



EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist Forfar

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Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk you can also find information at the following on-line resources:

Inspires Online <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/>

Inspires Online is the free e-newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church – to subscribe please use the address above and then the sign-up box on the footer of that page.

Pisky.scot – <http://pisky.scot/> This provides the latest in thinking and discussion within the SEC. Previously Inspires Magazine offered a forum for information, discussion and debate. Now pisky.scot allows for that same conversation to be held more publicly and with the invitation to comment and get involved.

Diocesan website address <https://standrews.anglican.org/> – from there you can access all the Diocesan resources and subscribe to the Diocesan e-newsletter.

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From the Rector

It is wonderful to be restarting some social events at St John's. Things kick off with a congregational lunch after the service on Sunday 28th August. If we have an enthusiastic response, we will go ahead with a quiz night and a coffee morning later in the year. Of course, we took such events for granted in pre-pandemic times – they were simply part of our life as a church community – things we did together and which we invited others to come and enjoy with us. The restrictions of Covid and our subsequent hesitancy to engage in anything outside our homes have given our confidence a knock. There are few people that I speak to across the age range, who do not report that they are going out less, that they have got out of the way of socialising with others.

Yet we are such social beings, and each one of us is only one part of the reflection of the great mystery of God. We are each of us simply one fingerprint or footprint of God. We are essentially connected with one another. We were reminded of that in the early days of the pandemic when it was so obvious that we rely on many key workers. But it is not just the essentials of food and water, bin collections, health and social care staff or someone filling the shelves at the supermarket. It is also vital for us to make connection with others for our social wellbeing. The everyday face to face banter with friends brightens our day often without us realising it.

We are bombarded with the bad news stories from the television, newspapers, and social media. It is friends that often 'top up' our batteries, and we are refreshed with a laugh or a shared memory. Despite all the things going on around us it is a benevolent universe, and God is on our side, especially through relationships. During the apostle Paul's lifetime, the church was not yet an institution or structural grouping of common practices and beliefs. The church was a living organism that communicated the gospel through relationships.

We are all familiar with Paul's brilliant metaphor for this living, organic, concrete embodiment of the Body of Christ: "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them" (Romans 12:4–6). At the heart of this body, providing the energy that enlivens the community is "the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). Let us share this love in our community of St John's and enjoy company over lunch. I look forward to seeing many of you then.



With love

Elaine

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TREASURER'S NOTES

aka Roger's Ramblings

At this time of the year we are enjoying comfortably hot weather at St John's as a result of the heat that summer brings and in a few weeks' time we will be grateful for the new heating system installed earlier this year. BUT – and it is a big but – it came at a cost (a loan for the installation which has to be paid back even though it is on advantageous terms), and will continue to cost as energy prices rise. Here I must acknowledge the assistance of 'Zero Waste (Scotland)' for the assessment of need, the grant and the low cost loan.

I am delighted that the Fund Raising Committee (or as I like to think of them - the Social Committee) are once again planning events for this autumn and winter. In the past the activities of this Committee have resulted in a welcome boost to the income of the church and I urge you to support any event that they organise.

The past couple of years have been difficult and during this time we sadly said farewell to some members of our congregation. However we look to the future with renewed enthusiasm as we all have much to be thankful for. We give what we can and we do what we can and this is the cement that keeps our congregation together.



Roger

A quote from a Greek playwright:

'There is but one genuine love potion - consideration'

Trust the Greeks to hit the nail on the head!



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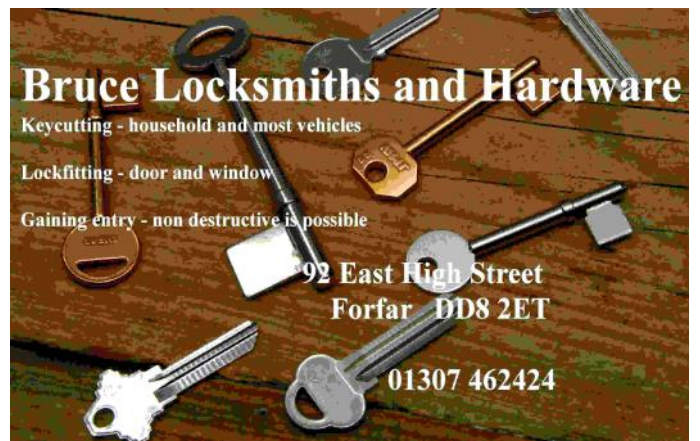
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Caring for God's Creation

The Vestry will be meeting in August to develop our plans to meet the target of being a church that is carbon net zero by 2030. Such a target is not meant to make life more difficult; we all know difficult life is already, but for those people and creatures already suffering from effects of the climate crisis, we need to take action. Ultimately the lives of our children and grandchildren are going to be drastically affected too in this country if we don't act. For our own lives in the here and now as well as for future generations we take action to make life better, healthier, holier. If the City of Glasgow can offer wild-flower meadow as part of their own campaign, what beauty can we offer?

[Romans 12:10 - love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.]

A Net Zero Prayer (source Eco Congregation Scotland)

Sustaining God, Incarnate in the Earth; Wild Wind of life
may we praise you with all that we are
in the obedient reshaping of all that we have and do
for your glory, as Good News for all Creation.


Expose the pride in humility's clothing
of sitting back as if we could do nothing
And the folly disguised as wisdom
of delay, and 'bit by bit'.

So may our work and worship join hands
and shamelessly uncover the impact of what we still need to do
whilst striving to balance and heal
the harm so unjustly distributed.

May we indeed, and with mutual encouragement
outdo one another in showing honour to the Earth
Looking not only for savings in carbon emissions 'on paper'
but beauty, integrity and a betterment of life for people and planet
for wildlife and all the creatures to whom God also gives the
Earth as habitat, as home.

Net-zero is the end of excuses and exceptions,
it brings repentance and acceptance of responsibility
for damage to Earth's life, both past and urgently present.

Dear God, who loves the Earth
reminding us in the rainbow of your Covenant;
may sun and rain each day proclaim
the scope of this ambition,
the daunting height of hills we need to climb
but more, the grace on which our life is founded,
looking forward with joy and hope
to the day when we surmount that summit
and glimpse with awe, delighted, the way ahead. AMEN (translated , means 'Get on with it!)



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Join us for Lunch

Full details—see next page

As things, hopefully, return to normal after over two years of Covid, as a preamble into restoring various fund-raising and social activities, that before Covid were very much part of St. John's life; it is proposed to hold a congregational and friends' lunch on **Sunday August 28th**.

The lunch which will take place after the 11am Eucharist is a free, non-ticket event. Donations to church funds will, of course, be accepted but will in no way be required or expected. Some people have already indicated they would like to make a dessert – and that too is very welcome! Should you wish to do so if you could let Fay, Judy or Pat know what you are making that would be really helpful.

Please let us know if you are able to come by contacting Fay, Judy or Pat on 01307 818787 or ldvies@mail.com by 21st August. There is also a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Please advise of any special dietary requirements.



Donations of raffle prizes will be most welcome and can be given to the Rector

Looking forward to seeing many of you then.

Forthcoming Services, Meetings, and Events at St John's August 2022

Wednesday 3rd August – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Sunday 7th August – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 9 – with the Rector

Monday 8th – Saturday 13th August, 10-12 – Uniform Pop-Up Shop – St Margaret's, Forfar

Wednesday 10th August – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Thursday 11th August, 2pm – Meeting of Pastoral Visitors – Rectory

Sunday 14th August – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 10 – with the Rector

Wednesday 17th August – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Commemorate Mary the Virgin – Lady Chapel

Friday 19th August, 7pm – Angus Centre National Trust for Scotland – Musical Evening St John's Church – tickets £15, includes a finger buffet. **Tickets must be booked to inform catering – email amcnts@tiscali.co.uk by 12th August.**

Sunday 21st August – 11am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Pentecost 11 – with Bob Hamilton

Wednesday 24th August – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Commemorating St Bartholomew – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 24th August, 7pm – St John's Vestry Meeting – Rectory

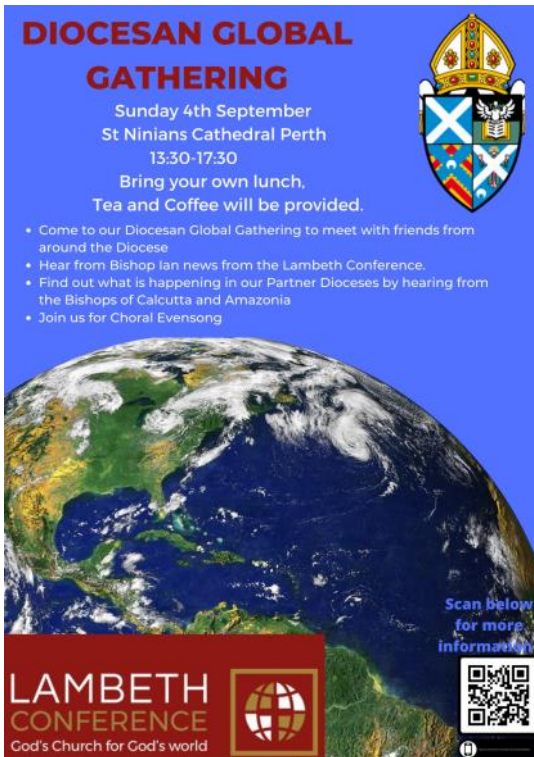
Sunday 28th August – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 12 – with the Rector – retiring collection for UNICEF

Sunday 28th August – Congregational Lunch following morning service – everyone is invited – friends/ supporters of St John's most welcome too. No cost, though donations gladly accepted! Please let Fay, Judy or Pat know you can attend – 01307 818787 or idvies@mail.com by 21st August.

Wednesday 31st August – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Commemorating the beheading of John the Baptist – Lady Chapel

September 2022

Sunday 4th September – 11am Sung Eucharist – 1st Sunday in the Season of Creation – with the Rector



Sunday 4th September – Diocesan Global Partnership Gathering – St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth – afternoon in the Cathedral; bring a picnic lunch (teas and coffees provided). From 2pm there will be activities followed by tea and Evensong. As well as feedback on the Lambeth Conference every church is invited to contribute photos and stories celebrating any links with the worldwide Church. These can be 'official' and personal links people have made.

Wednesday 7th September – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Sunday 11th September – 11am Sung Eucharist – 2nd Sunday in the Season of Creation – with the Rector

Wednesday 14th September – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Commemorating Ninian of Whithorn – Lady Chapel

Sunday 18th September – 11am Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament – 3rd Sunday in the Season of Creation – with Bob Hamilton

Wednesday 21st September – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Commemorating St Matthew – Lady Chapel

Sunday 25th September – 11am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – 4th Sunday in the Season of Creation – retiring collection for Scottish Association for Mental Health

Wednesday 28th September – 10.15am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Commemorating St Michael and All Angels – Lady Chapel

October 2022

Sunday 2nd October – 11am Sung Eucharist – 5th Sunday in the Season of Creation & Harvest Festival – with Bishop Ian presiding

Wednesday 5th October – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Sunday 9th October – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 18 – with the Rector

Wednesday 12th October – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Friday 14th October, 7pm – St John's Quiz Night – Church Hall – to be confirmed

Sunday 16th October – 11am Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament – Pentecost 19 – with Bob Hamilton



Wednesday 19th October – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Healing service commemorating St Luke – An invitation is extended to all who wish to be anointed with the oil of healing; prayers for healing and wholeness will be said – Lady Chapel

Sunday 23rd October – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 20 – with the Rector – retiring collection for Shelter Scotland

Wednesday 26th October – 10.15am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Lady Chapel

Sunday 30th October – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 21 – with the Rector

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Michael Hill, I am sure, would have been happy to see St John's full to capacity on June 24th this year, but his modesty would probably have made him amazed that the crowd was actually there purely because of him. It was on that Friday that a Service of Thanksgiving celebrated a life closely associated with St John's, Michael Hill having been christened there more than 90 years ago. He was a notable member, including serving on the Vestry, as Treasurer, and even sang in the choir during his long life.

A mixture of songs, hymns and readings gave the congregation an insight to the life of a man who was both devoted to his family, and whose working life saw success that allowed him, along with Caroline Hill, to create and develop Murton Nature Reserve. This is now a lasting memorial to a wonderful person, and which fittingly was the venue for a reception held that afternoon. A cairn was constructed by those present as a tribute.

Personally I was unfortunate not to meet Michael Hill until he was well into his twilight years, but despite the short time I do feel privileged to have known him, however briefly.



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Contact Revd Gennie Evans rev.gen@btinternet.com



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long time to

A New Editor for the Eagle—you?

We extend our grateful thanks to Lynne Topping for the work she has done editing the Eagle. Due to work commitments, she has had to step down. Gordon Garman has taken up the reins temporarily, but we seek a new editor. If anyone would like to try this out Gordon is very happy to support them.