



# EAGLE



The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

November 2021

£5 per annum or 50p monthly



Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Gospel according to John, Chapter 15, Verse 12



## 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-

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## From the Rector

I know the thought of going into winter with its long nights can be troublesome to many, but we are not there yet – we have the glory of autumn to cheer us. The autumn colour ebbs and then surges again through the wonderful sunny days. A tree on a street corner or an untidy yet enchanting border in a garden are illuminated like a rich tapestry. I find myself just wandering around and simply enjoying the new combinations of colour and form that keep emerging. Even without the discussions in the media on COP26 this season pushes me to really contemplate, “do we live on the earth or with the earth?” What does creation tell us about God’s divine nature?

“This is because what is known about God should be plain to them because God made it plain to them. Ever since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—God’s eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse.” (Romans 1.19-20)

As I work out my faith and find the contentment and challenge of worshipping the Creator (and not Creation) I am better able to express my reverence for the Spirit of Life, the Creator, by finding elements of the Creator’s nature in the cosmos. This reverence is deep respect. The Creator is evident in creation, which surrounds me. I can see it in autumn and experience it with my senses. I am part of it. Humility is acknowledging that I am not separate from creation; I am a part of a web of life. This mutual dependence is a gift. Life is a gift.

*With love*

*Elaine*

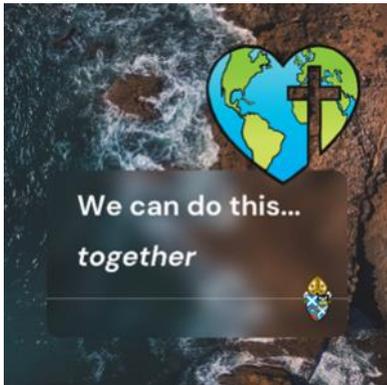
Whenever you can, please pray the prayer from the Archbishop of York for COP26:

Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis, grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor. Challenge us to change our lifestyles. Guide our leaders to take courageous action. Enable your church to be a beacon of hope. And foster within us a renewed vision of your purposes for your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by and for whom all things were made.

Amen



## Caring for God's Creation



The Scottish Episcopal Church has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and whilst it is important for the church to use its prophetic voice in having this ambition we are not alone – we are joining with many others. Net Zero Scotland is running many online seminars during COP26 and from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November you could listen and/or join the debate on art culture, tourism, healthcare, and the historic environment and how they all have a role to play in achieving this target. The link below takes you to some of these events.

<https://www.netzeronation.scot/event/scotlands-race-zero> .

None of us can have failed to notice that energy is very much in the news. Making small changes to how we use energy will benefit not only the world, but also our pockets. Here are some ideas, and web sites to find out more.

- Keep lids on your pans when cooking. Uses 10% less energy and food cooks quicker
- Try batch cooking; it's more energy efficient to cook a larger amount and freeze/save for later
- Make sure you have a full load before doing the washing, washing at 30 degrees when possible
- The same advice goes for dishwashers; also, use the Eco setting if available
- Switch off appliances at the plug when they're not needed
- Seal your open chimney with a draught excluder (approx. £18)
- Only fill the kettle with the water you need

Get in touch with one of these organisations for free impartial advice on all things energy:

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/> <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>

And just for fun (credit: Eco Congregation Scotland)

- 1 Q: Where was the first place that God met with humans?
- 2 Q: Which element existed with God before creation?
- 3 Q: Which king of Israel kept pet monkeys?
- 4 Q: True or false – Jesus once compared himself to a chicken.
- 5 Q: According to a story in the Bible, which plant is elected King of the trees?
- 6 Q: True or false – there are giant eagles in the Bible
- 7 Q: Which Old Testament prophet had a day job looking after trees?
- 8 Q: True or false – there are dragons in the Bible
- 9 Q: True or false – there are house cats in the Bible
- 10 Q: Which birds brought food to the prophet Elijah?

Answers can be found on page **XX** and in the bible!



**GARDEN FETE AT FORFAR**

**Opened by Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon.**

Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Strathmore, was accompanied by her sister, Lady Leveson Gower, when she opened a garden fete on Saturday at Overdale, Forfar, the residence of Mr and Mrs R. Freer Myles. The fete was in connection with St John's Episcopal Church.

Rev. A. Copland, the minister of St John's, presided at the opening ceremony, and Lady Elizabeth, in declaring the fete open, hoped that those who had worked for the success of the fete would be amply rewarded by a good clearance being effected.

Amongst those present were:—Lady Herries, St. Andrews; Mrs Carnegie of Lour; Mrs Gray Chalmers of Carnegie; Mrs Robertson of Burtale and Mrs Robertson; Miss Cox of Marcus; Mrs W. Don of Mauldoun; and Mrs Greenhill Garayne of Finavon Castle.

The sum of £120 was drawn, and the money will be devoted to church purposes. The usual sale shows and other methods of extracting money were in evidence.

A bouquet of flowers, the gift of Mrs Carnegie of Lour, was presented by Miss Janet Copland to Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon.

At a concert in connection with the fete the artists were:—Miss Don, Mr Claude A. Foster, Miss M. A. Smith, Miss Dorothy Myles, and Mr D. Macdougall. Between £8 and £9 was realised at the concert.

The stallholders were:—Congregational—Mrs Copland, Mrs Whyte, and Mrs Craik. Vegetables and game—Mrs Gray Chesape and Mrs M'Arthur. Stationery—Mrs Wm. Don and Mrs Robertson. Bazaar—Mrs Milne and Mrs Dorward. Guild and Sunday School—Miss Milne and Miss Brown. Fruit and flowers—Mrs Carnegie of Lour and Mrs Greenhill Garayne. Pies—Mrs Urquhart. Cakes—Mrs J. Freer. Tea—Mrs and Misses Myles.



## A newspaper cutting from *The Courier* Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1921

A little of history is recounted here in photographs and text from an article from 1921. The garden fete in aid of funds for St John's was held at Overdale, Hillside Road, Forfar at the home of Mr and Mrs R Freer Myles, members of St John's. Those in the newspaper photograph are Rev A Copland, Mrs A Copland, Mr R Freer Myles, Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, Mr J Whyte, Lady Leveson Gower and Mrs R Freer Myles, a similar group to the other photograph although Mrs Copland is absent from the main group in the latter.

The sum raised was £120 equivalent to about £3,500 today!

## Memoires of an Wartime Evacuee - Chapter 5

Edgar was the village carpenter, wheelwright, funeral director and coffin maker. How he coped with the muscle-breaking work at his age I just don't know. It was an education for he just watching him, and I profited from this experience when I was a householder myself. For instance, I saw how Edgar bent the side-boards of a coffin: you make saw-cuts (technically: 'saw-kerfs'!) about two-thirds through the thickness of the board at small intervals. When you bend the board the cuts close up. Experience teaches you how to do it practically. I used this technique to form the curved top of a garden gate, some 70-odd years later.

I was privileged to see Edgar making a farm cart wheel. The wooden fellows off the wheel arrived by carrier, ready sawn out roughly and I noticed the shaping marks. I realised much later that the marks were those from a band-saw, ex-factory. If you were to look at a drawing of a traditional farm cart wheel you would be convinced that the wheel could not be assembled but the springiness of the right wood and a very large mallet— very large— and know-how, all come to the rescue. The wooden wheel was rolled down the village to the forge where the tyre/ hoop was ready for fitting. Buckets of cold water poured over the rim shrank the hoop onto the wheel. I also saw great tree trunks being sawn lengthways by a double-ended saw, with the apprentice lying on his back in the bottom of the saw-pit, under all the falling saw-dust, and Edgar standing aside the tree trunk guiding the saw along a chalked line. He made the line by chalking a length of string that was stretched along the log. When he plucked the taught string it left a well-defined chalk line for the saw to follow. I think this is the origin of the term 'striking a bat'. Mr Jaques had a saw-mill powered by a tractor engine but for all its size it would only cut up to, say, 6 or 8 inches. I was fascinated by the starting of the engine. It had 4 cylinders and over each was a little cup like an acorn cup but with a valve underneath. Mr Jaques would pour a little liquid into the cups, open the valves and let the liquid run through onto the pistons. Closing the valves he would then crank over the engine to cause it to 'fire. I presumed the liquid was petrol and that the engine would continue to run on 'TVO', tractor vaporising oil. Mr Jaques did give me some carpentry to do but was it because he didn't want me standing over him watching everything he did?

One item was the planning of a coffin base-board (not at all successful) and, more successfully, making replacement 'teeth' for a wooden hay rake. My own father was a wood-worker and designer at home; so what Mr Jaques did was not entirely strange.

One very interesting repair was to a 'fiddle' seed scatterer. ....'a sower went forth to sow and as he sowed.....'. The principle of the fiddle was not unlike that of today's gritter lorry scattering its salt and grit, in that the gritter has a spinning disc with compartments but not continuous motion; rather to and fro' as from a fiddler's bow. The whole thing was driven by the string of the bow wrapped several times around the drive spindle. The sack of seed was borne on the sower's shoulder.



In some respects the farm work was then not all that far removed from the biblical eg Leviticus 23:22.....

‘And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border,  
nor shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest: you shall leave them for the poor and for the  
Stranger: I am the Lord your God’.

Also among the Mosaic books you may find a stricture that you should leave a field fallow every 7th year for the use of the poor and the stranger (‘stranger’ = immigrant?) ie they had to farm the land and do the work. There was to be no patronising hand –out.

I recall people going about in the harvest fields in Rainton with sacks for the ‘gleanings’ (that was the word used). Of course in the forties this wasn’t for your starving family so much as for your chickens and/ or the pig. Unfortunately, I also remember people in the harvest fields with clubs and sticks awaiting the rabbits among the standing corn breaking cover. Not cruelty but necessity.

But the young men’s talk was of Massey Fergussons and Fordsons (tractors), and wooden gates were giving way to welded steel and cart-wheels to steel pressings and pneumatic tyres; and we knew our first combine harvesters.

Gordon E.M. Miller

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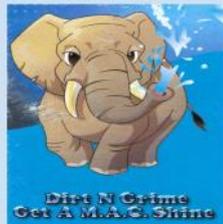


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**SARAH'S LETTER**

*Dear Friends*

It feels as if Autumn is almost here now and for the last couple of evenings the large bright Harvest Moon has been coming up outside my window slowly making its way above the trees and sometimes covered for a few minutes by clouds.

I was reminded that our faith journey can be a little like this. At time it shines brightly undimmed and in full splendour, but at other times it may be dimmed by clouds either for long periods or just a few days. But it does always shine again. Like the moon it may wax and wane but we always know it is there and it will return again.

Unlike the moon which always seems to be alone in the sky we are not alone. We have company on our way through our friends, MU members, family and all those who pray for us, seen and unseen throughout the world and of course Jesus says he never leaves us. Do not be afraid to reach out for help even if we feel alone and far away from our faith Jesus and our friends are right beside us. But we may have to take that first, what feels like giant, step of asking. We mostly do not have the gift of reading each other's minds – a good thing probably.

My diary looks very much as if life is returning to what was normality with lots of entries and busy days and weeks. MU meetings, church meetings, medical appointments and so on as well as the odd meeting with friends. I hope for some of you too meeting with friends is now becoming more possible and any anxiety is lessening. As we keep hearing we are probably going to have to learn to live with Covid as we do with flu, but maybe wearing masks now to help us feel a little safer whatever other people think. The booster vaccines will also help hopefully. They have already started I gather as my mother has hers next week.

I hope many of you will feel free to come to our council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Perth. We will be ensuring we stick to all the rules still in place and make the space as safe as possible for everyone and it will be so lovely to meet up again after all this time and catch up. I have been asked if you could let me know how many of you might come so that we can arrange the chairs accordingly. Doing this does not preclude you from deciding later you can come but it would help to start and mean less movement on the day.

So far, I am very sad that no one else has come forwards to take on the role of treasurer or become a

Trustee. I hope this will change soon so that MU can continue here in this diocese. We also need someone to become the liaison with Cornton Vale prison- not necessarily becoming a trustee as well - but continuing the work we do to support the women there with knickers, towels, bags, socks etc.

On a positive note I am very grateful to Wilma Dyer for agreeing to take over the prayer chain from Marjorie to whom immense thanks are due for communicating our requests for prayer to those who undertake to pray over the last ten years. It is such an essential part of being MU and supporting each other. I am also grateful to Jean Richardson who is taking over keeping in touch with our linked dioceses, another important role that helps us keep in touch worldwide.

At our Trustees meeting we decided to do the same as last year for Christmas presents for Cornton Vale and ask branches to donate money so that presents such as socks and colouring books can be purchased by one person and delivered there. So that this will overcome any problems of getting items to Jeanette or indeed having to visit the shops. I hope you agree with this decision.

Mothers' Union is also raising awareness of Domestic Violence during the 16 days of Activism as we have the last few years. The 27<sup>th</sup> November sees a global day with vigils planned and we are planning to hold one in Perth that day. The vigil is to start at 1.03pm for 3 minutes to represent the "No More 1 in 3". We are asking those who wish to, to join us and more details will follow in due course. I have written to Bishop Ian who has put the date in his diary and he hopes to join us.

Please take a minute to look at the list of dates later in this e-news and put them in your diaries

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on 16<sup>th</sup> October and hope you are all keeping well and safe.

With my prayers

*Sarah*

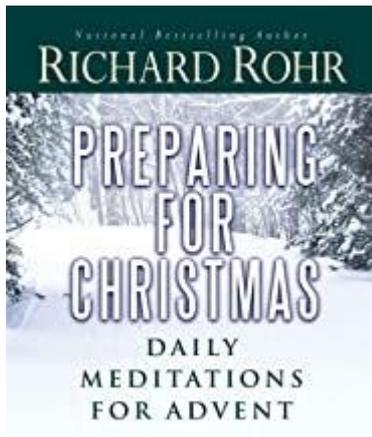
**SAFEGUARDING – who, what and why**

Hello, my name is Irene Rose and I recently took over as diocesan safeguarding trustee. I'd like to share some thoughts on safeguarding with you as it plays an important part in our work as the MU.

## Preparing for Christmas – Meditations and Discussion for Advent

Complete as an individual or in a 'Zoom' video-conference group – the link for which is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83029433524?pwd=YlhvclZzbG02UjNmZjNjVENwbXFiZz09> . If you wish the link sent to you by email, then please let Rev Elaine Garman know your email address by emailing her on [revelainegarman@outlook.com](mailto:revelainegarman@outlook.com) and this will be sent out to you prior to the meeting. The group will meet at 7-8pm on: Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd December 2021.

This year we will use Richard Rohr's daily meditations for Advent. "Advent is not about a sentimental waiting for the baby Jesus" Richard Rohr.



Richard provides a piece of scripture and reflection for each day of Advent. In our Advent course we will take that Thursday's reading and reflection to focus our discussion. The other days are up to you to use or not! If you wish you can purchase the book. They are available for £5.95 at Amazon

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Preparing-Christmas-Daily-Meditations-Advent/>

or at AbeBooks for £6.98 which sources stock from independent booksellers [AbeBooks.co.uk](http://AbeBooks.co.uk) . If you do not use the internet and wish to use the book as an individual please contact Rev Elaine and she will purchase the book on your behalf.

Fr Richard Rohr is an American Franciscan priest, and his work is globally recognised for use in ecumenical settings and comes highly recommended.



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*(Director of Music, St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth)*

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St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth**



**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021  
10 am – 3 pm daily**

**All funds raised will be donated to the Bishop's Lent Appeal**

## Teen Café

Our Teen Café that we run with St Margaret's, Forfar is now back up and running on Fridays during school term-time. It runs from 1.30pm until 3pm [allowing time to clean up afterwards and folks to get away to other commitments etc]. Help just with making drinks and washing up or doing track n trace or wiping tables is a HUGE support. So, if you can offer even just one Friday afternoon every 4 – 6 weeks we would be oh so grateful.

Please let the Rector know if you are available on Fridays between now and Christmas [no Café on 3rd and 24th December].

  
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## Answers to quiz

- 1: In a garden - the Garden of Eden.
- 2: Water. Genesis chapter 1 tells us that the spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- 3: Solomon. His trading ships brought him apes and baboons. (1 Kings 10:22)
- 4: True. In Matthew 23:37 Jesus says he'd like to gather Jerusalem "as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."
- 5: The bramble (or thornbush). It's in a story told by a man called Jotham in Judges chapter 9.
- 6: True – In Ezekiel 17 there is a story about giant multi-coloured eagles planting trees.
- 7: Amos. He tells the king that he is not a professional prophet, but looks after sheep and fig trees.
- 8: True. Dragons appear in Job, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Revelation.
- 9: False. Cats had not been domesticated in Israel in Bible times and do not appear in the Old or New Testament. (There is one mention in the Apocrypha)
- 10: Ravens. They brought him bread and meat every morning and evening in the wilderness.

**Remembrance Sunday** – The service on Sunday 14th November will start at 10.50am and we will host the town's service of Remembrance which will be non-Eucharistic. Retiring collection for PoppyScotland. A Said Eucharist will be held at 8.30am.