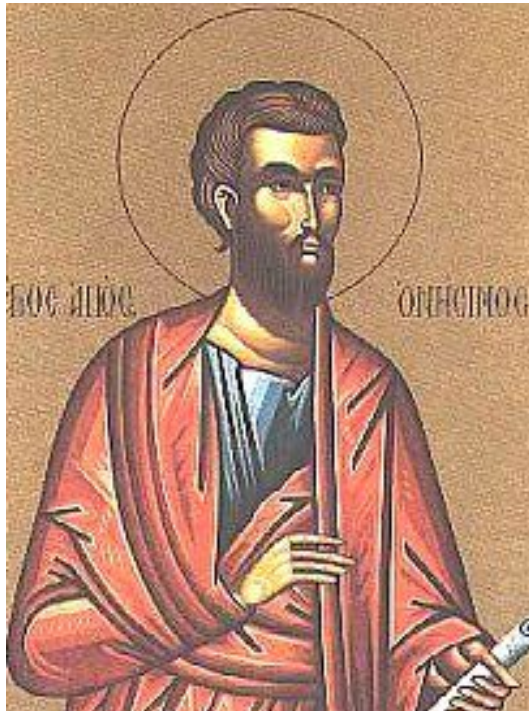


# July-August 2015 Magazine

Rector

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All Saints is a registered charity in Scotland SC00555

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church*

*Drymen Road, Bearsden*



£1

The cover picture is of an Onesimus icon. Onesimus was the slave in the Letter of Paul to Philemon

## PASTORAL LETTER – JULY-AUGUST 2015

Dear Friends,

Luke, in his Gospel, tells us of Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, who along with Simeon welcomes Jesus as a babe in the Temple courts. We are told of her: "then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day." Luke 2:37 Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus sates that God's house should be a house of prayer, and at other times Jesus both examples the importance of prayer by going away to pray and teaches the disciples how to pray while instructing them to pray daily, prayer matters.

Prayer matters, not only because is it something we should daily engage in and is important and vital to our own spiritual health, but also it is something which matters as it is our primary way to communicate with God. Prayer is not about communicating with or to other people, prayer is about communicating with God. While it could be said that prayer is prayer, it is also true that there are a variety ways of engaging as a community of faith in prayer. Wednesday being mid way through the week has for many churches been the focus of corporate prayer during the week, especially for those who have not been able to attend on the Sunday.

Jesus when asked what is the greatest commandment replied: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38). Jesus also said while in the wilderness after his baptism, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." ' (Matthew 4:10). What this should mean in our daily life and worship is that God comes first each and every day, that **no** opportunity to worship and pray should be passed by, and that in times of need we should actively seek out worship with others of faith.

On Wednesdays there will be fresh opportunities for the congregation to engage together in prayer. Currently there is a Said Eucharist at 11:30am. In addition for a trial period during the months of August - November there will also be Morning Prayer at 9am and an Evening Eucharist at 7.30pm, beginning with a period of silent prayer. The church will also remain open for private prayer between Morning Prayer and the Eucharist.

While God does not expect us to be like Anna and be in All Saints worshipping continually day and night, Jesus reminds us that we should have a firm foundation to our life of faith built on the rock of prayer. If you cannot make it

down to All Saints at some point on a Wednesday, please remember those who are in prayer at the church in your own prayers and make Wednesday a day when Prayer Matters, especially prayer for All Saints.

*Blessings Kirstin*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Rector's Holiday

Kirstin will be on holiday from Sunday 19th July till Saturday 25th July inclusive. The Cathedral will be providing cleric cover during this time and they should be contacted by phoning 0141 339 6691. The Revd John Riches will be taking the service on Sunday 19th July.

### Sea Sunday – Take Two

The Revd Tim Turnley from the Mission to Seafarers will now be joining us on Sunday 13th September to mark Sea Sunday and the work of the Mission to Seafarers.

### Day Pilgrimage to Whithorn

There will be a day pilgrimage, along with other churches in the diocese, to Whithorn on Saturday 12th September. The pilgrimage will include a walk to the St Ninian's Cave where we will have a Eucharist, it is hoped that +Gregor might be able to join us and celebrate that, and there will also be an opportunity to visit the Priory and Museum and St Ninian's Chapel. More details will be forthcoming shortly once the timetable has been firmed up and costs are known.

## STARTER PACKS GLASGOW

Starter Packs was started in March 2000 by a man named Hugh Kelly as a small church based, Christian charity and soon escalated to the large, multi faith, charity it is today. Based in Govan it receives referrals various agencies when a need is identified for people being re-housed. A pack suitable to the individual or family is then created for them and delivered to the new home at a convenient time.

The packs contain a variety of basic items which are need for setting up a new home, from cutlery to bedding, kettles to washing up liquid. Starter Packs have benefitted in the past as part of our Mission Giving here at All Saints and this year the Mission Giving Group and the Vestry have decided that we will hold a day when we will gather together items for them, rather as we do for Christmas gifts for the Holiday Scheme.

Sunday the 15th August has been agreed as the day for this collection. On the preceding Sundays a list of items which make up the packs will be distributed along with further information, it is hoped that someone from Starter Packs may be able to join us on the 15th to receive our donations.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION**

UNESCO have set the 23rd of August as an International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The date is significant because, during the night of August 22 to August 23, 1791 on the island of Saint Domingue (now known as Haiti), an uprising began which set forth events which were a major factor in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Slavery in different forms existed within Christianity for over 18 centuries. In 340, the Synod of Gangra condemned the Manicheans for their urging that slaves should liberate themselves; the canons of the Synod instead declared that anyone preaching abolitionism should be excommunicated, and that slaves had a Christian obligation to submit to their masters. Augustine of Hippo argued that slavery was part of the mechanism to preserve the natural order of things; while John Chrysostom argued that slaves should be resigned to their fate, as by obeying their master they are obeying God.

Despite what Jesus had said about freedom and what Paul had said about equality, for centuries slavery was not only tolerated by Christians but actively supported. Even as attempts were being made in this country to put an end to it, Christians were objecting and making the case that slavery should continue. It is therefore important that we remember, remember that we are but mere humans and still do not yet understand the full revelation of God. As we look back and remember what our ancestors did we need to search our hearts and minds and ask ourselves, what are we currently doing. Just as we look back and wonder in amazement how Christians could have promoted, with all sincerity, slavery as being of God, we must remember so history will in time look back on us.

On Sunday 23rd August we shall be exploring and celebrating 'Freedom in Christ', with particular reference to the transatlantic slave trade.

Kirstin

## **ALL SAINTS VESTRY NOTES**

The Vestry Held its June meeting on 8 June. Here are some notes on the items discussed which are not covered elsewhere in the magazine.

- The new Constitution, ratified by the Congregation at an EGM on the day before, was signed by the Rector and would now be sent for counter-signing by the Bishop.
- The defibrillator had now been sited on the wall of the Drymen Hall. A publicity event involving all the Churches and the Craig Hodgkinson Trust would be held in the near future.
- The Social Group Convenor reported that the Book Stall had already raised £140 for church funds, as well as enabling a lot of pleasure to be shared more widely. The Vestry thanked Margaret for her success in launching the initiative.
- The Vestry looked at the Insurance Risk Management Report made by our Insurers following their recent visit. A few minor items were noted. The insurers confirmed that the total sums insured were appropriate at the current time.
- In the recent Diocesan advice on Protection of Vulnerable Groups procedures it had been suggested that periodic visits be made by the PVG Coordinator to Vestry to report on progress. Lou Melia duly came to tell us about progress with implementation of the revised legislation. As well as those who were required to be formally disclosed, she would be maintaining a list of "persons of trust" who had occasional contact with members of PVGs.


Next meeting – 10 August.

Andrew Long

## **TIMING OF THE MAIN SUNDAY SERVICE**

The survey of opinion about a possible change of time for the main Sunday service which had been agreed by the Vestry at its May 11 meeting was duly held on June 7. Three options were offered, maintaining the current 11 am starting time, or moving to 10 am or 10.30 am. The votes cast were for 10am – 10, for 10.30 am – 27, and for 11 am – 25. The Vestry discussed the issues at its meeting of June 8. It decided that, in view of the overall majority for moving to an earlier time, **from Sunday September 6, 2015 the morning sung Eucharist would move to 10.30 am.** This would be for a trial period until Easter 2016. The Vestry will review the success or otherwise of the move at a meeting early in the new year and thereafter report back to the Congregation.

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP



The second summer lunch group gathering took place on 27<sup>th</sup> May with a splendid turnout. As always, it was lovely to meet and greet each other again, and, in my case, meet a new friend. The delicious fare of soup and rolls was as good as ever – and the extra highlight of Jenny’s fruit loaf was eagerly eaten (second slices being demanded by many!).

The great treat of the day was a talk about knitting by Katie Davies

which kept us enthralled. Her modest, but obvious, enthusiasm for designer knitting was infectious; but more, her inspiring story of overcoming big health challenges through knitting was an example of bravery to us all. The designs she shared with us made our fingers twitch to get our old knitting needles out again. Many ladies were lingering round Katie’s beautiful hand-knitted garments, trying them on and dreaming!

Thank you, Katie – you gave us much to inspire us.

Gillian Kingslake

*In the photograph Katie is seen modelling one of her designs “Sheepheid”.*

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP – PLANNING MEETING

The planning meeting for the coming year will take place on Wednesday 26th August at 12 15 pm in the Glenburn hall. Anyone interested in, or with ideas for, the programme for 2015-16 is very warmly invited to attend. We will be having coffee, tea and sandwiches and look forward to seeing you there

We would also like to thank the many members who have helped, in whatever capacity, in the activities of the Lunch Group this year.

Jenny, Philip, Sheena

## ALL SAINTS SOCIAL AND FUND-RAISING GROUP – TRIP TO THE COSTA DEL CLYDE

Our outing for July is on Wednesday July 29th to Largs with lunch at Nardini’s restaurant at 12 30. This was an enjoyable day last year. The menu is fish and chips with salad, coleslaw and bread and butter plus tea, followed by ice cream. There is a vegetarian option and wheelchair access . Lunch will cost £10. For people without cars we can arrange transport.

For people going on this outing please give names to Susan Gray or Margaret Dunn so that I can confirm lunch numbers with Nardini’s restaurant, and arrange transport for those who need it. Will people with cars who can offer transport please contact Susan or Margaret – their help the would be much appreciated.

A warm welcome to everyone to what will certainly be a good day .

Margaret Dunn, Social Convener

## HOUSE GROUP NEWS – THE CROQUET TOURNAMENT



Despite the convivial atmosphere of the photograph, the annual “no holds barred” House Group Croquet Tournament, mentioned in last month’s article about the Monday evening House Group, was duly held. The picture shows some participants.

## ALL SAINTS WEBSITE- REMINDER

The new website address is <http://bearsden.church.scot/> but for the next few weeks you will be also directed from the old address.

The Diocesan website is <http://church.scot/>

Janet Stack

## MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

Extracts from letters received in response to the donations recently sent out:

**The Vine Trust** – Thank you for the very kind donation of £300 that you sent in support of Vine Trust. Please be assured that these funds will advance the work of the Vine Trust and help some of the poorest and most marginalised people in the world. Vine Trust is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year .....Our first Tanzania Work party of the year is safely back in the UK having made excellent progress on the constructions of homes for two vulnerable families. From Inverness to Earlston over 100 students are eagerly making their final preparations for their trips to Tanzania or Peru. Amazon Hope 2 is currently completing its 10<sup>th</sup> trip of the year while the Jubilee Hope Medical Programme on Lake Victoria, Tanzania, has now made over 2300 consultations. Jubilee Hope is also looking forward to welcoming its first medical volunteers from the UK on board this summer!

Once again, thank you for the support and interest in Vine Trust – Heather Bingham

### **Freedom from Torture – Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture**

I am writing on behalf of the clients and staff of Freedom from Torture to say thank you for the kind gift of £500 received recently..... please pass on our thanks to everyone involved in this donation. A client recently wrote that Freedom from Torture is 'like my mother and father. For all the trouble, the bad news, the battle with the Home Office, they have always stood by me and were committed to ensuring I had food and a place to live. More importantly they were caring and supportive. Someone always listened whenever I needed them'

Thank you for your support of our work – Mandy Taylor

### **Self Help Africa**

Thank you very much for your generous gift to Self Help Africa. You're helping to make a real difference to the lives of the African farmers we work with this year – helping them to grow more food, earn a living and change their lives for the better. With your support, this year we'll be able to help more smallholder farmers and their families have a year-round supply of food and start to generate a small income. By providing the right support and training, we will be helping farmers across ten countries to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty and create a brighter future for their families.

Again, on behalf of the African families whose lives will change for the better, our warmest thanks to All Saints Church for your continued support – Steph Smith

*For more details of the work they do, please see the Together for Africa's Future pamphlet on notice board in Drymen Hall.*

### **Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme**

May I thank you on behalf of the Holiday Scheme for the £200 donation? As you know we only operate through grant funding and donations which allows us to continue to give children and families the holiday they need. Our newest caravan is up and running at Wemyss Bay and as ever we receive more holiday applications than we can meet. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Please pass on my best wishes to all at the Church – Douglas Wilson

### **Starter Packs**

Many thanks for the recent donation of £200 from All Saints Church. Your continued support is greatly appreciated in help us continue to do the work we do – Jennifer Campbell

*Please see a clarification of their work and activities on the notice board in the Drymen Hall, and also the article about a further collection for Starter Packs in this issue.*

## **THE GATHERING – ST SILAS MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2015**

A dialogue between Rob and Christine Smith first given at the 11 am Service on 7 June.

**RAS:** It's only a fortnight ago, but I'm blown if I can recall what we did on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, do you remember?

**CAS:** You and your senior moments... We were at St Silas for another Gathering.

**RAS:** You mean like when everyone gathered in St Silas when we got married all those decades ago?

**CAS:** Don't be silly, I mean **The** Gathering following on from the one in September 2013 when members from all the charges in the Diocese came together to celebrate the Bishop's Growth Strategy for Mission. We didn't get to that one, but All Saints was represented then by the Sedgwick and Simmons families.

**RAS:** Oh yes, I remember, and they brought some bread that had been made there back to All Saints to share at communion the next day. We didn't do that this time.

CAS: No, the Mission Development Team had organised the programme differently. Maybe we should tell the folks here in All Saints some of what they missed.

RAS: Good idea. Well, once we had registered, as with all good gatherings there was a chance to chat with others, those we knew and others we had not met before, over a cup of coffee.

CAS: And then we moved into the church for an opening celebration of the Eucharist which began with the Bishop gathering us round the font and explaining that it is located at the back near where one enters a church to link with our baptism when we enter into our life with Christ.

RAS: Oh yes, and Bishop Gregor took hold of his aspergil and sprinkled us with holy water to affirm our baptismal vows. He told us that on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, from which he had just returned, Shelley Marsh had taken great delight in splashing him with water from the River Jordan at a Eucharist.

CAS: Then as we sang the first hymn we moved to our seats, signifying our Christian journey, for a lively service for Pentecost which included a talk by the former Rector of St Silas, an unrobed David McCarthy. He was a bit naughty, because he said he was going to go over the 10 minutes he'd been allocated and indeed spoke for about half an hour!

RAS: But he was very interesting.

CAS: He told us how he's seen the Holy Spirit at work in congregations. He left Glasgow last year to go to St Thomas' in Edinburgh, but took the way they started services at St Silas with him. Someone attending St Silas had told him that no-one had spoken to them on their first visit, and so David had instigated a 10 minute slot at the beginning of each service for the congregation to chat with those around them.

RAS: Imagine having to speak to folks for ten whole minutes!

CAS: Well yes, but it reminded me of a book I read once about a Jewish man who came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. He really struggled with church at first, saying that in the synagogue you would never leave without having heard all the news and gossip from everyone, but in church members didn't appear to see the need to share about their lives in the same way. Anyway, I really like the idea of the church being a family, and that we should support and encourage each other in both the good and bad things of life, so I was taken with that idea.

RAS: And so were David's congregation in Edinburgh. He told us that he'd been visiting people after a bereavement, to organise the funeral service, and the

family asked if they could have a similar sharing slot at the start of the service so that friends had the chance to share their own stories of the person who'd died.

CAS: As it was Pentecost, David asked us to share something of how we'd seen the Holy Spirit at work in our own congregation. I couldn't think of anything to share at first, with a Tamil couple from Dumfries who had been most enthusiastic about what was happening in their church, but then I felt I should tell them a little about how we were about to separate from St Andrews. It made me realise that, although it has caused some tensions and uncertainty here at All Saints', it is an opportunity for us to see the Holy Spirit at work. With Kirstin now devoting all her time to us at All Saints' we are entering into a new phase in our journey.

RAS: It certainly is an opportunity for us to focus on what God wants us to do here in Bearsden, and that was sort of what David was saying when he stressed how important it was for a church to look out into its local community, and provide things that people were interested in.

CAS: His sermon really did give us a lot to think about as we moved into the rest of the service.

RAS: Then we were supposed to have lunch, but there was that glitch in the delivery of the goody bags and so we had to talk amongst ourselves for an hour and a half.

CAS: Yes, although if we had known just how long it was going to be, we could have split into our groups and had the first workshop talk before we ate. Still, at least it gave us plenty of time to catch up with what others are doing in their charges.

RAS: There were three speakers to lead the afternoon sessions, although everyone was allocated to attend just two (decided upon by picking numbers from a hat when we registered). Which did you go to first?

CAS: I went to hear Sheilagh Kesting speak on Ecumenical Opportunities for Mission. She was there straight from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, but gave us plenty to think about in the several breakout slots in her talk.

RAS: Yes I liked that aspect of her presentation when I heard her in my second session.

CAS: You'll remember she said that when thinking about Mission we should start not where we are, but where God already is, as although He is where we are, He is also in places we don't expect Him. She made the point that there is no opportunity for Mission that is not also an ecumenical opportunity and that the world out there is crying out for churches to work together, and to speak together in Christ's name.

RAS: Yes that was good. At first though I thought she was going to be all Greek to Me, but actually she was very interesting. Good to hear a non-Episcopalian slant.

CAS: Well she did use some Greek words, such as **Oikos**, meaning house, that the church should be a home for all, including marginalised people who often don't feel welcomed in churches. She talked about how we are all on a pilgrimage together, all going for different reasons and at different paces, but all travelling in the same direction towards a common goal, united by the Spirit of Pentecost which is Good news for all. Being aware of the big picture can inspire us and make us more aware of our connectedness with other Christians.

RAS: She certainly knew her stuff, and a lot for me to take in after my first session too.

CAS: So who did you hear as your first speaker?

RAS: I went along hear Richard Giles who had entitled his session "Making Room for the Party."

CAS: Weren't you in the STUC building next door to St Silas for that session? So which party was he referring to exactly?

RAS: He focussed on making the spaces we use, and the different approaches we adopt, ready for worship. He began though by saying that the early church wasn't bogged down with buildings, nor the strain of having to finance and maintain them.

CAS: So they didn't need a property convenor then!

RAS: Precisely, though he went on to say that we should respect what we have in our buildings but be open to looking at ways they can be re-ordered to meet the needs of the present and future generations. He had a number of slides of churches in both the UK, and further afield, that had re-organised their pews, altar table etc inside, and also changed their external grounds making them more amenable to worship. He was particularly impressed with the St Silas seating and layout, and also the new buildings for which they have raised significant funds to make their church more user-friendly.

CAS: It certainly looks very different from when I walked down the aisle at our wedding, and the arrangement of their nice pale green chairs must make it a more welcoming space in which to worship.

RAS: That was his point exactly. But it wasn't just the space one concentrates on when you give a party – he said the choice of music, making sure there is something for all your guests, was important. He also felt one should aim to get folks to participate fully in the party atmosphere.

CAS: You mean like we have readers, intercessors, Eucharistic Assistants, members of the choir.

RAS: Yes, not all charges in the Diocese have as much participation as we do. We don't have everything however– what about dancing for instance?

CAS: Now there's something to think about... Mary Darke did organise some dancers once for a family service.....

RAS: And he also touched upon how one dresses for a party, linking this to whether one has a robed choir, or even whether the clergy should always be robed, like David McCarthy in casual clothes. Still food for thought. What about your second session?

CAS: I heard Olive Drane speak on "Excavating, recycling and reinventing"

RAS: That sounds fun.

CAS: It was and included some of the ways in which the church can experience treasures both old and new for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For instance open-air Easter baptisms as in the early church, now conducted by both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York at adult baptisms outside their cathedrals, making it much easier to invite non-Christian friends and family to over a holiday weekend....

RAS: That might be a bit bracing here in Scotland some Easters.

CAS: I'll ignore that. She then talked a lot about Fresh Expressions of church, about being a mission-shaped church. Rowan Williams, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury has described FE as being the lifeblood of who we are as Christians. We should not have a mission for God in the world. Rather, the God of Mission has us in the world. Each one of us has a vital role in God's world; we are invited to participate through God's generous love. It's just about loving God and living in God's love for those around us. For those wanting to know more she recommended several books about how to do Mission in their churches, and about Fresh Expressions, an exciting approach to engage with those for whom traditional church life is an alien concept.

RAS: Always good to know that you can supply the titles of some helpful books to follow up on some of these themes.

CAS: So all in all what did we get out of The Gathering.

RAS: A candle to bring back to All Saints.

CAS: Well yes, at the closing act of worship the Bishop had a member from each charge present light a candle from the Cathedral's Paschal Candle, to take the light of Mission back to our own congregations the next day. But what else?

RAS: Well I guess we learnt a lot, met with many from across the Diocese and were able to appreciate that the Growth Strategy for Mission is alive and well in Glasgow and Galloway.

CAS: It was worth going then...



## GENERAL SYNOD REPORT

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church met on 11th - 13th June at St Paul and St George, in Edinburgh.

The Synod always begins with a Eucharist during which the Primus gives his charge.

Much of the Synod was taken up with the issue of same-sex marriage. The Faith and Order Board had produced a Process for Discussing Marriage and after a lengthy debate and a variety of opinions being expressed an amended motion was agreed on the process, along with a motion that all motions regarding the issue should take place by ballot.

Despite much debate already having taken place, at this stage all we had done was agree how to discuss the issue later in Synod, for now we turned to the Committee on Canons. The only item of business was to make changes to Canon 52, 57, 60 and 63, lowering the age to 16 for membership of Synods, vestries and the office of Lay Representative. These changes are now passed to Diocesan Synods for consultation.

We then returned to the matter of marriage and in particular a paper that the Doctrine Committee had produced. The paper can be downloaded at <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Doctrine-Committee-Theology-of-Marriage.pdf>. The Rev Dr Harriet Harris, Convener of the Doctrine Committee, introduced the Paper and a wide ranging discussion took place. The paper is well worth reading especially in regard to the fact that in the Scottish Episcopal Church Doctrine is not expressed through our Canons but rather through our Liturgies. The document runs to 37 pages and should you wish a copy and do not have access to a computer to read it online please ask Kirstin who will get a copy for you. After much discussion on the whole breadth of the subject, Synod voted to accept the paper and thanked the board for their work in producing it. (This paper will form the backbone for congregational discussion on the subject in the Autumn.)

The Doctrine Committee also launched its 11th Grosvenor Essay "Towards an Integration of Science and Theology"? Copies of it are available from the General Synod Office.

The Information and Communication Board, then updated Synod on the work of the board, including the rolling out of the new template for congregational website, which our website now runs. Then we received greetings from The Rt Rev Dr Stephen Robson, Roman Catholic Bishop of Dunkeld, who congratulated Synod on the openness and efficiency of our canonical processes especially in

regard to the ongoing discussion on sexuality, which the Roman Catholic Church are also discussing.

As we moved towards Evening Prayer the Inter-Church Relations Committee presented a motion to approve a response to the World Council of Churches document: 'Towards a Common Vision'. Such a document was not easy to produce and it to read it is heavy going, however the Synod wholeheartedly agreed that these discussions were important and supported the response of the committee.

It is worth noting at this point that the worship is part of Synod. It was good to see the full breadth of what happens within the Scottish Episcopal Church expressed in and through it, even though some of it would not have been my preference, I found it both stimulating and uplifting.

After Morning Prayer, Synod continued on Day two with the Committee for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults when the Synod adopted the Safe Church Charter from the Anglican Consultative Council and also made a change to the Digest of Resolution to include vulnerable adults as well as children and young adults in the section which deals with the Committee and its remit.

We then moved on to approve the inclusion of the Service of the Word Liturgy from its experimental use into the Schedule of approved services of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Most liturgies of the Scottish Episcopal Church begin in experimental form under permission of the College of Bishops, not all make it on to the Schedule and most are developed during the experimental period, this marks the end of long journey for this particular liturgy which began back in the early years of this century.

Following this the College of Bishops told us of some of the links that they are involved in throughout the world, both at provincial and diocesan level. The Scottish Episcopal Church is held in high regard throughout the Anglican Communion and all the bishops that spoke mentioned the warm welcome they always received when visiting other Churches throughout the world.

For some time now the SEC has been moving towards what is known as the 'Whole Church Mission and Ministry Policy'. This Synod saw the final changes to the Canons and Digest of Resolutions to reflect this new ethos. The Mission and Ministry Board is no more and instead there are two separate boards, the Mission Board and the Board of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (to be known as the Institute Council), although it would appear that, rather than it simply being known as the latter, both names will be used.

Following some moving presentations the Synod was then urged to encourage members to join in an ecumenical imitative promoted by Christian Aid to pray for Israel and Palestine. The motion that was proposed to that effect was



unanimously accepted and indeed here in All Saints we will be joining in that initiative, more details will be available in the September magazine.

The Church in Society Committee then urged congregations to take Eco matters seriously in all their decision making and to pay the Living Wage, not only to those they employ but also to take it into consideration when engaging others to do work on our behalf. For example not employing a cleaning contractor who does not pay its cleaners the Living Wage. Both motions comfortably passed as did the motion to welcome the establishment of the Churches Mutual Credit Union, despite concern being raised that it is currently not available to those in our Church who might most need it.

A long Friday morning drew to an end with the discussion as to whether we would begin the afternoon by debating changes to Canon 31 of the Solemnisation of Holy Matrimony. With a separate motion on whether we would also have a vote on which of the various options was the General Synod's preference.

While it may seem as if we were going round the houses rather than discussing the issue, the contrary was true; it became apparent during all these debates that taking this step by step approach had been very helpful to many members of Synod. The mind of Synod was most definitely that this issue was not one to be rushed, but to be done in an atmosphere of respect, courtesy and in the presence of God. Both the motion to discuss changes to the Canon and to vote on what those changes might be were passed, with the final discussion to take place after lunch.

During that debate there were moving contributions from all view points, several people spoke of their own personal journeys, journeys which much to their surprise had continued since their arrival at Synod. Our own bishop, Bishop Gregor, had previously said what many others were now echoing. He said he had: "tried very, very hard to come into agreement that we should solemnise same-sex marriages", but that he was not yet at that point himself. He went on to say: "I can live with whatever the Church decides to do and know that my particular conscience is protected. On this journey, this is where I am. This is a journey we all have to take."

As we moved towards a vote we were reminded that our options after the previous amendments were:

1. Remove section 1 of Canon 31 in its entirety, so the Canon was silent on the Doctrine of marriage.
2. Retain the Doctrinal statement whilst making it non-gender specific.

3. Add to section 1 of Canon 31 that the Scottish Episcopal Church would have two expressions of marriage, one between two people of the same gender and one between two people irrespective of gender.

It had also been previously agreed by Synod that the voting should be done using a single transferable vote, this motion was voted on as a whole synod (not in houses) and required a simple majority. The vote was cast and we went for a welcome cup of coffee as the count was done.

On our return we didn't hear the result immediately, Synod resumed with a report from the Pension Fund Trustees. They were able to report that the Fund is now sound and a small reduction in congregational contributions would be possible. The Synod happily agreed to the motion along with a further motion to make an administration charge to those who choose to not be part of the scheme but still benefit from aspects of it.

The result of the 127 votes cast with regard to Canon 31 was now announced: 88 in favour of the first option, 8 in favour of the second option, 25 in favour of the third option with 6 abstentions.

While there is already no compulsion on any cleric to solemnise any marriage, the Synod also agreed to enshrine within the Canon, a conscience clause to make it clear that no cleric would be obliged to solemnise a marriage against their conscience. 112 in favour with 5 against and 1 abstention.

The Synod then went on pass motion 23 which instructs for preparation of the appropriate canonical material for first reading at General Synod 2016.

What all this means is that General Synod has started a process to allow for same-sex marriages to take place in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The vote at Synod does not mean that this can now happen, nor does it necessarily mean it will happen, however it makes it more likely than it was prior to the vote on 12th June.

The Synod then went on to vote against motion 24, which would have permitted Civil Partnerships to take place in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Evening Prayer was a gentle form from the Wee Worship Booklet and everyone disbursed to have a lie down before the Synod Dinner, where our speaker, Charles MacLean Master of the Quaich, told us of the history of monastery and church in making 'the water of life', whisky.

You might have thought that after such a lot of debate the final morning would be a quiet affair, it usually is, but not this year. Once the strains of Morning Prayer had died away we began with two rule 10 motions. These are Motions which are brought by members of Synod rather than by Boards; before these motions can be discussed, 2/3 of Synod have to agree to allow them to even be considered.

The first motion, was to express concern over the proposal of the UK Government to repeal the Human Rights Act 1998. Synod was happy to entertain and indeed after debate supported this motion.

The second motion, was to welcome the Vatican's recognition of the State of Palestine and to encourage all people of good will and of all faiths to pray for reconciliation in the Holy Land and in the wider Middle East. This rule 10 motion likewise found favour with Synod.

A further two rule 10 motions were to be taken later, but for now the Investment Committee, Buildings Committee and Personal Committee presented their reports including the good news that, the Buildings Committee are now in a position to offer limited grants for building works after the moratorium that has been in place over the past years. These were followed by an entertaining presentation by the Scottish Episcopal Institute Council, when Bishop Kevin interviewed one of the students.

There has been much thought into how to best provide support from central funds to congregations and dioceses who need them. A new formula was presented to Synod by the Standing Committee. The proposal of Block Grants was heavily debated but narrowly passed.

Much to Synods relief one of the rule 10 motions had been withdrawn but one still remained and now it was presented to Synod, however it did not receive the required  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to be discussed so we moved on.

The final session was the presentation of the budget when a small increase in Provincial quota was agreed, a Code of Conduct for Board/Committee members was introduced. Then with the results of the elections announced the Primus closed the meeting by Confirming the Acts of Synod and leading us in our final act of worship.

## STEWARDSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

As has been our recent practice, in September we will be holding a Stewardship Campaign. However, whereas in the last two years we have concentrated on stewardship of financial resources, this year we will be looking at stewardship of talents. What we are looking for is new volunteers from among the congregation to share the various tasks which have to be performed to keep the Church running. As well as the major administrative jobs (see the following article), we shall be looking for new blood for the groups which carry out routine tasks, arranging flowers for example or cleaning brasses or making coffee on a Sunday morning. We shall be thinking too about our stewardship role within the community, how we can help to give positive shape to our

Christian faith in what we do more widely. Finally we will be looking for ideas, what you think that the witness of our Church currently lacks or what good ideas have you seen elsewhere which might be directly transferrable to All Saints.

Full details in the September Magazine and thereafter in the pew sheets. For organisers/convenors of Church groups, I or one of my colleagues will be contacting you at the beginning of August to keep you abreast of what is being proposed.

Andrew Long

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Currently All Saints is looking for members to take over each of the major administrative jobs in our community. You will have read Celia Fisher's article about the vacancy for a **Hall Convenor** (or Convenors) in the last magazine, which we reprint below. In addition we are looking for a Vestry Secretary to replace Chrtistine Smith and an **Honorary Treasurer** in place of Susan Gray. Both of the latter positions are Vestry appointments. Susan has said that she would brief anyone interested in the scope of the Treasurer's duties. Anyone who thinks they might be willing to serve as Secretary should contact a Vestry member to see what the position entails.

The Church would be unable to function without holders of these three positions – would you be able to help out?

## HALL CONVENER : CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER

At the AGM in 2014 John and Eric said they would remain for one more year as hall conveners, so the time for finding a replacement is fast approaching.

The work they have done in raising income for the All Saints via hall lets is fantastic and we are very grateful. The Vestry is hoping that church members will prayerfully consider stepping into their shoes. The position could be taken on jointly or by an individual, and includes the following main duties and responsibilities:

- liaise with Hall users
- take new bookings
- take weekend party bookings/issue keys for these
- record payments
- bank the payments (payments made at different times)

Please do consider carefully whether this is a role you would be able to fulfill, and if you would like further clarification please speak to Celia or Louise.

Celia Fisher

## THE CAKE WALK 2015

“On Saturday it was the Cakewalk. About sixteen people did the walk. In the middle of the walk we saw a little hedgehog, only the noise of John Harrington’s camera being taken out of its pocket scared it off. That was a shame. It seemed to be more than eight and a half miles to get to the end. Thank you to Mrs Harrington and everyone who made the cakes.”

*From our Sunday School Correspondent, Samantha Bryson (aged 8)*



*The walk in progress*



*The hedgehog departing*

Samantha is right: it was more than eight and a half miles; it was exactly 8.54 miles, as measured by Keith Waugh’s clever gadget. As we gathered by the Harrington’s door to remove our walking boots at the end, more than one person echoed Samantha’s heartfelt remark: “I’ve never been so glad to see my socks!”

We left at eleven and arrived a few minutes after three. Three hours and seven minutes of that was spent walking, which meant we were averaging almost two and three-quarter miles per hour. Fifteen people started the walk. Little Lauren and her mother joined us for the second half, making seventeen, and another four people came just for the tea (and bought their indulgence for the sin of sloth ☺ ) for a total of twenty-one.

This walk was more hilly than usual: we were 147 feet above sea level at our lowest and 439 feet above sea level at our highest, and Keith’s gadget said the cumulative up and down meant we ascended 1,387 feet in total. Despite this, we had a lot of fun (the views were spectacular) and raised over £200.

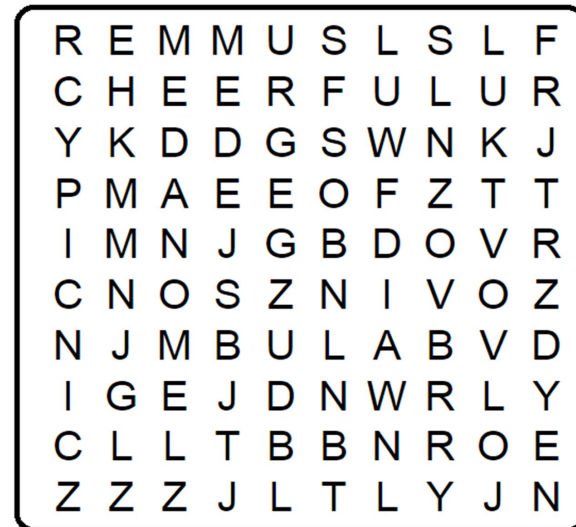
Niall Ross

## CHILDREN’S CORNER

Summer is here and School is out! We hope you all have a great holiday and enjoy all the good things that God gives us at this time of year. To help keep you busy why not have a go at our summer puzzles and activities. In the first “summer” puzzle, the words in the bottom box are hidden in the centre square. Can you find them?

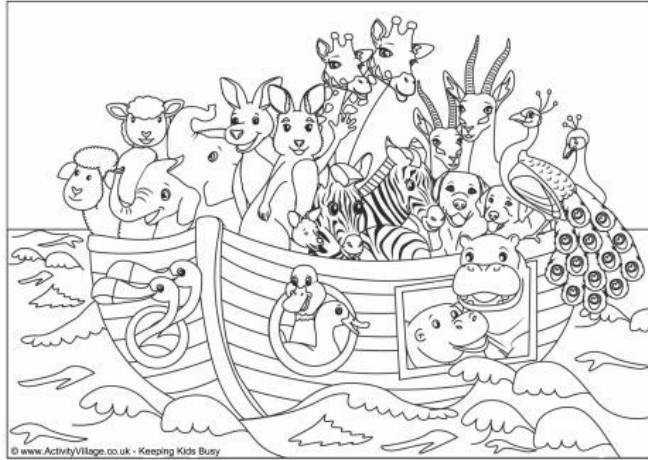
Summer

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.....

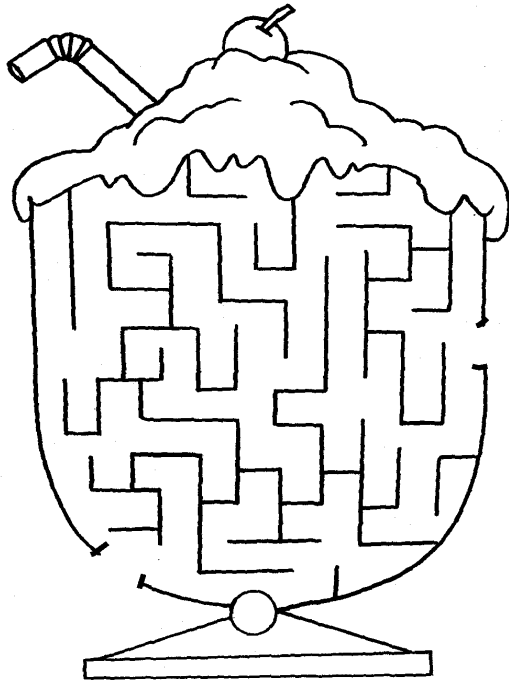


We’re saying goodbye to our Noah’s ark mural this summer. Why not colour in the ark picture on the next page to keep as a reminder. Don’t forget to come along on Sundays during the holidays to help with our new mural based on the

story of Joseph and his brothers. Bring any friends or relatives who may enjoy helping too – ALL ARE WELCOME.



Can you find your way through the ice cream sundae?



Show any of your completed puzzles or pictures to one of the Sunday School leaders and you might just get a prize.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GIFT DAY

The close of the Sunday School Year, the Gift Day, was held on 21 June. A happy occasion which drew a large congregation to the All-Age Worship Service.



## CONGRATULATIONS

At the same All-Age Worship service, we had the opportunity of congratulating Ann Wheatley, who had been awarded a BEM "for Voluntary Service In Glasgow" and Graham Caie who had been created CBE in the same Birthday Honours List "for Services to Education and Research in Britain and Europe and to Native Languages".

## CLEAR OUT AND TIDY-UP IN THE HALLS

We are planning to hold a Tidy-Up afternoon on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> from 2pm. There are a few items behind the Hall needing put in a skip, as well as some bits behind the ladders in the Storeroom. We're going to take everything out from the Storeroom, wash down the tables, and give the empty Storeroom a good clean. If you are wanting to keep anything currently stored behind the ladders in that room, please let us know. And if you can help (an alternative to a good work-out at the gym!) please let one of us know. A few strong men or women would get the job done. Maybe some school/University students might be free to help that day?

Louise Benson and Christine Smith.

## THE COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR IS NOW IN PLACE

You may have noticed that there is a new addition to the front wall of the Drymen Hall and wondered what it was. Well it is a community defibrillator,

which has been funded through an initiative of the Craig Hodgkinson Trust together with the five local churches in the vicinity of Bearsden Cross (All Saints, Bearsden Baptist Church, Bearsden Cross Church, New Kilpatrick and St Andrews Roman Catholic Church.) Hopefully it will never actually be needed to be used, but like taking out insurance it is there in the event of an emergency and it may just make the difference between life and death.

Last December, about twenty representatives of all the churches (including All Saints) underwent a training session with the Scottish Ambulance Service Community Defibrillator Officer on what to do if an incident occurs, but actually should a member of the public have to call 999 in the event of a suspected cardiac arrest, they will be led through how to respond and the defibrillator is semi-automatic with voice prompt to guide the operator how to use the device. The British Heart Foundation have produced a helpful DVD on current resuscitation guidelines and a copy of this has been purchased by the church for those who wish to brush up on these (see the Rector for details.)

But the device sited outside the Drymen Hall is not the only defibrillator in the area. Bearsden Cross Church were so inspired by the idea of the jointly funded one, that they have approached the Craig Hodgkinson Trust and have purchased a second defibrillator which will soon be located outside their church on Drymen Road – good news for the businesses near the train station.

Over the summer we intend having a joint “publicity event”, and will also contact the local shops and businesses, to maximise awareness of the two defibrillators in the area and acknowledge our gratitude to the Craig Hodgkinson Trust for their support.

Rob Smith

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**This community defibrillator  
as been funded by  
The Craig Hodgkinson Trust  
and the five churches in the  
vicinity of Bearsden Cross**  
• •

*All Saints July Service Rota*

Date	Sidesmen 11 a.m.	Eucharistic Assistants	Readings	Reader	Intercessor	Coffee Name in <b>bold</b> to bring milk
<b>5th July Pentecost 6</b>	Pauline Waugh Mary Stott	LHS: John RHS: Catriona	Ezekiel 2:1-5 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13	Jonathan Sedgwick	Andrew Long	<b>Elaine Perret</b> Kauro Stewart
<b>12th July Pentecost 7</b>	Mairi Ross David Hamblen	LHS: Mike RHS: Rob or Christine	Amos 7:7-15 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	David Wheatley	David Simmons	<b>Barbara Thompson</b> Gillian Kingslake Sheena MacDonald
<b>19th July Pentecost 8</b>	Janet Stack David Wheatley	LHS: Hanan RHS: Susan	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Ephesians 2:11-12 Mark 6:30-34,53-56	Susan Gray	Rob Smith	<b>Jane Lewis</b> Ann Wheatley Sheila Gray
<b>26th July St James</b>	John Brooker Andrew Long	LHS: Louise RHS: Andrew	Jeremiah 45:1-5 Acts 11:27 -12:3 Matthew 20:20-28	Andrew Roach	Sheena MacDonald	<b>May Campbell</b> Margaret Dunn Margery Pollock



## All Saints August Service Rota

Date	Sidesmen 11 a.m.	Eucharistic Assistants	Readings	Reader	Intercessor	Coffee Name in <b>bold</b> to bring milk
<b>2nd August Pentecost 10</b>	Anne Shirlaw Iain Stewart	LHS: Graham RHS: Penny	Exodus 16:2-4,9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	John Sherwood	Jonathan Sedgwick	<b>Kate Ross</b> Janet Stack Joyce James
<b>9th August Pentecost 11</b>	Richard Kingslake Kate Ross	LHS: John RHS: Richard	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35,41-51	Rob Smith	Christine Smith	<b>Fiona Hempel</b> Alex Stirling Pauline Waugh
<b>16th August Starter Packs</b>	Joyce James Graham Bryson	LHS: Mike RHS: Celia	Philippians 4:8-14 Matthew 25:34b-40	TBA	TBA	<b>Kauro Stewart</b> Elaine Perret
<b>23rd August Freedom in Christ</b>	Ashraf Ayoub John Harrington	LHS: Hanan RHS: Catriona	Ecclesiasticus 7:16-21 1 Peter 2:11-21 Luke 4:14-21	Eric Horton	Alex Stirling	<b>Sheena MacDonald</b> Barbara Thompson Gillian Kingslake
<b>30th August Pentecost 14</b>	Philip Thompson Simon Lewis	LHS: Louise RHS: Rob or Christine	Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	TBA	TBA	<b>Sheila Gray</b> Jane Lewis Ann Wheatley

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## July/August Services

Wednesday 3rd	11.30am Said Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
<b>5th July Pentecost 6 (Green)</b>	8am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy	
	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am Said Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
<b>12th July Pentecost 7 (Green)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	No service	
<b>19th July Pentecost 8 (Green)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
	Rev'd John Riches celebrating and preaching		
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No service		
<b>26th July St James (Red)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	Liturgy for St James	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am Said Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
<b>August</b>			
<b>2nd August Pentecost 10 (Green)</b>	8am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy	
	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9am Morning Prayer	11.30am Said Eucharist	7.30pm Said Eucharist
<b>9th August Pentecost 11 (Green)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
	Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am Morning Prayer	11.30am Said Eucharist
<b>16th August Pentecost 12 (Green)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	All Age Worship With collection for Starter Packs (please see article inside for details)	
	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am Morning Prayer	11.30am Said Eucharist
<b>23rd August Freedom in Christ</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	
	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9am Morning Prayer	11.30am Said Eucharist
<b>30th August Pentecost 14 (Green)</b>	11am Sung Eucharist	All Age Worship	
	<b>September</b>		
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9am Morning Prayer	11.30am Said Eucharist	7.30pm Said Eucharist
<b>Please note change of Sunday service times from September</b>			
<b>6th September Pentecost 15 (Green)</b>	9am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy	
	10.30am Sung Eucharist	1982 Liturgy	