



Eagle



The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

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“ God save our gracious Queen”



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.

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

RECTOR - The Revd. Elaine Garman

(01307 463440 mobile 0773 3151458

email rector@stjohnsforfar.co.uk)

ELECTED VESTRY MEMBERS:-

Mrs Colvina McBay (463097)

Mrs Lee Winks (07547 310811)

Mrs Lynne Topping (01307 850297)

EXOFFICIO VESTRY MEMBERS

**PROPERTY CONVENER—Mr Bob Hamilton
(07478 710071)**

SECRETARY - Ingrid M Jäckel (07852 158499)

TREASURER - Mr Roger Cousins (819 489)

LAY REPRESENTATIVE - Lynne Topping (01307 8502970) (Mobile: 07396 355564)

OFFICERS

ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE—Mrs Marion Ingram –Walker (01828 640318)

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER - Mr Neil Smeaton (818 714 and 01224 210 355)

HALL CONVENER - Mrs Carol Douglas (464 610)

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GIFT AID - Mr John Webster (467 696)

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER - Mrs Carol Douglas (464 610)

FACT REPRESENTATIVES - Mrs Margaret Cousins (819 489) Judy Hill (818787)

MAGAZINE - Lynne Topping (01307 850297) (Mobile 07396 355564)

Submissions to: lynnetopping@hotmail.com

DIOCESAN SECRETARY – Ms Carol Aitchison (01738 443 173)

Website: www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk

[Scottish Charity No: 0165572](#)

From the Rector

Can you imagine my delight when, for the first time, the laburnum in the Rectory front garden bloomed this year? **It was always a bit of a surprise that it didn't flower. I have childhood memories** of a laburnum in our back garden. It gave very welcome shade to my mother, who I assume at some stage, laboured the point that I must never eat the laburnum pods. I recall one year that my brother got enthusiastic with pruning and the cries of derision that emanated from the house when my mother looked out the kitchen window to see her lovely tree reduced greatly, with no chance of providing her with shade for a few years!

Depending on how big the photograph is when reproduced in the Eagle, you may spy that the Rectory tree has a couple of branches that need to be pruned. Towards the top, two of the branches **have some kind of 'die-back' and ought to be excised. It reminds** me of John 15.1-2a, 6, **"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit... Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned."** Now the message of judgement here may be less than palatable, but we also have the corollary that pruning the branches helps to make it bear more fruit. Pruning these two branches will help the tree, it will enhance even further the view from my window when I take those little moments to recharge the batteries, feasting on the delights of nature.

I can also rest in God's promise which is clear. In Jesus and his followers, God will find the kind of fruit he desires. Our job is to remain connected to the vine, drawing our nourishment from Christ. **It is God the Creator's job to tend the vine and bring it to full fruitfulness.** A tremendous sense of security is ours when we recognise this truth. Who could be more dependable, more patient, more loving, and more desirous of our growth than our heavenly Father? I pray that as a faithful community we **keep our connection with St John's**, drawing our nourishment from our worship and hospitality, our mission and witness and trust in **God's fruitfulness.**

With love

Elaine



Caring for God's Creation

There are many sources of advice for 'greener gardens' but one of them is the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Some of their advice is used below and can be found directly [here](#).

1. Waste not...

Garden waste e.g., tree branches can benefit both wildlife and plants. Pile up branches, logs and other non-compostable natural materials in a tucked away spot to become a useful habitat for many creatures such as hedgehogs. Compost at materials at home. (Also, Angus Council collects green waste for making into compost and can be collected from the recycling centres.)

2. Water wisely

We can all do our bit to reduce the amount of water our gardens use. There are many beautiful plants that cope really well with dry conditions, and there are lots of ways to reduce your water use, from installing water butts and mulching to recycling grey water.

3. Material matters

Selecting sustainably-produced materials makes a big difference. Plastic is incredibly useful in the garden but can have a terrible environmental impact. Try to go plastic free.

4. Choose your pest control products carefully

There are many available, and their environmental impacts vary widely. Weeding by hand may be more time consuming but you are out in the fresh air. If you do resort to chemicals, favour products with low environmental impact ('organic') and follow application instructions exactly.

5. Be a good neighbour

Making room for plants will benefit both the wildlife and people who share your neighbourhood. Even the sight of greenery is beneficial for our mental health. Growing hedges in your front garden and planting trees can also improve air quality, which in turn helps our physical health.

6. Know that some plants are 'greener' than others

Look for the Plants for Pollinators logo when buying flowering plants. These are a particularly good choice for bees and other helpful pollinating insects. Minimise your gardening carbon footprint by growing from seed and using peat-free compost. This reduces the pollution associated with transporting plants, and avoids damaging peat bogs, which are valuable carbon sinks.

7. Make space for wildlife

Turning even small roofs green can create new habitats. The single best way to create habitats and food sources is to grow lots of different plants; try to include trees and hedges along with flowers, and leave undisturbed corners. Putting in a pond is another great way to attract wildlife - just make sure that creatures have easy access to get in and out!

See illustration on previous page.

FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATION

A floral art demonstration was held in Memus village hall on Saturday afternoon, 11th June. It was held to raise funds for Ilona Graham, a 14 year old girl scout from Noranside, who is trying to raise funds to travel to the International Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year.

The demonstration, by Karen Buckley, was both fascinating and entertaining. There was a book stall and a raffle, with tea, coffee and home baking served in the interval.

Approximately £180 was raised for Ilona's trip.



Karen Buckley from Brechin Floral Art Club



Some of the displays



Ilona

Give a contribution at: <https://gofund.me/cec43141>

NYCOS Angus Choir – Summer Concert

St John's resounded to beautiful music once again when the National Youth Choir of Scotland held its, hopefully, annual concert on Saturday 11th June. Covid restrictions have made it impossible to hold the concert for the last couple of years, so the renewed enthusiasm from both performers and audience bodes very well for the future.

A varied concert with performances by Junior, Intermediate, and **Senior choirs kept the audience's** attention throughout. Songs, accompanied by Euan Gow, were conducted by Choir Director David McLean and included Rodgers and Hammerstein, traditional as well as Burns and less well-known composers. All were performed at a quality that belied the age of the singers. One highlight of the afternoon was the flute recital by Katie Shepherd, who is now studying music at Aberdeen University, after leaving school at Forfar Academy.

It was wonderful to see so many people show such good support for these young singers; music in Forfar looks set for a fine future.

Accompanying pictures

1. The combined choirs completed the afternoon programme to the sound of much applause.
2. David McLean, the enthusiastic Choir Director.



Submitted by Gordon Garman

JUBILEE CELEBRATION EVENTS



A service of thanks giving for the Queen's Jubilee was held in the Chapel of St. Michael and all Angels, Glamis Castle.



A garden party was held at the stunning home of the Very Revd. Hunter Farquharson for members of the Rainbow Table.

Food and champagne were enjoyed by all, especially 'Teddy' - flat-coated retriever.

Prayers were said to finish by the Rev. Gennie Evans of St. Columba's—Crieff.



A beacon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was lit by Forfar Churches on Baggerton Hill.

Featured, The Rev. Canon Elaine Garrman, St. John's.

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MEMOIRES OF A CHILDHOOD EVACUEE—CHAPTER 9

I mentioned Ripon earlier. The city is worth a visit, even in passing. A 'wakeman' (night guard), sounds a horn at the four corners of the market square to warn that the city gates are about to be closed for the night. Along the frieze of the public building by the square is a quotation from Psalm 27: "Except the Lord keep the city, the Wakeman waketh in vain." That is deeply imprinted on my memory.



This has reminded me that brother Norman and his wife Margaret came to spend a day with me in Ripon. Among other things, we visited the Minster and found ourselves at 'St. Wilfrid's Hole', in the wall of the undercroft. I think a viewing aperture was often a feature for those not able or those excluded from the Rites being performed, instance an Anchorite or Hermit. Anyway, a modern legend said that if you could not get through the aperture then you could not hope to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This of course leans heavily on Jesus' caution that we must enter as little children - and of course only a child could negotiate the small viewing window.

Ripon must be a good centre for touring and sight-seeing. Studley Royal and Castle Howard are nearby, as are Fountains Abbey and Rievaulx; although when you have seen one ruin you have seen them all. Perhaps it is the scenic setting that redeems it all and introduces a pang of regret; did it have to end like this?

Ripon was a quite resort for us on Saturday afternoons, having the attraction, for me, of Woolworth's and then the Palladium Cinema. The former seemed an Aladdin's Cave: and from there I bought my first map, a half-inch Bartholomew's, naturally of the local area. I still have it, coming apart at the folds, as you might guess. Maps fascinated me from then on: you could feel like a bird flying over the land. Strangely, enemy agents could simply walk into Woolworth's and buy maps despite all the security measures. Writing of 'feeling like a bird' reminded me of having the same feeling when I heard Harry Lauder, per 'wireless' back home sing "Sure by Tummel, and Loch Rannoch, and Lochaber I will go...." (The Road to the Isles?) I got a mental picture of Sir Harry striding across Scotland with his knobby stick - and a feeling of elation, exhilaration! I wonder how old I was then - five, six?

Harry Lauder



The Palladium Cinema was smart and modern. The 'Opera House' opposite was very old-fashioned and drab. We didn't go there, that I can remember. A lot of time has passed and with it some of the old 'rock-solid' businesses such as Timothy Whites and Taylor's (pharmacists), Freeman, Hardy and Willis (footwear) - and of course F.W. Woolworth, the latter replaced but without the same 'class', by the 'Pound' shops. And is Glover's garage - 'AA...RAC' - still in the corner of the square - or is it integrated into a multi-million pound auto facility just outside town?



Palladium Cinema - Ripon

Former Opera House - Ripon
(listed building)



I mention something in passing which in retrospect does not seem to have much to do with the war and the evacuation and that is 'guisers' or 'mummers' : these came to the Jaques' door one autumn or winter and performed a play or tableau based on '@George and the Dragon'. The players would be given hospitality to reward their efforts. Perhaps this was a survival from the medieval morality/mystery/ miracle plays performed in the market square etc.


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Mummy deer wasn't impressed.

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