



EAGLE



The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

December/January 21/22

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“ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;”

Isaiah , Chapter 9, Verse 6



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-

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From the Rector

The wonder of Christmas approaches. When we light our 4th advent candle we think specifically about Mary and the celebration of the birth of a baby. Like any baby Mary did not give birth to Jesus in an instant. Faith, like biology, also relies on a process with distinct moments.

Our faith, like Mary's pregnancy involves the Holy Spirit. We need to let the word take such root in us that it becomes part of us. Then, like any pregnancy, we must care and protect what is growing inside us until it is able to live on its own, outside us. This is followed of course by the birth when others may rejoice in this new beginning. However, as we know birth is just the start of motherhood. Mary gave birth to a baby, but she had to spend years nurturing, coaxing, and cajoling that infant into adulthood. The babe in the crib at Bethlehem is not who we recognise as the preacher, teacher, and healer – much has yet to flourish through careful parenthood. Finally, there is the letting go, often a painful letting go. The pains of childbirth are often gentle compared to this second wrenching.

Our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary shows us the way. We let the word of God take root and grow within us, giving it nourishment from within, submitting to the sometimes painful dilemmas as we demonstrate our faith to the world. It grows still further with time in prayer and worship and finally to letting go, knowing that we will not always get it right but in that final flourishing that we accept the difficulties along with the joys.

Christmas is not automatic; it cannot be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world. I wish you all a very blessed and happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With love

Elaine



Caring for God's Creation

Was COP26 a success? This very much depends on your perspective. There have been highs and lows. It is perhaps best summarised by UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres:

"The approved texts are a compromise. They reflect the interests, the conditions, the contradictions and the state of political will in the world today. They take important steps, but unfortunately the collective political will was not enough to overcome some deep contradictions."

COP26 laid bare the huge spread in national interests. Commitments were watered down on fossil fuels, especially coal, while the small island states made clear that anything above 1.5 degrees temperature spelt catastrophe for them. Here are some of the things that matter:

- Maximum temperature rise of 1.5 degrees was recognised as the goal, with strong references to the science behind this
- Commitment to redouble efforts from wealthy nations on providing climate finance
- Commitment to restate national targets annually, instead of every 5 years. This is designed to drive action in 2020s
- Much of the detail that needed to be agreed from the Paris Agreement of 2015 was achieved
- 133 countries committing to end and reverse deforestation by 2030
- Over 100 governments pledged a 30 per cent reduction in methane by 2030
- Commitments from 40 countries to phase out coal fired power, the most carbon intensive way of producing electricity
- US/China Pledge to work together on climate in key areas, including methane
- Finance sector commitment to align \$130 trillion of investment to 1.5 degree goals
- Nearly 5000 companies, cities, regions, and universities commit to halving emissions by 2030 in Race to Zero
- The end of the combustion engine is in sight, Glasgow Declaration on Zero-Emission Cars and Vans to end the sale of internal combustion engines by 2035 in leading markets and 2040 worldwide.
- Public-private alignment on key breakthroughs in clean technologies in five key sectors of the economy – power, road transport, steel, hydrogen, and agriculture

But, for many, COP26 was a failure. There are several key reasons for this:

- Even if all commitments are implemented, we will still see global warming of 2.4 degrees Celsius, which would be catastrophic
- Many questions remain on finance. Wealthy nations have not delivered what they have already committed to, and furthermore, there is need for a huge amount more
- Those countries already heavily affected by climate change continue to be frustrated at the slow pace of any plan to recompense them for the damage caused by climate change from those who caused it.

Campaigners have repeatedly expressed concern that commitments do not turn to action, and we need action now to have a chance of hitting 1.5 degrees. Commitments made in Glasgow must turn to action, countries must commit to and deliver on much stronger targets in the next few years. As a church we have an important role to play not just in our integrity of doing our bit to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 but by influencing our family and friends to do the same in their lives. Loving our neighbour has never been so important.

Memoires of a Wartime Evacuee—Chapter 6

The kitchen garden is part of the country economy and I have a lasting memory of Edgar making up a list of seed, to be obtained from Dobbies, that he needed for the kitchen garden. This would be about Christmas time or just after and would include peas (by the pint), ‘brassicas’, turnip, onions etc. He may have even got his seed potatoes from Dobbies as well, as the Scottish varieties are noted for being disease-free.



And what of Mr Jaques personally? Well, he would dress in the conventional bib, brace and jacket work clothes of his day but on a Saturday evening he would shave and dress immaculately in black with a white shirt, and dress-boots polished like mirrors. His magic shoe-polish was concocted with ‘blacking’ in a bottle of spirit solvent that was painted on. Superb shine when buffed. He would be going down to the ‘Bay Horse’, for pleasure certainly but was he not also advertising and promoting Edgar Jaques & Co? In those days there was no way that Edith could have accompanied him. Not etiquette. Edgar would bring back two bottles of stout back for Edith. In those days too, stout was said to have ‘medicinal properties’, so that made it alright! Do you remember a scene in the black-and-white film ‘The Barretts of Wimpole Street’ when sickly Elizabeth (Barrett Browning) is ordered to have stout as a pick-me-up by their doctor? They must have known something about anaemia and iron salts and stout.

A travelling library used to call. Edgar’s preference was ‘Westerns’. When he had read a book he would put his special mark inside the back cover, the mark a circle with a line through it-like a ‘Saturn’. This meant someone else could make a choice for him. I have a clear impression of him relaxing in his carver chair after our meal, with a smouldering cigarette between his fingers, that he had rolled with a ‘Rizla’ paper -head slightly to one side - a quiet man. I too favoured a ‘carver’, much later in life, and I wonder if I caught the habit from Edgar.

Mr Jaques kept a Galloway pony, Bobby, known as ‘The Gallowa’, reddish brown and with a white blaze on his brow. On one occasion he put Bobby between the shafts of the small flat cart and we went off foraging for fallen timber to a wood just a little way up the A1. now Bobby did not get enough work to do, so when he got out onto the open road he tended to go wild. Coming back with a load of logs and turning down-hill towards Rainton, Bobby got the bit between his teeth and on this down slope Mr Jaques lost control. Bobby broke into a gallop and I can just imagine, if he could have spoken, he would have uttered a loud ‘Wa...hoo’ of exhilaration.

As it was, it became a dangerous situation with a sharp left turn coming. We of course were perched on the logs. Mr Jaques was purple with rage and was reduced to hurling threats, which were probably unintelligible to Bobby, and to me speaking for myself. But had Bobby remembered the sharp bend? He slackened off to a trot in nice time to avoid our being thrown off and finishing under the timber. Is this what we call 'horse sense'?

Bedding down in the evening and feeding Bobby, and Sophie, the brindled, blue roan milk-cow, became on of the day's pleasures. I remember a particular bitterly cold night of hard frost when the byre and stable were a haven of warmth from the beasts and the light yellow from the hurricane lamp. I would chop mangolds (wurzles) and Mr Jaques would fork hay down from the loft, straight into the manger. We had Sophie's calf on one occasion and he, in a separate pen within the byre, would get a small bucket of his mother's milk. He would bury his little head in the bucket and not come up for air before he had sunk the lot. I had never known such peace and tranquillity, my family so far away; and when Christmas comes round and we hear the Nativity story I am propelled back to that other stable on a cold winter's night.

Gordon E. Miller

CROFTCARNOCH COTTAGE

Croftcarnoch Cottage belongs to the diocese of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and is offered for use as a holiday cottage or for retreats.

The cottage is 5 miles from Pitlochry and 4 miles from Blair Atholl with easy access to the A9 and is an ideal centre for holiday activities in the area and further afield.

The cottage is self-catering. The accommodation comprises a large living room with wood-burner; fully equipped kitchen; 3 bedrooms (1 double, 1 twin and 1 single) 1 bathroom and 1 shower room.

The cost of rental is £45 per night (£315 per week) for clergy and religious organisations and £70 per night (£490) per week) for others.

We are now operating a 3 night minimum stay policy.

An invoice will be sent out at least a month before your stay and full payment should be made 2 weeks before rental begins.

Please contact the Diocesan Office: 01738 443173

Or:

admin@standrews.anglican.org

For further details and availability.



THE RAINBOW TABLE

Dates for The Rainbow Table:

Thursday 16th December, 7.30—8.30pm

Thursday, 20th January, 7.30—8.30pm

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VOLUNTEERING FOR VETERANS CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland (VCS) is an initiative within Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland (WPCS), and therefore many aspects of how we recruit, train, deploy and support our volunteer chaplains is identical to WPCS. The attached notes **Volunteering for WPCS** give a good outline of what we are looking for, and how the process works in practice.

In recruiting VCS Volunteer Chaplains, we are looking for individuals who have experience or a good awareness of military service, and with the following qualities:

- Personal active Christian faith
- Comfortable working with veterans and the veteran community
- Pastorally sensitive
- Ecumenically open
- Has time available – flexible but perhaps 8-10 hours / month

VCS Volunteer Chaplains are required to undertake the WPCS Foundation Training Courses: The five essential modules for volunteer chaplains are:

- Introduction to WPCS
- Active Listening
- Building Resilience in the Workplace
- Confidentiality & Safeguarding
- Engaging in Organisational Cultures

These are ½ day courses which are run throughout the year.

In addition, VCS will offer its own focussed training modules on topics such as:

- Trauma and Moral Injury
- Mental Health First Aid
- TRIM

We recognise that the needs of those members of the veterans community who come to us for support will vary greatly. A good number will require sign-posting to specialised and qualified agencies and practitioners. We are not expecting our volunteer chaplains to have all the answers. We are keen, however, to recruit individuals with particular skills. We want to avoid being jacks-of-all-trades and masters of none. Your calling is important to VCS, and we are happy to explore how you would fit into the team.

We are building a ministry which is ..

*A proactive service
providing pastoral care
to our veterans
and their families
promoting hope,
healing and
acceptance.'*

*You may be asking,
"Why do Service Veterans
require a specific
chaplaincy?"*

Let me explain

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland
is an initiative within
Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland.



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www.wpcscotland.co.uk

Veterans Chaplaincy Scotland
07521 63 88 48
vcs@wpcscotland.co.uk

Programme Coordinator
Rev Philip Patterson

Chaplain Administrator
Rev Stephen A Blakey
0771 254 2518

**Why do we need
a
Veterans Chaplaincy?**

**Veterans Chaplaincy
Scotland**



FINANCE REPORT

The accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 having been passed by the examiner and approved by vestry were presented to the AGM. They showed the continuing theme of running at a deficit with the current account needing a top up from our investments. The situation wasn't helped by the continuing cost of roof repairs and by the pandemic that curtailed our fund-raising efforts.

We have been fortunate in obtaining a loan to pay for the installation of a new heating system in the church. Although this is interest free (thanks to the Scottish Government's green initiative scheme) it still has to be repaid so when the shackles are off and we are able, it needs to be full steam ahead on fund raising. Please support any events that the committee may organise, and in the meantime, consider your own personal giving to see if there is any scope to increase it. At St John's we are proficient at operating the gift aid scheme so if you are a tax payer I urge you to sign up and, at no cost to you, we can increase the value of your collection or donation by 25% - repaid to us by the Government.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have on the accounts.

Roger Cousins

Treasurer

SPEAKING UP

A radio programme she heard at the beginning of September gave Chaplain Nerys pause for thought.

As a young woman making my way in Academia, I had a secret fear of being seen as a chatterbox or as a bossy boots and disliked for it. Looking back I can see how this worry often prevented me from sharing my ideas and giving my views at meetings or conferences even when I may have been the most knowledgeable or authoritative person in the room.

I didn't realise how common my experience was until I came across the work of Mary Ann Sieghart on a programme on Radio 4 a few weeks ago. The broadcaster and journalist took her listeners on a global journey to find out why women aren't speaking up in public and whether they are disproportionately side-lined and excluded from debates.

Here are some of the facts she shared, based on scientific research, which opened my eyes and helped me understand my own feelings and resulting behaviour.

Research has shown that in public women speak a lot less than men.

When a woman contributes to a debate, she is perceived by listeners to have spoken for longer and more often than she actually has.

Generally, in conferences, committee meetings, television or parliamentary debates, women aren't proportionally allowed the same amount of time to speak than men.

Women are spoken over and interrupted regardless of their status much more often than men.

Their ideas or views, or even factual information they impart, are not accepted in the same way as those shared by men.

The authority of a female expert or leader is generally questioned or challenged much more than that of a male counterpart.

I was trained from a young age by my parents to think before I spoke to an adult but I don't remember that being the case for my brother. I have now discovered that this social conditioning goes back to ancient times and continues to this day.


Sadly, women can be just as guilty of this bias in favour of male authority than men, and it is just as common in church life as in any other part of society.

So what can we do about it?

In the final chapter of Sieghart's book, entitled 'No Need to Despair' she sets out the changes needed at organisational and legislative levels to close the gap. I believe the Mother's Union has a role to play in lobbying for these changes.

There are corrections we can begin to make as individuals in our everyday lives. We can become more aware of the language we use and the way we interact with our sons and daughters, our granddaughters and grandsons. We can notice if a woman is being interrupted or ignored in meetings and draw attention to it. We can speak out in protest when a woman is being punished and vilified for using the authority given to her by her position, and lend her our support.

Nerys



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Rev. Elaine Garman
St John the Evangelist,
Forfar St John's Rectory,
24, St James Road,
Forfar DD8 1LG.

19th November, 2021.

Dear Elaine,

I write to you on behalf of the Kirk Session of St Margaret's to thank you most sincerely for engineering the amazing award of £1,500 from the Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church to help continue with the running costs involved in holding our Uniform Pop-Up Shop and our Teen Café.

I think it is inspirational that St John's and St Margaret's are finding ways to work together to help our local Community and we appreciate all your help with this.

My sincere apologies for the lateness in sending this letter of thanks out to you, but we have only recently found out about this amazing award.

Our Treasurer didn't realise that we didn't know about this award and didn't enlighten us as to it having been banked by him.

Once again, our sincere thanks and I hope that the partnership we have with yourselves at St John's goes from strength to strength.

Kind regards,

Maureen
Maureen Fenton
Session Clerk

Website: stmargaretschurchforfar.org
Charity No: SC001506

Front cover illustration:

"Adoration of the Shepherds", by Dutch painter Mattias Stomer, 1632