good nosh! Cost £5 (or alternatively bring a contribution for supper).

<p>The Mark Drama - one night only This gripping “theatre in the round” performance of Mark’s gospel is coming to St Margaret’s on Wednesday of Holy Week</p>	
<p>4 April at 7.30pm</p>	
<p>Entry by donation £10. All proceeds will go to the church organ fund. Tickets available from Eileen Smith. But hurry ; they are limited to 100!</p>	

Southside Festival....calling all artists!

The Vestry has agreed to hold an Art Exhibition on the weekend of 26-28 May under the auspices of the South side Festival. Fiona Evans and Malcolm Maddox are organising the exhibits. Please contact them if you have anything you would like to exhibit.

Woman at The Well.....

As many of you will know I help out at the Well Multi Cultural Advice Centre in Crosshill on a Friday morning. We number about 20 volunteers, drawn from a variety of local churches, and, together with a manager, do our best to give advice and assistance to people with a wide range of problems.



Historically, our clients have been from the Pakistani community, but it is now we see people from all Asian countries, African clients and recently many from Slovakia. People from over 150 nations live in Glasgow and as they are all welcome at the Well we do have something of the world in microcosm. As well as people of many nationalities seeking help we have all sorts of personalities so tact and diplomacy is always required laced with a good sense of humour! Almost without fail however our clients are grateful for what has been done for them and sometimes this is very humbling as I feel I have not done a huge amount except be kindly and sympathetic.

Most of our clients are on benefits of some sort or another and most of those who are without work are just desperate to get a job. It is sometimes very distressing when one is trying to help someone to seek for work knowing that it is just so unlikely that there are any suitable openings. Typically, clients will need help with filling in forms, or need help with telephone calls to utility companies, the Inland Revenue or Glasgow City Council. I take my hat off to the people in benefit offices and local authority offices, whom I have found unfailingly patient, helpful and courteous on the phone.



Form filling is one of our most common activities and one which is often extremely difficult because of the language barrier. Sometimes I look at the forms as a native English speaker and can hardly work out what is required; the whole exercise can take on a surreal aspect when trying to elicit sensible answers from someone whose second or third language is English. I have learned many 'coping mechanisms' for these problems including occasionally doing drawings to illustrate what I mean – anyone who knows about my lack of drawing ability will understand that this is a very last resort! !).

We all try to offer a listening ear, to walk alongside our clients for the short time they are with us and thus, above all, to show that our faith has a practical dimension.

“For as much as you did it unto one of these the least of my brethren you did it unto me”.

The Well is always in need of volunteers, so if there is anyone out there who would like to help, do please get in touch with me!

Maida Gibson



Have a Fairtrade Big Brew with us, says our Fairtrade group at Saint Margaret’s

This Fairtrade Fortnight (27 February – 11 March 2012), **Liz Bryce** is inviting all her friends including everyone at Saint Margaret’s and their friends, to take a step for Fairtrade and join them at her Big Brew event at

267 Nithsdale Road G41 5AW on Saturday 10 March from 10.30 until 12.30

The Big Brew is part of a national initiative by Traidcraft, the UK’s leading fair trade organisation, which encourages schools, churches, workplaces and any other groups to host a Fairtrade tea party/coffee morning during Fairtrade Fortnight.

By holding a Traidcraft Big Brew, raising awareness and selling Traidcraft goods, **we shall be** helping families in the developing world to flourish. These goods include a wide range of Eswatini preserves and also the new “Ethical” Easter Eggs.

For tea farmer Margaret Wanjiku growing tea is now just one of many activities she carries out on her farm in Kenya, which help her to provide for her family. With training from Traidcraft she has learned how to keep bees, to harvest water, change the plants she grows – and even keep rabbits.

Liz and her team say: “This event is a great opportunity to increase awareness of Fairtrade and of the issues faced by producers in the developing world. By serving Fairtrade drinks and raising funds for Traidcraft, we are helping to make a difference to the lives of producers across the world.”

Established in 1979, Traidcraft fights poverty through trade, helping people in developing countries to transform their lives. It runs training programmes in some of the poorest countries in the world, and campaigns in the UK and internationally to bring about trade justice.

Removing the Gods rewriting *Antigone*

Adrian Osmond invites us to see a new version of a timeless classic.

Last summer I was approached by Lung Ha's Theatre Company to write a new version of the play *Antigone* by Sophocles. Based in Edinburgh, Lung Ha's provide opportunities for people with learning disabilities to become actively involved in the performing arts. I have long admired the dedication and passion of this company, and in recent years they have embraced ever-greater challenges.



Sophocles' version of *Antigone* is almost 2,500 years old, and is one of the earliest and most celebrated works for the stage. It depicts a war-torn land, in which orphaned Antigone takes a stand against her king. Her two brothers have destroyed each other in battle – one while attacking the city of Thebes, the other while defending it. The new ruler, Creon, brands one brother a traitor: anyone who is caught burying his body will be punished with death. But Antigone defies this law and honours her family duty.

The play presents an irreconcilable clash between the needs of State and an individual's conscience; a clash between written and unwritten laws; and it asks where one's loyalties should lie – with one's family, nation, or simply oneself?

Sophocles wrote his play for an audience in Athens who would have known the story well and would have been seeking a new interpretation of the tale. Since then, it has been adapted many times to reflect different cultures and events, as the questions that this play asks continue to resonate.



This new version is not focused around current events. (Although Gaddafi's final words – "What did I do to you?" and "Do you know right from wrong?" seem chillingly close to being quotes from the script.) Instead, my guiding principle has been to create a version for people that may never have heard of these characters before. I have aimed to be true to the spirit of the original text, while distilling this down to its essence.

In condensing it to a quarter of its original length, one aspect that has been removed is the Gods. The original motivation behind this decision was to simplify the story – there are enough names to remember amongst the human characters, without including those of deities that never appear. Their removal

also frees the story from being bound to a particular time period and system of belief.

But, of course, you can't actually delete the Gods from this story. For starters, *Antigone* hinges on the need to perform proper funeral rites so that a soul can come to rest. And there is a constant sense that there are greater laws and powers than those of man. In the original play (as in many Greek dramas), the humans try to determine what the will of the Gods might be – which choice is right in their eyes, and which is wrong.

And so my decision has had an unexpected, terrifying, and devastating effect on this community. For the Gods are not actually *absent* – in fact, they feel more present than ever. Their names and properties may have been removed, but the daily mysteries that confront humanity remain. And so these people wonder where the howling wind comes from, and what happens after you die. They recognise that there are forces at work that are far stronger than them... but they have no comprehension as to what these forces might be, and they try desperately to appease them.

It seems similarly impossible to remove the presence of God from our own lives. There is that same urge to make a connection – the need to approach, to understand and “know” God in order to have a hope of comprehending our world and the events that take place in it. And God's human son ensures that this higher power isn't as distant and unknowable as that in this new version of *Antigone*.

It is humbling and inspiring to watch the Lung Ha's team rehearsing this play, as they approach their own understanding of a complex world, and prepare to share this timeless story with us.

Performances:

Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, 15 – 17 March
0131 228 1404 www.traverse.co.uk

Platform, The Bridge, 1000 Westerhouse Rd, Glasgow
21st March at 1.30pm & 7.30pm
0141 276 9696
www.platform-online.co.uk

March Calendar of events

Sun 26th Feb Choral Evensong for First Sunday in Lent 6.30pm

Thu 1st Vestry Meeting 7.30pm

Sun 4th Lent 2

Evensong with Strathclyde University Chamber Choir 6.30pm

Tues 6th Holy Communion 10am

Wed 7th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm

Lent Study Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Sun 11th Lent 3

Second Sunday concert in the church 3.30pm

Cameo Clarinet Quartet performing Gershwin, Piazzolla and Paganini

Tues 13th Holy Communion 10am

Wed 14th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm

Lent Study Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Thu 15th BBC Radio recording of Easter Service 7.30 - 9.30pm

Sat 17th Diocesan Pilgrimage to St Mary's Cathedral 10am to 4pm

Sun 18th Lent 4

Tues 20th Holy Communion 10am

Wed 21st Rector's Hour at the church 6pm

Lent Study Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Sun 25th Lent 5 - All age worship

Music and Readings for Lent 6.30pm

Tues 27th Holy Communion 10am

Wed 28th Rector's Hour at the church 6pm

Lent Study Group 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Thu 29th Church and The Academy 5.30pm at 4 The Square, Glasgow
University. Debate on "The Virtual Church"

We can cure physical diseases with medicine but the only cure for loneliness, despair and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love.
Mother Teresa

Readings for March

4 March

Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-28

11 March

Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

18 March

Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

25 March

Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Songs of Longing

I participated in this day on Saturday 11 February. It was advertised as a quiet day with time to take some peaceful breathing space in the midst of winter to reflect on our deepest longings of God for our world. It was led by two of the Jesuit priests using their own songs and music. Their music and words were offered as an invitation to enjoy this gentle and restful day of friendship, poetry and song.

If you have never taken part in an event or course at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow, I urge you to do so. This day was just what I needed in the midst of a busy life.

We ended the day with this Psalm.

Jenny Whelan

Lenten Psalm of Longing

I thank you, O God
for the warming of the winds
that brings the melting of the snow,
for daylight hours that daily grow longer
and richer in the aroma of hope.
Spring lingers beneath the horizon
as approaching echoes of Easter
ring in my ears.

I lift up my heart to you, Beloved
in this season of Lent
that gently sweeps across
my sluggish and sleeping heart,
awakening me
to a deeper love for you.

Birds above,
on migratory wings
signal to me an inner migration,
a message that draws me homeward bound
on Spirit's wings
to the heart of my Beloved.
may I earnestly use this Lenten season
to answer the inner urge
to return.



Edward Hays

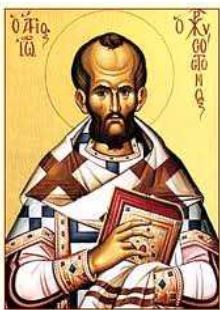
Puzzle Page

Bible Quiz (answers next month)

1. What did Paul do at Mars Hill?
2. Who bought a boat ticket in the city of Joppa?
3. On what island did John write the book of Revelation?
4. Approximately how many gallons of water did Jesus turn into wine at Cana of Galilee?
5. Who had a spear with an iron head weighing 600 shekels?
6. What did Elisha use to purify drinking water?
7. What relation was Mordecai to Queen Esther?
8. Who was considered a mighty hunter before the Lord?
9. What did Aaron's rod yield after it blossomed?
10. What happened to Eutychus during Paul's sermon?

Answer to last month's Sudoku JUBILATE!

E	B	!	A	U	J	I	L	T
A	I	J	B	T	L	U	E	!
U	L	T	I	E	!	A	J	B
L	J	A	!	I	E	B	T	U
B	E	I	U	A	T	L	!	J
!	T	U	J	L	B	E	I	A
I	A	L	T	!	U	J	B	E
T	U	B	E	J	I	!	A	L
J	!	E	L	B	A	T	U	I



To get the full flavour of a herb, it must be pressed between the fingers, so it is the same with the Scriptures; the more familiar they become, the more they reveal their hidden treasures and yield their indescribable riches.

John Chrysostom (347-407), Archbishop of Constantinople

Anniversary Page

Small is Beautiful EF Schumacher



I'm stretching a point here because EF Schumacher was actually born in 1911, so although the 100th anniversary of his birth was last year, his contribution to our understanding of economics, ecology and climate change certainly deserves to be recognised and it is appropriate to do so in the context of Fair Trade Fortnight.

Ernst Friedrich (“Fritz”) Schumacher was born in 1911 and studied in Bonn and Berlin before coming to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and then studying in New York. Having received a diploma in economics, he worked in business, farming and journalism before returning to Britain in the 1930’s as he had no desire to live under Nazism. Interned for a while on an English farm as an “enemy alien” he was nevertheless able to write a treatise on economics which came to the attention of John Maynard Keynes. Recognising his abilities, Keynes was able to have him released from internment.

After the war, Schumacher worked as an economic advisor to the government body which was charged with the task of rebuilding the German economy, and from 1950 to 1970 he was Chief Economic Advisor to the National Coal Board. He argued that coal and not oil should be used to meet the world’s energy needs, and his far sighted planning is credited with contributing to Britain’s post war economic recovery. He predicted the rise of OPEC, the oil price rise and many of the problems of nuclear power.

In 1955 he travelled to Burma as an economic consultant, and while there he developed the set of principles which he called “Buddhist” economics, based on the belief that individuals need good work for proper human development. His mantra was “production from local resources for local needs is the most rational way of economic life”. His experience led him to become a pioneer of Intermediate Technology, now called Practical Action, which advocates the use of user friendly and ecologically suitable technology appropriate to the scale of the community.



Practical Action - rainwater harvesting

Perhaps his most famous contribution to our thinking is his “Small is Beautiful: a study of economics as if people mattered”, published in 1973. In this book he argues that we cannot consider the problem of technological production to be solved if it requires that we recklessly erode our finite natural capital and deprive future generations of its benefits:



A modern economist is used to measuring the 'standard of living' by the amount of annual consumption, assuming all the time that a man who consumes more is 'better off' than a man who consumes less. A Buddhist economist would consider this approach excessively irrational: since consumption is merely a means to human well-being, the aim should be to obtain the maximum of well-being with the minimum of consumption. . . . The less toil there is, the more time and strength is left for artistic creativity. Modern economics, on the other hand, considers consumption to be the sole end and purpose of all economic activity.



Practical Action - foot driven treadle pump

Converting from the atheism of his youth to Roman Catholicism in later life, Schumacher was deeply influenced by writers such as St Teresa of Avila and Thomas Merton. Thoughtful, concerned for the planet and a beacon for our times, his words and writings are even more apposite today than 40 years ago. We ignore them at our peril.

Jim Gibson

Quotes from Thomas Merton

A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire.

Advertising treats all products with the reverence and the seriousness due to sacraments.

Be good, keep your feet dry, your eyes open, your heart at peace and your soul in the joy of Christ.

Intercessions

Gracious Lord, we come before you with our prayers. Hear us Lord as we pray in faith.



Lord, it is difficult to comprehend the extent of peoples suffering in other parts of the world. The pictures on the news of war and strife are distressing but also alien to us who live in peace with the ability to exercise religious and political freedom in this country. We remember the Syrian people, who live under constant threat of death or imprisonment merely because they want the opportunity to make the same choices as us.

Today is World Leprosy Day and we pray for those affected by this condition in Mozambique, particularly the northern region which has the highest number of reported cases of leprosy in Africa. We give thanks and ask for your continued blessing on the work of organisations such as ALEMO which endeavours to support and help sufferers manage their condition and teach them skills so that they can generate their own income, despite their physical disabilities. We marvel at and are humbled by the resilience of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world who endure so much suffering but refuse to be beaten by it.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

The financial crisis continues to dominate the lives of all who live in this country. We pray for those known to us who are suffering because of unemployment or difficulty making ends meet. May our hearts be moved to help those in need, in even the smallest way, for no other reason except that this is what you have taught us, Lord.

We pray for those who govern and lead this country. May they be led by their conscience rather than self-interest or promotion as they make decisions on our behalf.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for your church, Lord. We pray for courage and steadfastness for church leaders who face great challenges in upholding your teachings in a world reluctant to be shaken out of its complacency.

We bring before you our own church, Lord, and ask for your continued blessing on this congregation. We ask you to bless and direct our plans for the year ahead. We remember the Vestry before you Lord and ask you to guide them in the

decisions they have to make on behalf of this church.

Father, we bring before you Scott and Maggie who minister to our needs. We thank you Lord for their commitment to your ministry and we pray that you guide and direct them in all their efforts on behalf of this church.

Give us courage as people who call ourselves Christians, to live our lives according to your commandments most especially when we are in crisis or facing hardship. Father, you go further, telling us to beware of our actions, lest they set a poor example to someone else who may be new in their faith. Help us be an example to others and to live lives that are acceptable in your sight, Lord.

Lord in our mercy, hear our prayer

In our own communities, we thank you for good and caring neighbours. We thank you that we have warm and comfortable homes to return to everyday. We ask you, Lord, to open our eyes to opportunities to offer help to those in our local communities who may be in need of assistance but haven't the courage to ask for it.

We know that all that we have comes from you, Lord – move our hearts so that our true delight is in sharing what you have given us with those less fortunate than ourselves. At this time Lord, we bring before you all those who are dear to us and ask for your mercy and grace to be upon them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Father, merciful healer, we bring before you all those known to us who are unwell in this season of colds and coughs. We pray for all who are recovering from illness and from surgery.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

In a world that prefers the less onerous path, strengthen our resolve as your people, Lord, to try our best to live principled lives even if this means that we find ourselves swimming against the tide of popular opinion, inconvenienced by our consciences or slowed down in our journey because we stopped to ease someone else's burden.

We ask you to accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Kalpana Panickar (29 January)

Rabbit in the Moon

The Editor reflects on a fascinating visit to Africa.

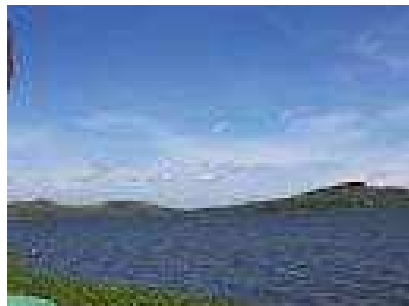


Shortly after New Year, I accepted an invitation to go to Uganda to assist the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) to review their exam system, on the basis that I have been heavily involved in the Scottish CA exam system for many years. Maida was understandably anxious about the venture because of the distance involved and the fact that neither of us have experienced African culture, and also because we have

been very rarely been apart from each other since we were married in 1997; she did, however, do sterling work in gathering the medical supplies and planning much of the trip.

Arriving at Entebbe airport at 11pm after a long flight from Amsterdam I was met by my hosts and taken to my hotel in Kampala. After a good night's sleep I awoke the next day to 30 degree heat and began a hectic week of meetings, visiting examiners, teaching colleges and employers. I didn't have any time for formal sightseeing, but I was able to get a feel for life in this part of post colonial Africa.

Kampala lies beside Lake Victoria which is a huge expanse of water, about 90% of the size of Scotland, bordering not only on Uganda but also on Kenya and Tanzania. The city is about 20 miles north of the equator and so day and night are more or less equal all year round. Dark falls rapidly at about 6.30pm and day dawns rapidly at about 6.30am.



I had good views of the full moon was full, but did not see the man in the moon. The man in the moon is a northern phenomenon, whereas in the tropics they have a rabbit. As a keen stargazer I could see Orion in the Kampala night sky, but it was directly above me instead of being much nearer to the horizon as it is in Britain.

The same celestial objects, yet different; it all depends how you look at it, and that is perhaps a parable for inter cultural communication!

To many of us, Uganda is probably synonymous with the persecuting times of Idi Amin in the early 1970's, but times have moved on and the economy is relatively well developed under President Museveni. I found the people to be universally friendly "You are welcome sir" is the standard greeting as you enter a restaurant or building (although one is slightly taken aback by the sight of security guards everywhere and signs in buildings saying "No firearms please"!).

People drive on the left as in Britain, but if you see someone coming towards you on your side of the road, do not panic as it is probable that the car is trying to avoid the large pothole in the road! Mopeds zoom beside you, across you and hawkers will try to sell you mobile phone cards and toiletries as you are stuck in a traffic jam.



Maida and I are very grateful to the many friends at St Margaret's who gave practical advice and showed caring concern before and during the trip. It has really been appreciated.

Would I go back? Yes, and I hope we could both go next time!

When you plant a tree never plant only one. Plant three - one for shade, one for fruit, and one for beauty.

African Proverb

The Big 5 "Music of the spheres"

Jo Sutherland shares her selections.....

Who is your hero / heroine and why?

My hero would be Eleanor of Aquitaine. Married to two Kings, one English and the other French, she had 10 children (no epidurals then!) and survived the tortuous second crusade which was a virtual death march. She lived to the age of 82 in an age when average life expectancy was about 40; a truly remarkable woman.



Favourite piece of music?/

Favourite piece of music?

Asking a professional musician to pick favourite music is just cruel! However I am going to narrow it down to just three pieces, which incidentally are from my Desert Island Discs selection (I am waiting for the invitation to appear any day now!)

First choice – and the first piece of classical music I ever heard - is The Knights Dance from Prokofiev's ballet Romeo & Juliet. My father bought the Andre Previn recording with the LSO when I was just four years old and I was totally transfixed by it. I still get a tingle in my tummy when I hear it or, best of all, get to perform it.

Second piece would be The Canadiana suite composed by Oscar Peterson, played by him and the members of his classic trio from the 1960s, bassist Ray Brown and drummer Ed Thigpen. It is just so joyous.... what else can I say but “pancakes and maple syrup!” If you want to hear what a field of wheat sounds like in jazz form, listen to the track “Wheatlands”.

Finally it would have to be Eric Clapton's “Leyla” just for that wonderful guitar solo, fantastic for air guitar in the playground (doesn't work on air violin unfortunately). They just don't make them like that any more.

Favourite book?

It would be A Tree Grows In Brooklyn by Betty Smith, a wonderful American classic about a young child of second generation immigrants who manages to escape from her poverty stricken background through education. I have read it so many times the pages are crumbling like an old manuscript, and I always read it when life is getting on top of me. Somehow it always manages to bring me back.

What is your favourite memory of St Margaret's?

The best memory I have of St Margaret's is the very first Nativity play the Sunday School put on in 1998. We had about 30 children on the Sunday School roll at that time so finding a part for everyone was a bit tricky. Mattie was head of wardrobe and made the most fantastic costumes out of bits and bobs. Florence was 6 and played a tiny shepherd and Guy who had just been born sat nestled on my shoulder fast asleep throughout the show. It was a very special night for every one involved.

Who would you like to be locked inside St Margaret's with (can be fact or fantasy)?

The person I would most like to spend the night with would be the great Russian violinist David Oistrakh, I would ask him to bring all 7 of the Stradivarius violins that he played on throughout his career and I would, of course, have a violin lesson, though I'm not sure whether it would make a difference at this stage of my career. Finally I would spend the rest of the night listening to all the stories he has to tell about the wonderful musicians he worked with in his life time.

The Last Word

A minister was attending an official dinner in Edinburgh, shortly after moving from rural Skye to a prestigious Edinburgh congregation. Sitting next to him was a lady from the top drawer of Edinburgh society, who said, “Accustomed as you have been to preaching in Skye, you must find it very different preaching to people here in Edinburgh”. “Yes”, replied the minister, “I have had to simplify my sermons considerably”.

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

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**Copy deadline
Wednesday 14 March 6pm**