

May 2017 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road, Bearsden



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The cover painting of the Ascension is by an unknown artist from the Cameroon

£1

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Easter, like Christmas, isn't just a day it is a season. In the case of Easter it lasts for 50 days up until Pentecost, when we welcome the arrival of the Holy Spirit. For 50 days we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, on Sundays we hear of the story of the early Church and of the many resurrection appearances. From the garden to the dusty Emmaus Road, from the Upper Room to the beach, Jesus appeared in various places and not necessarily the ones one might have expected. That of course is the Good News, as our Easter Eucharistic Prayer states now: God is with us in every place forever. We can't say that God is only in this place or that place, that God is only with this person or that person. We certainly can't say God isn't right beside and with a person whom we might think is far from God. God is in every place forever. With the events that are currently going on in the world, that knowledge can be a great comfort. For even if bad things happen, we can trust that God is there pouring out love and peace. It is our task to make God's presence known, by word and deed. The monies from our Lent boxes this year are going directly to help four refugee families who are coming to East Dunbartonshire – families who have experienced great trauma and are looking for a place of safety, a place where they can make a home, and by word and deed we can show them that God lives and God loves them; that the new life they are beginning is one of many new beginnings that God blesses. So, if you haven't already done so, please return your Lent boxes as soon as possible so that we can through word and deed, welcome them; for they, like we, are precious in God's sight.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – Ephesians 2:10

Blessings, Kirstin

Update on Bishop Gregor

Bishop Gregor has began a phased return to his duties, currently it is for two short sessions a week, please continue to hold him in your prayers as he starts this next phase of his recovery.

Evensong

On, Sunday 14th May at 6:30 p.m. there will be Evensong at which Rev. Roddy Hamilton will be our preacher.

A Passiontide Sequence – Readings and Music for Passiontide

On the evening of Palm Sunday, a Joint Service for New Kilpatrick and All Saints was held in our church. The combined choirs of All Saints and New Kilpatrick, bolstered by our old friends from St James's Paisley, were directed by Peter Christie, and the organ was played by Chris Nicholl. The service took the form of readings and prayers covering the events of Holy Week, starting with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and finishing with the Glory of the Cross, illuminated by Choir Motets and congregational hymns. Each reading was introduced and followed by a Lent Prose refrain sung initially by the choir and then by the whole congregation. Those of us present, about fifty strong, were led by this format to ponder again the events of Holy Week, the fallibilities of the disciples, the prevarication of Pilate, the cruelty of the occupying Roman troops, the suffering and death of Christ and why we believe it has ultimate meaning. This was beautiful, rewarding and thought provoking worship.

Andrew Long

ABC Holy Week Services



In a way Holy Week started early this year, with a wonderful musical Reflection on the passion and death of our Lord by the Motherwell Choir at St Andrew's RC Church on Thursday April 6th. In Holy Week itself the services were at Bearsden Cross from Tuesday to Friday, the Monday service being held at St Andrew's RC Church, as it is every year.

We attended both on Maundy Thursday, with the Communion Service led by the host church, Bearsden Cross, and Good Friday led by Bearsden Baptist, both services well attended by members of the different Bearsden churches, although not many from All Saints went along this year. It's good to join with other Christians in Holy Week, and of course we at All Saints' had the opportunity at 2pm each afternoon when Kirstin and Roddy provided a space to explore our own Holy Week journey (see Louise's article on the next page).

This year's offerings totalled £1065.85 over the 5 days, and were sent to the DEC East Africa Crisis Appeal.

Christine Smith

Easter Sunday Service

What a wonderful Easter Day Eucharist we enjoyed at All Saints, sharing it with a number of former Church members who returned for the weekend. We were a veritable international crowd with people from all around the world. There were the Bleasdales (contemporaries of Louise Benson and Anne Shirlaw from youth fellowship days) and their friends from London, Portsmouth and Australia, as well as Deliwe Kambwanji (who used to be in the E group 7 years ago) and her son Matthew from Zimbabwe. The church was vibrant; alive with scent, colour, and joyful anticipation. The Bryson children were certainly ahead of the game in terms of anticipation (of the chocolate egg variety)!

Kirstin led a slightly differently ordered service so that by the first hymn, which followed the Lighting of the Paschal Candle, a Renewal of our Baptismal vows, and the Easter Gospel, the large congregation was positively raring to sing and produced a worthy sound. While Kirstin quizzed Gavin Bryson on who had arrived when at the tomb, which he answered admirably and was well rewarded with a fistful of chocolate eggs, I had a chance to have a really good look at the superb flowers, nests and chicks hatching out of painted egg shells that adorned many pillars and posts. The flower ladies had surpassed themselves with their creativity, the church looked wonderful. After Kirstin had said the final blessing, the children swarmed searching for those hidden chocolate eggs.

Thank you to everyone who made Easter Day such a special one at All Saints. I'm usually at an alternative venue on Easter Sunday, but I was so grateful to be able to share this Easter with everyone at All Saints.

Celia Fisher

Holy Week Open Space



It is hard to describe the Holy Week Open Space services if you were not there - the church was completely opened up, all pews removed and a circle for contemplation and exploration was created. The services were challenging, thought provoking and innovative, and allowed the individual the time and space to explore the events of Holy Week in a new and very personal

way. Kirstin and Roddy had put so much thought and preparation into each day and our grateful thanks to them for these special days.

Louise Benson

Monday Evening House Group

Autumn session – Studies in Science and Religion

From November to December last year, a few of us from All Saints attended a series of six talks at Killermont Church, entitled, Exploring the God Question - Science, God and the Search for Truth.

This then formed the basis for four house-group meetings, the first one addressing the topic of Science and Religion generally, and the remaining three revisiting the three areas of enquiry tackled by the Killermont sessions. They are three areas that present particular challenges to the Christian faith. The point of the exercise was for us to be able to argue the case for our faith from an informed standpoint when those who are non-believers challenge us with scientific arguments.

We started off with a visit from Prof. Brian Stewart, Iain's brother, who gave us a very personal introduction to the topic as a charismatic Christian and a research scientist.

For the next session, we invited a member of the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, Dr Michael Fuller, who had delivered a lecture entitled Science and Religion: "Where Now?" at St Aidan's Scottish Episcopal Church, Clarkston. It was upon this lecture that Dr Fuller based his introduction to the topic. Unfortunately, he'd had to catch a train back to Edinburgh at a relatively early hour, so there wasn't the time that evening to 'cross-examine' him on certain aspects of the subject as we'd hoped.

Nothing daunted, however, we sought to capitalise on the insights gained from the meetings at Killermont Church, and our in-house physicist, Andrew, bravely took on the task of leading the remaining three sessions, bringing his own scientific knowledge and Christian insights to bear on the topics, and furnishing us with points for discussion from notes he'd made during the Killermont sessions. It was, in a sense, 'home territory' for Andrew in the first of the subjects for discussion, The Cosmos. For the second topic, however, Life and Evolution, he felt obliged to issue a disclaimer indicating that his knowledge in this particular specialism was limited. Nevertheless, we were able to call upon the various medical practitioners in our group for clarification in some aspects of biology! In the final session Andrew was able to call upon the resources of Dr Julia Clark, a neuropsychologist, and between them, we were conducted through the labyrinth that was Mind and Consciousness.

The dialogue between Science and Religion is a fascinating—if challenging—subject to explore, but it was encouraging to learn above all, that there are practitioners at the leading edge of scientific research who are able to articulate

the insights they've gained from their work, not only to defend their Christian faith, but also to make a positive case for religion generally.

Our thanks are due to Andrew for his skill in helping us to make sense of what is undoubtedly a complicated aspect of our faith and, as always, we are very grateful to Bryan and Janet for hosting the house-group meetings. Thanks are due, also, to all those who attend regularly to enhance their understanding of their faith and share with others their own personal insights.

Michael Graham

Lent Session – Paul's letters

For Lent the Monday House Group decided to have a look at the letters of St Paul using the book *Meeting Christ in Paul* by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury.

The book is divided into three main sections and we spread them over the four weeks with Janet, Andrew and Mike leading a section each. In the first week we looked at Williams' account of Paul's own background as a citizen of the Roman Empire in the first century AD and also that of the others who were slaves and migrants. He goes on to explore Paul's identity as a Jew, and his life, appearance and personality.

In the second section Williams talks of breaking down social barriers to create a new kind of freedom and a different kind of community in which all were not only welcome, but equal as believers – which would be very shocking in the Roman world to people who accepted slavery without question. This section created so much discussion that it had to be continued for an additional meeting.

The third section certainly was the most challenging of the three. Williams explores the image of God in Jesus and then in us, and the challenge of living in the new creation. The discussion of this section could have gone on forever and we talked until very late at our last meeting.

In his book Williams explores the historical, theological and philosophical issues which are raised in the letters. It sounds weighty, but it is written so simply with frequent anecdotes and such wit that it sometimes seems to belie the deep scholarship behind it. To be honest, most of us have difficulty in working out the questions which the letters pose, let alone the answers, but this little book does both.

Our four meetings with kind hospitality at the home of Janet and Bryan were just delightful. I suspect most of us didn't find all the answers, but certainly got as far as the questions. It had certainly seemed a good idea at the time, but we possibly didn't realise just how good it would be.

Brenda Hadcroft

All Saints Church Wednesday Lunch Group

Wednesday Lunch Group - Foodbank Collection

Thank you very much indeed to all who donated food items to East Dunbartonshire Foodbank. The total weight donated was 56 Kg, which is a magnificent weight and greatly appreciated.

Louise Benson

Meeting on Wednesday 3rd May at 12 noon



Entertainment by Penny and Geoff Haydock



Summer Outing to Ross Priory



The Wednesday lunch group will be having their summer lunch outing to Ross Priory. This will take place on **Wednesday 28th June** at 12:00 for 12:30 and costs £18, payable in advance.

If you would like to join us, please contact Sheena on 01505331576. You would be made most welcome. Time for booking in is limited.

The lunch group team.

How I wish to Say Goodbye

Several people were unable to attend the last session of *“Planning your own Funeral”* which was held, and so another opportunity will be held in June. If you would like to come along, can you please let the Rector know so we can arrange a time which will suit those who would like to attend. While it may seem a morbid thing to do, it is in effect one of the most loving things you can do for those you will leave behind – giving your family, or whoever else might be left to organise your funeral, an idea as to how you would like to say Goodbye.

Music Notes



Firstly, many thanks to the members of choirs from All Saints, New Kilpatrick and St James’s Paisley for the wonderful singing at the deeply moving Passiontide service on the evening of Palm Sunday. Those who were there will doubtless count themselves fortunate to have been a part of the service.

Just to remind you that we have another big

Choral Evensong planned for 14th May at 6:30pm, once again with an augmented choir and outstanding music.

Last month I was looking at the role of hymns in our services, specifically the Eucharist. This month, what’s choir music about? As I said a couple of issues back, the plainsong Introit sung at the start of the service has ancient roots, and usually consists of a verse from a psalm (either from the lectionary, or appropriate to the season or festival) to set the tone, and draw minds to the theme of the day.

For most of the rest of the service, the choir’s main function is to lead and support the singing of the congregation in the hymns and in the sung ‘ordinary’ of the mass (the Gloria, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei etc). The aim is to encourage people to engage fully with the words and music, without feeling that they have to sing quietly in case others hear them! A choir singing lustily also gives the impression of a bigger ‘cloud of witnesses’ in the room, which of itself aids the raising of mind and soul to higher things.

The anthem sung by the choir is more problematic for many. The anthem is frequently considered to be ‘entertainment’, a performance given for the benefit of the congregation. This impression is encouraged by having choirs sitting in serried ranks facing the congregation, centre stage on a raised

platform, as one often sees in Presbyterian churches (especially in the USA). It is far from unknown for choirs to get a round of applause after singing the anthem! The truth, and the oft-forgotten aim, is that the anthem is the choir’s own particular act of worship, and is directed upwards (metaphorically) towards the Divine rather than outwards to the ‘audience’. The congregation is not a passive observer, though – the aim is also to raise the thoughts, emotions and feelings heavenwards in, as it were, the updraught of the musical fire lit by the choir singers. This is reinforced in some churches – including All Saints – by having the choir facing each other across the chancel, rather than outwards towards the congregation, or by having the choir sing from the back of the church largely unseen.

The anthem is meant to be listened to in a state of quiet contemplation, so that the music encourages creativity and transcendence in the mind of the listener. I can probably best explain this in terms of the ‘chain of creativity’ – the anthem depends on the spark of genius and inspiration within the composer, who then has to write the music down; the publisher has to make the music available, accurate and useable; the singers have to learn their own parts and bring their own intellect and emotions to bear; the conductor contributes his or her interpretation and contextual knowledge to engage the singers in a common vision and to extract the best from the choir in a unified and harmonious way; and choir and conductor give of their best in creating a work of worship in the moment during the service. All of these creative processes are necessary links in the chain which transmits the composer’s creative vision into a true, creative act of worship; but the final link in this chain is the creative process that happens in the souls and minds of the congregation in response to being a witness to this observed act of worship – with it, the soul of the listener is drawn in the updraught heavenwards - up the celestial chimney, so to speak. However, without that final link the music becomes entertainment, wallpaper, or something to cover the noise of footsteps. So much to be gained, so much to be lost! As with so many aspects of worship, understanding, engagement and work (sometimes quite hard work) are required to get the best out of our congregational encounter with the Divine.

Next month – what is organ music actually for?

Peter Christie

May Service Rota

Date	Sidespeople 10:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Assistants	Readings	Reader	Intercessor	Coffee Name in bold to bring milk
7th May Easter 4	Joyce James Graham Bryson	LHS: Mike RHS: Susan	Acts 2 :42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Mike Graham	David Hamblen	John Brooker Gioia Whitmore Elaine Perret
14th May Easter 5	Mike Keen John Harrington	LHS: Hanan RHS: Penny	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Gill Hamblen	John Duncan	Barbara Thompson Gillian Kingslake Sheena Macdonald
21st May Easter 6	Philip Thompson Simon Lowis	LHS: Graham RHS: Andrew	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	John Harrington	Celia Fisher	Jane Lowis Ann Wheatley Brenda Hadcroft
28th May Sunday after Ascension	Susan Gray Celia Fisher	LHS: Louise RHS: Celia	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11	Mary Darke	David Simmons	May Campbell Margaret Dunn Margery Pollock

June Magazine

Please send all articles for the June magazine to Richard Kingslake (richard.kingslake@gmail.com) by **Sunday 21st May** 2017. The magazine will be available on Sunday 28th May 2017

May Services

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
Worship the Lord in holy splendour.
Psalm 29:2*

Date	Services	
7th May Easter 4 (White)	No 9am Eucharist	
	10.30am Sung Eucharist	Reserved Liturgy
Wednesday 10 th	11.30am Said Eucharist	
14th May Easter 5 (White)	9am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy
	10.30am Sung Eucharist	Easter Liturgy
	6.30pm Evensong Preacher - Revd Roddy Hamilton	
Wednesday 17 th	11.30am Said Eucharist	
21st May Easter 6 (White)	9am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy
	10.30am Sung Eucharist	Easter Liturgy
Thursday 25 th The Ascension	2pm Coffee, Cake and Communion (1970 Liturgy) with extinguishing the Paschal Candle	
28th May Sunday after Ascension (White)	9am Said Eucharist	1970 Liturgy
	10.30am Sung Eucharist	Easter Liturgy
Wednesday 31 st	11.30am Said Eucharist	