

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Elsewhere in this edition of the Eagle there is the statement which was read to the congregation on Sundays, 1st and 8th October. We are now at the end of a trying period in the life of our church and are now in an Interregnum during which we will continue to have our Services led by visiting Clergy. It is up to us to move forward in a united way, giving support to one another and welcoming any newcomers that may come. In this regard the Annual General Meeting to be held on November 5th is particularly important and any comments or opinions anyone has should be voiced at that meeting.

By the time you read these ramblings the Concert at St Mary Magdalene will have taken place. The Concert not only marks the 150th Anniversary of that Church but also celebrates the birthday of Bishop Edward Luscombe who is a faithful member of our congregation and has given invaluable guidance and advice over many years. As an ex-Primus and previous Bishop of Brechin he has experienced many situations that have brought challenges and yes, he keeps smiling and is always ready with a pithy story.

November will be busy for St John's. As mentioned already November 5th is our Annual General Meeting. Then the following Sunday, 12th November will be Remembrance Sunday with the annual FACT/Royal British Legion Service at the Cross at 12.30. The next social event is the Annual Talk and Supper held in the Green Street Halls on Friday 24th. The Speaker this year is to be Reverend Ian Young who often graces our pulpit to lead our worship on Sundays. No doubt his talk on this occasion will give us an insight into his remarkable career. If we could bottle Ian's enthusiasm and energy we could make a fortune. He remembers our names, and is ever present when trouble comes knocking on our door. Thank you Ian for all you do and what you mean to St John's.

I feel positive about the future of St John's and trust that we will all work together, pray together and face any challenges together.

Roger Cousins

Statement to the congregation 1st October 2017

After an extended period of sick leave the Reverend David Cameron has left the office of Rector of St John's. We wish him well in the future.

We now enter a period of interregnum and after a pause for breath will begin again the process of finding a replacement.

The discussions that led to this conclusion are confidential and members of the vestry together with the Diocesan Office are not at liberty to elaborate on the detail. Please do not expect them to compromise their position.

ROTAS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.50 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Special service – readers and readings to be determined

The service will begin 10 minutes earlier than usual at 10.50 am. so that the 2 minutes silence can be observed at 11 o' clock. After the Acts of Remembrance there will be a sermon by Bishop Ted Luscombe (a Burma Star veteran) and Holy Communion celebrated by the Venerable Ian Young. Then there will be the normal service at Forfar Cross at 12.20 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15TH

10.15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Judges 4: 1 – 7, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11, Matthew 25: 14- 30

Reader Eryl Rowlands

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22ND

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24, Ephesians 1: 15 – 23, Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Reader Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD ADVENT SUNDAY

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9, 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9, Mark 13: 24 - 37

Reader Fay Slingsby

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a, Mark 1: 1 – 8,

Reader Lee Winks

Notice of special services over Christmas

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve – service of readings and carols

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day – special service

Sunday 7th January – The Epiphany – special service

"AT HOME" WITH HEATHER AND RICHARD FINCH

On the afternoon of Saturday 14th October a goodly number of St John's folk made their way by car or on foot to Heather and Richard's home in Letham. A wonderful tea had been prepared for our enjoyment accompanied by lashings of tea and/or coffee and the general buzz of chatter filled the air. It was a lovely occasion to socialise and all who attended wish to express a huge thank you to Heather and Richard.

Margaret Cousins

Some challenge!

Members of the congregation who sponsored Charlotte Fleming a couple of Sundays ago to abseil from the first Forth Bridge (railway) in aid of the Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland may be interested to know that she raised £600 for that worthy cause. The total from all the abseilers was about £120,000.

What a result.....what a feat!

150 93 11 4

Random numbers - or is there a connection among these numbers?

This is not a fiendish question from the next St John's quiz and yes, these numbers are linked. 200 could be added to them, reflecting the approximate number who enjoyed a truly wonderful evening of music and hospitality at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Dundee on Friday 20 October. The other four numbers? - 150th birthday of the church building, 93rd birthday of a past Primus, 11 choral recitals and 4 hymns.

This was the celebration in music of St. Mary Magdalene's 150th and Bishop Luscombe's 93rd birthdays followed by hospitality and companionship provided by the congregation of St. Mary Magdalene Church.

St. John's received an invitation to the evening and a contingent from St. John's joined members and friends of St. Mary's to be treated to an evening of truly joyous and uplifting singing by the church choir, interspersed with an opportunity to be led by the choir in singing 4 well known and much loved hymns. The programme followed the Christian Year and was ably compèred by Rector David Shepherd who fittingly had been Bishop Luscombe's first curate some years ago. "To sing is to pray twice" - St. Augustine.

Such was the choice and execution of the recitals that every person present must have prayed with the choir manyfold. The quality and beauty of the music rising to fill the magnificent void above us absolutely transported me and I am sure, everyone in the church. We all have our favourites and the variety in the programme surely included a favourite for everyone. I could not single out any one performance over another, although I must highlight the junior choir who performed in public for the first time. They sang alone as a junior choir and also 'with a little help from their friends'. Their vigour and obvious enthusiasm captured us all and I wonder how much 'help from their friends' they really needed. The programme finished with the communal singing of 'The Day thou gavest' preceded by an eloquent vote of thanks and blessing from Bishop Luscombe. Canapés and drinks finished the evening giving an opportunity to chat, admire the beautiful church and view

On behalf of St. John's, I should like to thank The Reverend David Shepherd and his congregation for inviting us, the Choir of St. Mary Magdalene Church with musical director Bill Sinclair and organist Alastair Davidson who so wonderfully entertained us and not least, all those seen and unseen, who organised and ran such a fabulous evening.

'Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us' - Martin Luther

Douglas Burt

Christmas Card

Again, this year, as last year, a St. John's Christmas Card will be produced for conveying Christmas wishes among friends and fellow-members within the church. If, instead of sending out individual cards, you would like to be a signatory to this joint card, please enter your name (as you would like it to appear on the card) on the list which will be found on the table at the back of the church. **The DEADLINE for signing –up to participate will be SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH**. Envelopes marked 'Christmas Card donation' will be found by the sign-up list for enclosing a donation (to cover the printing costs of the cards, and the, hopefully, to make a contribution to church funds.) These envelopes can be returned via the Sunday Offertory, or given to a vestry member.

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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday November 14th

Tuesday Club

Thomas Moonlight
speaker Ian Lamb

Thomas Moonlight was born in 1833, the son of a poor, industrious farmer who owned a farm near Arbroath called Boysack Muir. At the age of twelve Thomas became an apprentice draper in Arbroath. One day, rather than going to work at the draper's as usual, Thomas set out for Dundee where he signed on as crew of a ship bound for Philadelphia. He became a United States politician and soldier. He served as Governor of Wyoming Territory from 1887 to 1889. Retired journalist Ian Lamb tells the history of this little known local lad.

Friday November 24th Supper with Guest Speaker

The FRC are delighted to announce that our guest for this year's annual 'Supper with Guest Speaker' is to be the Venerable Dr Ian Young. Ian, who has become so well known and admired by the congregation over the past 3 years, will speak to us about his work with children's choirs, both in the UK and internationally. The title of his talk will be: *'Voices Around the World'*.

Ian, a native of Perth, studied music at Glasgow and Dundee. After he graduated he taught music for nine years. He then studied theology at Edinburgh, after

which he served for three years in Inverness Cathedral. He then went to the Middle East continuing his ministry for twenty five years. He became Archdeacon of Cyprus and the Gulf, one of the four Episcopal Dioceses of the Middle East.

Throughout his Ministry, he has continued to be involved with music – conducting choirs and teaching young people.

Since returning to the UK in 2007 he has been actively involved in teaching music in schools, working with the National Youth Choir of Scotland and the British Council's World Voice Programme. This has given him the opportunity to work with young people and teachers in Bangladesh, India and Sudan. In October he will be making presentations in Hull, presently the UK's City of Culture.

Ian will share with us aspects of his involvement in vocal music and there will be an opportunity to learn a song in a foreign language, so clear your throats and be ready!!

Please support this event by bringing friends and family. During the past twelve years we have had many excellent, enjoyable and entertaining evenings and we are sure that the talk given by Ian will be yet another great event.

As with our previous speakers, Ian gives us his valuable time free. We can only show our appreciation by attending.

The usual contributions of Puddings will be gratefully received – there will be a list at the back of the church in due course.

Please contact Fay Slingsby (01307 818787) for tickets.

Saturday December 9th Christmas Coffee Morning

December approaches again – so time to gift wrap the Tombola prizes (no short dated goods please); get stitching; bake some cakes; sort through the book shelves & DVD collections and look out those 'new/nearly new' items gathering dust which might be better loved by someone else!

Offers of help either setting up on the Friday or serving coffee & manning stalls on the Saturday would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Fay.

The Halls will be open from 10am until 2pm on Friday the 8th for the receipt of goods

Saturday December 9th Angus Choral Concert 7 p.m.

Musical Director Graeme Stevenson (Further details to follow)

Tuesday Club – 10th October 2017

Children of South Africa by the Rev. Denise Herbert

Our invited guest speaker for the opening meeting on 10th October of the 2017 / 18 session of St. John's Tuesday Club was the Reverend Denise Herbert. Making her first step towards realising her dream 'to see the world' Denise travelled to South Africa initially as a Medical Secretary, an occupation lasting 20 years, then for a short period she worked at the Institute of Race Relations. The impact of this on Denise's life was huge as she witnessed first-hand the harsh realities of Apartheid. She then transferred to St Cuthbert's Mission in Transkei before moving to Zambia. The UK beckoned and qualifications in General nursing and Midwifery were gained before becoming a Community Midwife but the call of Africa was ever present for this adventurous lady.

In 1976 with bags packed Denise travelled back to South Africa 'for a year'. The changing political scene and the increasing economic depression meant the poorer 'black' males migrated to the Eastern Cape and Grahamstown to find employment and left their wives behind. Now employed as a Sister-in-Charge of a Midwife Obstetric Unit in an impoverished area where abusive relationships were all too common, and then in the 80's attending lectures about the 'emerging' viral infection HIV and Aids, Denise developed her interest in Human Rights. Standing in silent protest a 'White' face holding a banner against the apartheid regime was a powerful tool which greatly impacted on the sentences served against the 'Black' prisoners.

By the 1990's Denise faced another calling, this time in Theology. She was ordained as a Deacon in 1995 and Priest a year later. In her work in a poor Cape township, Denise was often called upon to bury those who had been murdered and to assist women violently abused by their partners. Caring for the children was another important factor for Denise. Children of the poor and often the result of Prostitution were also abused, often the result of a misguided belief that sleeping with a virgin would cure HIV & AIDS. A loving, caring environment and education in those dreadful situations may seem unattainable, but with Denise at the helm establishing safety, treatment, and encouraging the idea that there are other, better ways to lead your life, can and has become the reality for some of those poor unfortunates who previously faced a very uncertain future.

Establishing centres and schools is one thing, but to gain sufficient trust of the victims is an on-going struggle as testing for HIV carries its own stigma, therefore discreet methods are crucial. Surprisingly eye tests provide just that. By photographing the Retina many aspects of the patient's state of health can be detected and thanks to this enterprise and greater awareness HIV is in decline but that does not mean the story is drawing to a close. Fundraising, dedication and commitment are in constant demand. Denise's home base is now Scotland but South Africa's children remain foremost in her mind as she continues to work tirelessly to support them in any way she can, and how lucky they are to have her on their side. This inspirational lady is truly an example to us all.

Thanks go to the ladies who provided the food and refreshments. At the next meeting on 14th November we shall hear all about 'Thomas Moonlight' by retired journalist Ian Lamb. All welcome!

Linda Robbie

Tuesday Club

The programme for the session 2017 - 2018

November 14 th	Thomas Moonlight	Speaker Ian Lamb
December 12 th	Kirrie the fit	Bob and Allan
January 9 th	Jarvis Brothers	Charles Jarvis
February 13 th	Miscellaneous Matters	Muriel and Jim Smith
March 13 th	Citizens Advice	Elizabeth Montgomery Fox
April 10 th	Crime Writing	Chris Longmuir
May 8 th	To be arranged	

A meditation on the Lords' Prayer Sent by + Ted Luscombe

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

He is Father – that is He cares for us

He is in heaven – that is He is great and mysterious. We pray that he will make himself known as Father (hallow his name) and that we in our lives may make him know as Father.

THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

May God bring his rule among men, and may we accept his rule over ourselves.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

We pray for our needs (not luxuries), our needs for this day (not worrying about the future), our needs (not mine only, but those of all men).

AND FOR GIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THEOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

Only if we ourselves forgive can we be forgiven, it is forgiveness all round that we pray for.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

The word 'temptation' meant religious persecution so great as to lead a man to forsake God, The prayer does not ask that we may be saved from troubles, but that we may be delivered from falling into clutches of evil, and so, but God's help, preserve our integrity.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOR EVER AND EVER, AMEN.

All power belongs to God including the power of prayer. ('For we do not know how to pray as we ought but the Spirit himself intercedes for us) Romans 8. 26

Does this ring a bell?

This machine is subject to breakdowns during periods of critical need.

A special circuit in the machine (photo-copier / computer /you name it) called a 'critical detector' senses the operator's emotional state in terms of how desperate he or she is to use the machine. The 'critical detector' then creates a malfunction proportional to the desperation of the operator. Threatening the machine with violence only aggravates the situation. Likewise, attempts to use another machine may cause it also to malfunction. They belong to the same union. Keep cool and say nice things to the machine. Nothing else seems to work.

Never let anything mechanical know you are in a hurry.

Or even this?

Get out of the car

(This is supposedly a true account recorded in the police log of Sarasota, Florida)

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs 'I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car'. The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realised why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, and Frisbee and two 12 packs of beer into the front seat. A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly women described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed. **Moral of the story? If you are going to have a senior moment ...make it memorable.**