



EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist
Forfar

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Recent Entries in the Church Registers

1st June – 31st August 2019

Deaths	George Davidson, funeral service 6 th June 2019
	Grace Smith, funeral service 5 th August 2019
Baptism	Teresa Stirton, baptismal service 2 nd August 2019

It's Time

Last month I talked in the Eagle about us, as a church, considering climate change or justice issues. This month I personally start to put thoughts into words and words into actions. In 1989 the Orthodox Church authorities suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Orthodox Church's year, should be observed as a day "of protection of the natural environment". Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a *Time for Creation* stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October and this was agreed in 2007 (not exactly the speediest decision-making in the world!). Churches in Europe now often use this period to pray for the protection of creation and to promote sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change.

This year in St John's we will look not just at climate change but how we interact with the whole of creation which will get us to think about social justice issues as well protection of our environment – often the two go hand in hand.

Thanks to the honest and disciplined work of climate scientists, we know (unless we fall victim to fake news) right now, that our lifestyle is unsustainable, and our dominant philosophy of 'permanent growth at all cost' carries the seeds of the destruction of the life that God called good.

Over and above the foolish stewardship of land and resources, yet closely allied to it, is the crisis of values, and of spirituality; a twisted and self-deceptive view of 'profit'. The whole Christian family now has an unprecedented opportunity and calling – to bring together mission, justice, stewardship, and study and to shout about the priorities and values that are so different from those piloting creation towards catastrophe. And above all, to take note of, and act on, and trust in, the worth we are given each and all of us in Christ. Over the next few weeks we will consider the worth and encouragement we may give to our neighbour, and our fellow creature, in partnership, rather than exploitation. May we cherish and be empowered by the knowledge of our enduring and transforming worth in the sight of God. Even if, until now, we have indeed pursued worthless things.

Living God,

You invite us to the feast of life,

where all are made welcome and all are satisfied with good things. As we take our place at Your kingdom banquet

may our arms be open to welcome all who want to feast,

may our hearts be open to receive Your nourishment, and may our trust be sufficient to need only our daily bread. Amen.

With love,

Elaine



Getting to knowDOUGLAS BURT

A number of those profiled in The Eagle have talked about being Forfarian through and through. This is not a claim that I can make but on moving to Forfar, I did learn of a genealogical connection. My father was born in Forfar, son of a schoolmaster at Forfar Academy and nearby, my great uncle was minister at Monikie Parish Church.

I was born in Perth and completed secondary education at the High School of Stirling before undertaking my undergraduate years at the University of Glasgow. During this time I also found the opportunity to experience a variety of possible alternative careers - as an operating theatre orderly, gardener in the university grounds, assisting in preparing slides in the Medical Illustration Department and as a conductor. The latter job required no musical ability but was with Greater Glasgow Transport Executive and I still have my bus conductor licence and badge.

I did not pursue any of alternative careers on my journey through Infirmery, Glasgow moving Auchterarder to continuing training before coming worked in the Johnsonmond, Virginia and in

During 33 years working and along with the other after the wards at Forfar and of course delivering membered 'Fyffe', I was at Dundee Medical to Noranside Prison and side Health Board com-

Barbara and I met in

by and were blessed with three wonderful sons who are forging their lives in Auckland, Edinburgh and London. We now have 3 grandsons (the Burts don't produce many girls!)

Where does my spirituality and Christianity come from? I confess that I probably don't know any more than anybody else but let me leave you with a few further facts and thoughts. My father was a Church of Scotland elder as I have been, I was a member of the Boys Brigade and attended BB bible study regularly on Sunday mornings, at university I often went with some fellow students to the Catholic Chaplaincy for lunch (it was very cheap) and had great conversations with Gerry Hughes one of the University chaplains and a Jesuit priest, I was part of a group of medical students who established the Glasgow Medical Group (a forum to discuss moral, philosophical and spiritual influences in health care and one of the first of such groups in the UK) and I fell in love with Barbara who had and has a strong Christian belief. In St. John's both Barbara and I have found fellowship and friendship which we cherish and care about.



the above mentioned graduation and started medicine in the Western moving to Stirling and then completing my post graduate to Forfar. I have also Willis Hospital, Richmond, New Zealand.

in Forfar, as well as a GP GPs in the town, looking Infirmery and Whitehills babies at the fondly remembered undergraduate tutor School, Medical Officer served on various Tay-mittees.

Glasgow, married in Bus-

All go at Bingo Night!

The Legion Hall in Academy Street was the scene for the latest in a long line of very successful bingo evenings, the preparations for which must begin as soon as last year's evening is ending.

Numerous helpers were on hand to cart the impressive range and volume of prizes from the cars to the hall, and even arranging the display these in advance of the "eyes down" call the best part of an hour. It was accompanied by smiles though as the traditional good-natured spirit was well to the fore. With the seating well filled, bingo and raffle tickets duly sold, the serious business of the evening started. The amazing sight of the players concentrating on the cards in front of them was even more so when it became obvious that some players were in fact playing several lines or games at the same time. Definitely attention to detail of a higher order.

It was not long before the prizes were soon being distributed by Rev. Elaine and Mike Crouch, who must have shed pounds such was the speed of the proceedings. A short break gave them a chance

to relax a little but for Faye and Judy in the kitchen there was no such rest. A mountain of sandwiches along with tea and coffee were quickly circulated to the company before the raffle was drawn and the remaining bingo games got underway.

Despite slightly fewer numbers all in attendance expressed their good wishes and grateful thanks to Colvina

and her helpers for all the hard work in making the evening so successful.



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Pitlochry Theatre Outing and IIFTOS

This acronym is pronounced YIFTOSS and, being the property of a rather august bod; the double 'I' was thought to attract unseemly ribaldry.

(Ed: What has this to do with Pitlochry Theatre?) Oh yes: the Theatre. Well, the above acronym stands for 'Importunate Interventions From The Other Side', if that is any consolation.

So to the Theatre. What a glorious day we had, stepping out of the coach into balm and sunshine for our picnic after an ominous, torrential shower south of Pitlochry. The end of the performance coincided with a thunderstorm, which might well have provided the backdrop for an outdoor performance of 'Macbeth'.

I am not sure that 'Blithe Spirit' travelled all that well from the 1940's but the actors put their body and soul (oops! that wasn't intended) into it. At this point you may care to reach for your Keats and renew acquaintanceship.

'Charles' – leading character? – is the 'successful novelist and socialite', perhaps the archetypal Male Chauvinist Pig – remember those days? He of the two wives, one still extant, one gone before, engages medium, 'Madam Arcati' to assist his researches into the occult and from there things start to go wrong, as his first wife, 'Elvira, returns to exact revenge on number two, long suffering 'Ruth'. Light relief was provided by 'Eddie' manservant and general dogsbody; and by our resident hard-working medium 'Madame Arcati'. Oh!. And also by the stage-set, which was of such modernity and sophistication that mere people found difficulty in identifying a door from the wall panel – to the point of panic! – all part of the action, plus a bit of satire and social comment. I think we were also meant to identify wealth with unhappiness, but both have a wide spectrum of cause and effect!

'Eddie' is such a lovable character that to refer to him as 'buffoon' is rather cruel so I would settle for 'gauche'. Well, we seem to have a penchant for French words these days. It transpired that 'Eddie' was something of a dark horse and agent provocateur, on the quiet.

The outcome of all the machinations was a heavenly *maison a trois*, for which we playgoers must all be truly thankful. It was good to see a happier and more kindly 'Charles' as the curtain came down; but that was personal relief. to be Ali Watt again? Funny, isn't it, Prospero's words...these our words... these our actors...were *all* spirits and are melted into air, into thin air...We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our life is rounded with a sleep.

Oooo

Thank you so much, Margaret and Roger, for all your engineering and care; and thanks too to our cheerful and excellent driver. The fellowship of St. John's is so endearing. I feel quite sad to be ending this *gallimaufry* (had to get that one in! – Chambers: 'any inconsistent ort absurd medley' Fr. A ragout or has – well that seems about right.)

Gordon Miller



Easter Ogil Picnic

The first Saturday in August dawned with some ominous looking clouds darkening the sky, but by early afternoon the sun was shining just as it should on a fine summer day. So was the scene set for the picnic at Easter Ogil, home of Colin and Shelagh Millar, who very kindly made almost 90 people most welcome.



A small army of helpers moved tables, chairs, crockery, glasses and all the essential items needed for an upmarket picnic. Good company, a lovely location and wonderful weather was a recipe likely to ensure success, and that would have been the case even if the fare had been somewhat simple, but that was definitely not the case with Pat and Faye Slingsby in charge. A fabulous display of cold dishes was assembled over numerous tables and accompanied by mountains of Pat's superb chips. The only downside being that Pat was restricted to the kitchen, so many thanks to him for that.



Numerous games had been set up in the grounds and although the younger guests were more exuberant, comments overheard suggested that a certain shyness restricted those of more advanced years from joining in. For those not wishing to exert too much energy, musical accompaniment to the afternoon was a welcome alternative.



As the afternoon drew to a close the company departed and the stalwart helpers packed up the dishes, tables and all the other items that had made the



event such a success. Many thanks to all who helped.

You may have missed

Pop-Up Uniform Shop

St Margaret's, Forfar has run a shop that hands on uniform items for all the schools in Forfar for the last couple of years. This year in both the Easter and summer holidays, St John's has helped and over selected weeks in these two holiday periods we have handed out more than 2,200 items. That's 2,200 items not going into landfill or straight to rags recycling. Many of us will remember getting hand-me-downs; this is hand-it-on, not only saving money for families but saving the planet's resources. If you can assist at Easter or summer holidays next year, please join us and help with this practical missional work.

Prayer Workshop

We held our first prayer workshop towards the end of August. 10 of us came together in the small hall and tried out different ways to help us pray. We shared thoughts and experiences. It wasn't about special words or holy phrases but about being able to stop and give time to make connection with God. There was talk about the benefit of repeating it. Perhaps we want to think about a regular prayer group? Something local would be good – maybe something in Forfar and/or Letham? Any comments, please speak to the Rector.

National Trust

The acoustics to their full po-concert. The songs and piec-little rehearsal



Angus Members' Centre Concert

in the church on an August Friday evening were used tential as St John's provided the venue for this annual soloists, with their accompanist, gave a huge variety of es from across the world. Despite modest claims of time their duets too were captivating.


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Readers Rota

Sunday September 1, 2019 – Pentecost 12

Proverbs 25:6-7

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Reader – Richard Finch

Sunday September 8, 2019 – Pentecost 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philemon 1:1-21

Reader – Eryl Rowlands

Sunday September 15, 2019 – Pentecost 14

Exodus 32:7-14

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Reader – Lee Winks

Sunday September 22, 2019 – Pentecost 15

Said Eucharist 9am Lady Chapel

Angus Black Watch Association Standard Rededication 11am

Micah 4:1-5

John 15:9-17

Readers – Dorothy Bruce-Gardyne & Major Peter Burnett

Sunday September 29, 2019 – Harvest Festival & Gift Day

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Revelation 14:14-18

Reader – Walter Lee

Sunday October 6, 2019 – Pentecost 17

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Reader – Madeline Kingston

Sunday October 13, 2019 – Pentecost 18

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Reader – Eleanor Rowlands

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Hall Users – an occasional feature.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

At St. John's we are fortunate to have the Green Street Halls used by many organisations which brings in much needed revenue to the Church.

One such club is the **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**, Forfar Club which meets on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 throughout the winter months, with the exception of the second Tuesday evening each month when the hall is used by the Tuesday Club.

The RSCDS is looking for new members, no experience required, no special clothes or shoes are needed, nor is a partner required although they will be welcome. For beginners there is a class between 7.00 and 7.30 prior to the main event. Above all Country Dancing is a gentle fun activity.

Further details from Sheena Leslie, Club Secretary – 01307 466024 or Dave on 07715965752.

Golden Group

St John's hall resounded to warm, friendly chatter as we held our late summer Golden Group Afternoon Tea on 19th August. Entertainment was helped along in our community singing by Margaret Reid on keyboard – very many thanks to her. And admiration and thanks too to Roger and Margaret Cousins who provided us with a lively rendition of *There's a hole in my bucket!* Folks from St Mary's, Kirriemuir and St John's want to thank all involved in organising, serving and entertaining – a wonderful afternoon was had by all!



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Wednesday and Sunday Coffees

Over the course of this financial year, a total of £1,150 has been given to the treasurer. This is the total amount of loose change collected in the donation jar at Coffee-time each Wednesday and Sunday - £640 donated on Wednesdays and £510 on Sundays - a phenomenal total.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU on behalf of St John's to all those who contribute.

THANK YOU must also go to the team of tea ladies, and occasionally gentlemen, who serve from the trolley on a Sunday and do the washing-up. The Wednesday morning tea parties are extremely successful and special thanks go to Wilma and Ray for being the regular dish-washers! Come along and join us sometime and enjoy the fellowship at coffee time.

As I have intimated before, £1,150 is a marvelous total, but fund-raising is not really the aim. There are other benefits. How nice it is to be able to have a chat with friends, make some new friends, catch up on Church news, have some retail therapy at the Sales Table, Gordon Miller is a 'masterchef' at the marmalade making, check out the notice board or the table for forthcoming events etc. and, of course, most importantly, extend a warm welcome to any visitors to St John's. These visitors just may, in time, become members.

Carol Douglas

Forthcoming events

Sunday 8th September – Following morning service – **Congregational Meeting**

Saturday 21st September – 10am-12md – **Christian Aid Coffee Morning** – St John's Church Hall

Sunday 22nd September – **9-9.30am – Said Eucharist** – Lady Chapel

Sunday 22nd September – 11am morning service – **Black Watch Standard Rededication** – St John's

Sunday 29th September – 11am Sung Eucharist – **Harvest Festival & Gift Day**

Tuesday 8th October – 7.30pm – **Tuesday Club – Speaker – Alex Whyte on "Forfar - Days Long Gone"**

Sunday 13th October – **11am Sung Eucharist** – Bishop Ian presiding

Wednesday 16th October 10.15am Said Eucharist with Service of Healing

Wednesday 30th October – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Commemorating All Souls'

Friday 1st November – Evening – **St John's Annual Dinner & Speaker – Kirsteen Hair MP**

Sunday 3rd November – 6.30pm – FACT Big Sing for Remembrance – East & Old Church

Tuesday 12th November – 7.30pm – **Tuesday Club** – speaker to be confirmed

Monday 18th November – 7.30pm – **St Petersburg Russian Choir in St John's Church**

Sunday 24th November – Following morning service – **Annual Meeting**

Contd...

St John's Annual Dinner will be on Friday 1st November and the after dinner speaker is Kirstene Hair MP who represents Angus South constituency at Westminster.

The format, as before, will be a reception from 7pm and supper at 7.30. Tickets will be £15 each (a modest increase, the price having been the same for the past 5 years) and a notice with more information will be put up in the church in the second half of September.



St John's is delighted to welcome the St. Petersburg Russian Choir on 18th November. Last year this choir performed at Brechin and the audience were unanimous in their praise for this choir, considered by many to be the best they had ever heard. A night not to be missed.

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Grandmothers (by an 8 year old schoolboy)

A grandmother is a woman who has no children of her own,
So she loves the boys and girls of other people.

Grandmothers have nothing to do, they only have to be there.

If they take you for a walk, they go slowly past beautiful leaves and caterpillars.

They never say 'Come along quickly' or; 'Hurry up for goodness' sake'

They are usually fat, but not too fat to tie up my shoelaces.

They wear spectacles and sometimes take out their teeth.

They can answer any question,

For instance, why dogs hate cats and why God is not married.

When they read to us, they never leave anything out. They do not mind if it's always the same story.

Everyone should have a grandmother especially those who do not have television.

Grandmothers are the only grown ups who have plenty of time.

A lovely thought?..... Perhaps pre 21st century thinking?