



# 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](http://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.

**RECTOR** - The Revd. Elaine Garman

(01307 463440 mobile 0773 3151458

email [rector@stjohnsforfar.co.uk](mailto:rector@stjohnsforfar.co.uk))

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Mr Albert Shepherd (464 600)

Mrs Lee Winks (07547 310811)

Mrs Lynne Topping (01307 850297)

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TREASURER - Mr Roger Cousins (819 489)

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MAGAZINE - Mrs Dorothy Bruce-Gardyne (01241 828 203)

*St. Johns Eagle has suddenly gained in importance as a means of communicating, and as a result the decision has been taken to email a copy to all for whom email addresses are held. In addition, printed copies in a reduced (A5) format will be posted to those without email. Comments and /or extra email addresses welcome at [gordongarman@aol.com](mailto:gordongarman@aol.com)*

## God sees us in every moment

How good and how strange it will be to be back in St John's for Sunday worship. Whilst the past six months have not been without hope, there have certainly been desolate moments. Some members of our congregation have died, and we have not been able to mark their passing in our usual way. Some of you, I'm sure will have had children added to the family and even that will not have been celebrated in, what we took for granted, as the normal way.

During the course of the pandemic we have continued being St John's community but not having our familiar worship to hold us together. Whether you have tasted community through phone calls, letters or praying at the same time as others – they all are moments of sunlight and glimpses of the kingdom. As we move back to worship in church let us not lose that taste of community that is unmistakable – it is the taste of God.

Of course our collective worship will not be 'normal' although it may be our new reality for some time certainly until a vaccine is available, the coronavirus is down to minimal levels circulating in the community or it has mutated as it learns to live with us rather than kill us! Our prayerfulness expressed through hymn singing will be absent, but we are adaptable people and I'm sure our worship, praise and prayer will find alternative expressions as we begin to gather together once again.

Elsewhere in the *Eagle* there is a description of what you are asked to do as we come together as a congregation. The first service will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 11am. After a few weeks I will restart Wednesday services. People should not feel compelled to attend but when you consider you are sufficiently confident to gather (with social distance and other public health measures in place). For those of you who have managed to join the online worshipping community, there will still be local and Provincial streamed services.

I finish with the blessing that I use for *Drop In for Soul Time*, the midweek online prayer time, whether we remain in our homes or whether we are venturing out, including to church:

Most sacred God  
Cherish and protect us  
Envelope us in your wholeness  
And bless us as we live fully.  
And the blessing of God  
Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit  
Be with you, those you love and those for whom you pray,  
This day and evermore. Amen.

*With love*

*Elaine*



A good crop

Live streaming of services from St John's Church will start on 20th September. The YouTube link will be emailed shortly and will also be available on St John's website:

[www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk)



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I intend to join this course, and if any others from St John's wish to do so and would like to discuss any aspect of the subject please feel free to contact me , *Gordon* (01307 463440)



Scottish Episcopal Church  
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

**OUR DIGITAL CHURCH**

A two-part course with the Digital Missioner of Glasgow and Galloway, aiming to improve the skills of those who look after the online presence of our congregations. A step by step guide of best practices, tips and tricks will be followed by a Q&A session.

**10am-12noon, Friday 9th October on Zoom**  
**10am-12noon, Friday 6th November on Zoom**

To book - email [office@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:office@standrews.anglican.org)  
or call 01738 443 173.

## Church services resuming—guidelines for safe practice

**Welcomers will be on hand to guide you to your seat and will be able to answer your questions.**  
**Phase 3 Worship 'at-a-glance' for the SEC (from 8 Aug 2020)**

General instructions	During the service	Safe Holy Communion
<p>Numbers are limited based on distancing and a cap of 50 for any size building</p> 	<p>Avoid physical contact with fellow worshippers. Greet with smiles and waves only</p> 	<p>Follow the 2m spacing signs and one way system (if one is marked)</p> 
<p>Keep 2m physical distancing at all times in church: follow signs and markers</p> 	<p>Use free seating starting at the front. You may sit within 2m of your household.</p> 	<p>Only bread will be distributed: no common cup to be shared</p> 
<p>Welcomers wearing face coverings will greet and direct you</p> 	<p>Use the single use orders of service or your personal copy of the service book</p> 	<p>Take care removing/replacing your face covering to receive the bread.</p> 
<p>All worshippers <u>must</u> wear face coverings whilst in church.</p> 	<p>No: Congregational singing: Yes: Organ, worship band, recorded music or a soloist.</p> 	<p>Use hand sanitiser before and after receiving communion</p> 
<p>You will be asked to leave attendance/contact details for Test and Protect</p> 	<p>No collection plate will be passed: place offerings in the plate left out</p> 	<p>Receive communion in your hands standing in front of the priest</p> 
<p>Use the hand sanitiser as you enter and leave the church buildings</p> 	<p>At the end of the service leave carefully starting from the back of the church</p> 	<p>Come up for a non-contact blessing if you do not wish to receive</p> 

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE ON FESTIVE SONGS - "WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED"

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around*

The National Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches Health and Safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now to be made available.

Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year, that they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally-heated Shepherd Observation huts.

Please note, the Angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his ( or her!) glory all around s/he must ascertain that all Shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UV A, UVB and Glory.

Thanks for the above go to + Ted .



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## What has been going on at St John's - current projects

Busy times—having received permission from the Diocesan Office to proceed we now have more wheel chair/disabled spaces in St John's. Many thanks to Richard Finch.

Further developments are in hand – watch this space!



One of the recently shortened pews.

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In addition to the work on the pews mentioned above there are plans to install a proper disabled ramp at the front entrance. We are obtaining planning permission for the works and are currently applying for grant assistance in order to fund the project.

Another major and main project is the renovation of the tower roof, and again grant assistance is being investigated.

Lastly, and possibly even more welcome, consultations are underway with specialist heating companies with a view to replacing our rather antiquated and very inefficient current system...



**Lochlands Mill**

*Open again soon*

01307 469 486

## **NOTES FROM THE TREASURER – SEPTEMBER 2020**

We have reached the end of our financial year and I now have to await the final bank statement before assembling the accounts for the past year for presentation to the congregation and submission to OSCR. However, it is not too early to give an insight into how we have fared over the past year which has been an exceptional one for expenditure mainly on repairing the roof. As you well know the roof is a large expanse of slate tiles which have over the years moved and slipped revealing gaps where the rain could get in. Last year we undertook a full examination and set in train a programme of renovation using a skilled local contractor. This has been an expensive undertaking funded by dipping into our investments (the dividends from which we need to cover everyday running costs). As a significant landmark in Forfar we thought our grade 2 listed building might have received some help from a council grant, but that was not to be, it seems that we are not significant enough!

So much for the past year– how about the future, well we still have to make a decision on what to do with the tower (you will remember the ceiling in the entrance lobby falling down). Thanks to Richard Finch we have a temporary measure in place which although alleviating the problem does not solve it for the long term. Estimates have been sought but the final cost will very much depend on what the contractor finds when he dismantles the existing roof and reveals whatever lurks below. We are also looking to provide a more permanent disabled ramp for the church entrance.

PLUS PLUS PLUS the heating system in the church has been condemned and needs to be replaced at a fairly horrendous cost. We are in the process of getting estimates for the work and once we have them will seek grant funding from appropriate organisations – but there is no guar-

antee that they will cover the cost involved. In the meantime and in anticipation of the church re-opening dig out that wool coat and long scarf you may well need it!!

### Smile Fundraising

As some may be aware, Amazon stopped being involved in Easyfundraising some time ago, but donations can still be raised by going to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and logging in with one's own Amazon login details, and selecting St John's as the charity.

Roger Cousins

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Many thanks to +Ted for this short insight to the vagaries of selection panels!"



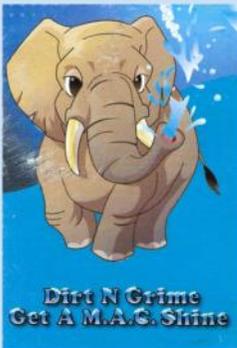
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## A MEMORANDUM

TO: Jesus, Son of Joseph  
Woodcrafter Carpenter Shop  
Nazareth 25922

FROM: Jordan Management Consultants  
Jerusalem 26544

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumés of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service and for your guidance, we make some general comments, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation and comes without any additional fees.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan Management Consultants