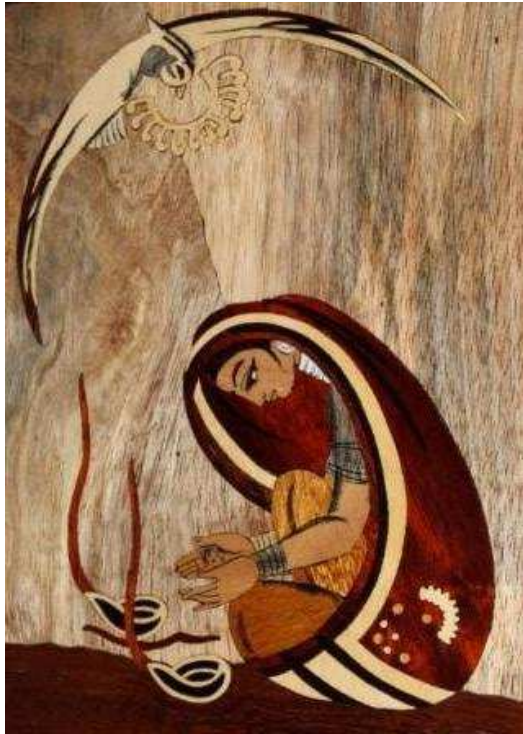


March 2021 Magazine



*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church
Drymen Road, Bearsden*



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A Wood Inlay from India of the Annunciation

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KEVIN

Lent – The Season of Hope and Opportunity

Dear Friends,

Hope is much more than mere optimism: that is the lesson of faith and that is why Lent is the Season of Opportunity.

Optimism, that feeling, view of life, that everything will work out well and that things can only get better and we have a right to expect everything to go well. That view of life offers a fraudulent certainty. Lent presents us with the God given opportunity to recognise true Christian Hope, which is different from optimism.

Hope, true Christian Hope, is based on the vision that we want to be with God who is already with us in the love we experience; but that love gives us a vision of peace, fulfilment, security that we experience here and now but also teaches us to trust in God. That trust is the essence of faith – the vision. In other words, we live in what by tradition we call, ‘the Hope of Heaven’.

It was the late Lord Jonathon Sacks, who made the distinction between Optimism and Hope. Lord Sacks, as Chief Rabbi, said that the history of European Jewish community in the twentieth century meant that they could not be optimistic, but they lived in Hope. Without that Hope in God, their community could not have continued. Their experience taught them that things do not always just turn out well, but that God is faithful to his people and Hope in God and in God’s faithfulness leads us into a new reality.

That is the Hope that makes Lent the season of opportunity. That is the Hope that in Lent 2021 gives to each one of us the opportunity to embrace our own new reality. In tiny, trivial ways, giving up biscuits for instance. Amidst all that we have been denied, had to give up in these past months, during Lent, as we reach for the biscuit tin, reflect on the many people who have found themselves at food banks for the first time in their lives.

Take that thought and that reflection into bible reading, prayer, and Zoom worship. Listen, read, the scriptures assigned for these weeks of Lent. Notice the optimism of the disciples from the mount of Transfiguration to the glory of Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday they felt, they knew, they were on the winning side, but that soon proved to be false optimism.

The desolation of Holy Week and the tomb, but God’s faithfulness, Jesus, with us in the desolation, there is Hope. Hope of the glory of light and life on Easter Day. The new reality that God is with us but the excitement that we can be with God, God who is love.

Hope lives. The scriptures teach us that, as our communities reflect on the need for food banks, a more just and equitable society must be our hope of the new reality. The Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah, the prophets, that justice, peace, security are God’s yearning for us all.

During Lent, there are many opportunities online, in books, in conversations with those leading our congregations, for us all to reflect on scripture in prayer. Seize the opportunity to embrace the new reality, the journey to and with God, offered this Lent. To bring to ourselves, to share with others, the Easter new reality of Hope that is eternal.

I wish you all a happy and Holy Lent

+ Kevin

THE ANNUNCIATION

The 25th of March is the day the church, nine months before Christmas, marks the annunciation, the time when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would bear God’s son. We are so used to pictures of angels hovering on their massive wings above a richly dressed Mary piously kneeling, or in some paintings, sewing in the temple. I know there are other variations such as Henry Ossawa Turner, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and James C Christensen whose annunciations have long been favourites of mine as they express the fear and wonder that would surely overcome anyone when such a message is delivered. While Gottfried Helnwein’s take of the message being delivered out of a television set is, in my opinion, genius. But I find on the whole the traditional pictures of the Annunciation troublesome. Don’t get me wrong, I have favourites from that genre also, beautifully painted, but they often fail to depict the intimacy of the event or even the awe and wonder. I believe that one of the reasons people are often reticent about expressing their faith is because encounters with God are intimate affairs and surely this particular encounter is the most intimate of all. Yes, there is awe and wonder, but the awe and wonder comes in no small part in and through that intimate encounter. God omnipotent and almighty has touched the earth and someone’s life.

The image on the front of this magazine is a wood inlay from India. As if often the case with such items that one uncovers on the internet, I have not been able to find out who did this work. It is possible that the artist is unknown. In this image of the annunciation there is no angel but rather a bird, probably a stylised dove, although it could be an eagle. Its wings are extended as if offering

protection to Mary and she is so caught up in worship it would appear she is not even aware of God's presence descending upon her at the moment captured.

It is a private moment, that moment when earth came down to heaven, a private moment which changed the world forever.

The collect for the Annunciation:

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

May your Lent continue to be one of encounters with God, encounters which regardless of their shape or form, bless, strengthen, and encourage you.

Blessings, Kirstin

WORSHIP FOR MARCH

During March we will continue to worship via zoom only unless East Dunbartonshire is moved into tier 3. I remain ever hopeful that this Easter I will not be in church on my own, but only time will tell whether others will be able to join me.

During Lent the Sunday morning service is non-Eucharistic with readings, music and litanies for the season. Spiritual Communion continues to be available on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am via zoom.

Palm Sunday falls on **28th March** and your Palm Cross is included with this magazine. If worship in church is possible on Palm Sunday, and if you choose to come along please, bring your palm with you, thank you.

Resources for Holy Week will be sent out with the April magazine.

Reflections for Lent - continuation

These resources are offered to give you a basis on which to build, however you would like to continue your Lenten journey this year. You might like to light a candle, play a piece of music and begin with the collect for Lent which is below.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Week of Lent 3 beginning 7th March - Finding the Light with Simeon and Anna

Read Luke 2:22-38

Lent begins in the dimness of late winter and ends with the burst of bright spring. Jesus is, according to John's gospel, 'The Light of the world' that we rejoiced in in its incarnation at Christmas is coming again, this time incarnate in us through new life. That very Light insists that you too are part of that light of the world and that you shouldn't be hiding under some bushel basket.

As Lent continues you might like to reflect on, where the Light of Christ within you can help others with their seeking? How can your light help them to see The Light, maybe more clearly, maybe for the first time? How do your words and actions deflect or reflect the Light of Christ?

Prayer: Light of the world, you walk among us, illuminating God in our midst and in our own lives. May your light shine brightly through our lives, a beacon to those who search and chasing away the shadows that are all too often cast.

Week of Lent 4 beginning 14th March - Loving with Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Read Luke 2:33b-35

This week the Church remembers the mothering love of God.

In the middle of Lent we give thanks for all who show us this mothering love – a strong love, a challenging love, an encouraging love, a healing love.

Take time at some point during this week to give thanks for those who like Mary said yes for you, or to you, to allow you to flourish. Those who said yes despite what it might mean for them; those who said yes, knowing that it would bring them heartache; those who said yes, whose yes you didn't even hear until many years later; those who said yes out of love for you, even when you showed no love in return.

Week of Lent 5 beginning 21st March - Growing with Zacchaeus

Read Luke 19:1-10

We all know the story, it is one of those which we might even recall with the help of a Sunday School song. Zacchaeus is the man, small physically but big when it came to giving up those things which were holding him back from growing spiritually. His name means, pure or innocent, but the people thought he was far from that being a tax collector, he was curious, and after Jesus ate at his home his curiosity opened his eyes to the things that he needed to address in his life. Lent is a time for being like Zacchaeus, a time to look beyond ourselves and our lives and spend time with God, a time to let God open our eyes to things that may be blinding obvious to those around us but which we just don't see. It takes

courage to change, especially in today's world where someone changing their mind is often mocked as weak for doing so. Yet the truth of the matter is those who never reassess and let themselves be open to changing are the ones who are weak, for we are the clay and God is the potter.

Prayer: God of wonder, mould us to be the people you would have us be, help us not to resist your loving hands gently reshaping our lives each and every day as you transform us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Some brief reports this month:-

- The Christmas Appeal for Mission Support was finally closed on 8th February, with a total raised of £5200. Payments to the charities should have been made by the end of February, with a minimum payment of £369 to each.
- The final version of the Accounts for 2019-20 which has been approved by our examiner is now available. If anyone would like a copy, please get in touch with me.
- The financial position of the Church has not changed significantly since my last report.

Andrew Long

DIOCESAN QUIET DAY FOR LENT



NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021

You are encouraged to join in with the Bishop's Lent Appeal should you wish, please send the monies directly as explained below, thank you.

Bishop Kevin has chosen Aberlour as the subject of our Lent Appeal this year. Aberlour supports children, young people and families to give them the best chance to flourish, and has been doing so for over 140 years. The origins of the Charity have a fascinating history and explain the strong link with the Scottish Episcopal Church (see the history section on their website, which also tells you much more about the charity: www.aberlour.org).

Normally, we would have had a presentation at Synod to explain the charity's background; however, this will not be possible in 2021. As an alternative – open to many more than simply those who attend Synod – Aberlour have offered a live Zoom presentation (lasting approximately 30-40 minutes, including time for questions) to anyone across the diocese who is keen to learn more. If you would be interested in such an event, please email me at diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org (preferred method) or call me on 07798 662711. Please state your preferences (if you have any) to attend a session on a weekday (daytime or evening) or a Saturday. If demand is sufficient, but split across time preferences, we will organise two events.

A New Way to Donate: Bishop's Lent Appeal JustGiving Page

The preferred and easiest way is to donate electronically and instantly to the appeal. For individual donations, it means that Gift Aid can be added to your donation, adding 25p to every pound donated (if you pay tax), please add the name of your church to the Donation Notes (even if you are an individual who prefers to remain anonymous). Please donate through this page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diocese-of-glasgow-galloway> (which donation goes directly to Aberlour) rather than through Aberlour's own JustGiving page.

For those who prefer to send cheques, they can be sent directly to Aberlour (including details of the church they are sent from), but it will be administratively much simpler – for us and for Aberlour – to send them via the Diocesan Office to ensure they are added to our final total. See below.

Cheque Payments should be made payable to Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, Please include a note to confirm the name of your charge and your contact details. Send to: Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway, Bishop's Lent Appeal, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH

Our post is being redirected to Christine Hughes at home, who will bank cheques and acknowledge receipt by email to your Treasurer, copying in Iolanthe Stack. Money will be transferred to Aberlour on a regular basis, and included in the final JustGiving total.

People sometimes ask about the fees that are levied by JustGiving, but Aberlour have asked me to point out that any transaction of donations involves a fee of some kind, and that JustGiving is a very easy, time-saving (as well as cost-saving) platform for them to use, meaning these charges are a very effective investment, and cover the varying costs of processing different payment types. JustGiving also gives donors the option to make a voluntary contribution to the cost of maintaining the platform, which enables them to keep charges to all charities low, but this is completely optional. In short, it should be stressed that the increased donations and smaller administrative costs of using JustGiving far outweigh the small charges that they make.

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2021

As previously advised to all clergy and lay representatives, and in common with a number of other dioceses, the decision was taken at the last Diocesan Council meeting to postpone our Synod until later in the year, on a date yet to be advised, when it is hoped that we will be able to host an online virtual event from our new Diocesan Centre.

Having said that, the elections that would have taken place at our March Synod are being conducted throughout February to enable the requisite Diocesan places to be taken for General Synod 2021 (scheduled for June 10th to 12th, another virtual event). The other matter that required a response from our Synod, and to be submitted before 31st March, will therefore have to be considered by vestries and/or individuals rather than through the channels of a Synod response.

Please read on...

Canon 4 Discussion and Responses Required by 31st March

Anyone involved in the process during our Episcopal Vacancy over a lengthy period between 2018 and 2020 should be interested to comment on Canon 4, the process by which we elect our Bishops.

Miriam Weibye, our Provincial Church Relations Officer, writes: At General Synod 2018, the Faith and Order Board brought the following motion: That Canon 4 "Of the Election of Bishops to Vacant Sees" be revised and amended as necessary. This motion having been passed, the Faith and Order Board appointed a small group to review Canon 4, chaired by the Bishop of Edinburgh. The review group

have considered the existing Canon 4 in detail, and sought views from around the province. It now presents the attached document (Canon 4: Consultation with Diocesan Synod Members) for detailed consultation with a number of church bodies.

Vestries and/or Individuals are therefore invited to submit responses by clicking on this Google form by **Wednesday 31st March 2021**. Although a pdf of the questions is provided (Canon 4 Review Group Consultation – Google form) so that people can see them all at once and read them through before answering online, we would ask people to only respond via the Google form, as the General Synod Office is not in a position to deal with physical responses due to Covid-19 safety precautions. If anyone wishes to make a separate written response, it can be emailed directly to Miriam (address below), again by **Wednesday 31st March**

The review group has also provided an example document of what a commentary or guidelines for a revised Canon 4 might look like (Canon 4 Draft Guidelines Commentary Examples) as explained in the final point of the consultation paper. Following this second phase of the consultation, the review group will prepare a report for General Synod 2021, which will be asked to indicate support of the direction of travel with a view to preparing a revised canon for General Synod 2022. If you have any queries, please contact Miriam Weibye, Church Relations Officer at churchrelations@scotland.anglican.org.

You are encouraged to respond as individuals, if this is something that you wish to express an opinion on. If you don't have access on line to submit your response please send them to the Rector and she will fill in the on line form for you.

If you would like to see the paperwork please check All Saints website where you will find the papers until 31st March. There are 3 documents running to some 12 A4 pages and therefore is not of a size which makes sense to print in the magazine, however if you do not have internet access and wish to comment please request a hard copy from the Rector.

Children's Chapel

If you've got young children (pre-school to early primary years) anywhere in your church or family, please join in with the enchanting mix of games, activities, songs and Bible teachings that form the 10-15 minute episodes of Children's Chapel every week, an offering from the Province that's co-ordinated by our very own Canon Missioner, the Rev Canon Audrey O'Brien Stuart.

This new service came about after Lorraine Darlow, an expert in Christian Formation and member at St. Ninian's Prestwick, reported to the Mission Board about the unique needs of children and families in lockdown. A rota of leaders

from around the province has been assembled and will be sharing in the weekly presentations very soon. Back episodes and new weekly videos can be found at either of the SEC YouTube or Facebook pages, i.e.

<https://youtube.com/c/TheScottishEpiscopalChurch>

or <https://www.facebook.com/scottishepiscopalchurch>.

Related to this, Audrey would welcome involvement from others across the Diocese (and Province) to take part in these programmes, or even simply to give feedback: please contact her at astewart@glasgow.anglican.org if you'd be able to help out in this vital work for the future of our Church – or just to let her know what you think of Children's Chapel.

New Diocesan Centre

Building works have now begun at 49 Cochrane Street. A progress update should appear in our next Office Update.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – Choose the World you Want

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from **22 February to 7 March** and marks the start of a new climate campaign asking the British public to get behind Fairtrade so that farmers overseas can benefit from fairer prices and the resources needed to tackle the climate emergency.

Many people do not realise that farmers in poor countries are disproportionately affected by climate change. Crops and livestock are affected by late rains, floods, unusual droughts, damaging winds and unprecedented high temperatures. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought even more problems to producers already struggling in countries where the financial safety nets we take for granted simply don't exist. The emergence of the global pandemic means that farmers have to deal with greater challenges than ever before, with falling commodity prices and widespread shocks reverberating along supply chains. Ongoing poverty in farming communities makes it increasingly hard to cope.

In **Fairtrade Fortnight 2021**, we want to highlight the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with. Farmers and workers in countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras, who have done the least to contribute to climate change, are disproportionately affected by it. Climate change is one of their biggest challenges right now. Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back. Only with more income will they feel equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges they face from climate change.

The climate crisis is an immediate and ever-increasing threat and those in climate vulnerable countries are already seeing its impacts from droughts and crop disease to floods, heatwaves and shrinking harvests.

Fairtrade gives farmers more income, so they are better able to cope with these changes. The Fairtrade guaranteed minimum price means better financial security so they can plan in advance to meet the new challenges. Fairtrade farmers say that the benefits of Fairtrade have increased their resilience to cope with the crisis. They can use the Fairtrade premium to buy equipment such as solar panels to slow the pace of climate change, or they may use it to provide training and technical support to farmers to help them cut emissions.

Of course we have had our own challenges to deal with in East Dunbartonshire during the past year. Lockdowns and social distancing have meant that there have been no Fairtrade stalls in churches or schools since March 2020 and, of course, no Christmas fairs either. Our main Fairtrade outlet – Gavin's Mill – has suffered two lengthy periods of closure although people can still order from their online shop (order by noon on Tuesdays for collection or delivery on Thursdays). This Fairtrade Fortnight will be very different from most with no social events, coffee mornings or church stalls and we can only look forward to the time when we are able to get together once again without worrying about face coverings and social distancing.

It feels very strange that we are unable to mark Fairtrade Fortnight in the way we would like but we would be most grateful if you would advise your congregations of the plight of farmers in developing countries at present. We know the generosity of the people in East Dunbartonshire will lead them to continue to purchase Fairtrade produce where and when then can.

Gavin's Mill online shop <https://www.gavinsmill.org/shop-2/> is open from Friday at 9 am until noon on Tuesday each week. All orders placed by then will be available to collect from 11 am on Thursdays. A delivery service is also offered for G61 and G62 residents.

Pauline Waugh

A LIFE OF LEARNING WITH THE INTERNET

Since our whole lives moved onto the internet we have been able to continue all our usual activities from the comfort of our homes and with the participation of people from all parts of the World.

Since the present lockdown we have attended a talk by Professor Bruce Peter, professor of interior design history at Glasgow School of Art on the topic of Clyde

built ships, which was organized by the U3A. We had the added bonus of a view inside his home which was beautifully decorated. He has travelled extensively and inexpensively on many ships as the cruise companies made their money from the passenger's who sail to gamble and drink at the bar.

We had a talk on Bird Migration with the West End Science group by a retired professor who has been a lifelong observer of birds. He gave some very interesting examples of how migration patterns are changing with global warming and also why some species have declined and others increased over recent times.

The Staff Retirement Association of Glasgow University arranged for us to hear a talk by Patrick Harkness on the subject of his PhD student's work on building a new type of rocket which as it delivers its payload, will self destruct and will not fall back to earth to litter the environment.

Through Café Scientifique Dr. Joanne Peake, nurse consultant in Intensive Care spoke on the problems posed by nursing Covid patients and the symptoms of long covid. These are short talks followed by a question and answer session to which she provided some very good answers and generated much discussion.

Also on the subject of Covid, Professor Chris Whitty gave a very comprehensive talk on Vaccines. He spoke from Gresham College, London. Anyone listening who was sceptical about the efficacy of vaccination and its benefits to mankind beforehand would be convinced.

On the same day we heard a talk by Misha Glennie, reporter for the BBC, who gave us a history of the world since the Reformation to the present day and he left us to ponder the new Horses of the Apocalypse. These being: Climate Change; Weapons of Mass Destruction; Pandemics and Fake News.

That is just a sample of many talks we have heard, enjoyed and from which we have learned. David has also given several talks as an immunologist. Christine and Rob Smith, previously at All Saints, joined us this week at a zoom talk from their new Home in Yorkshire.

Mary Stott

THE COVID VACCINE

Many of us 'oldies' will have received our first vaccine dose in recent weeks. How remarkable that this happened was brought home to me when I listened to an on-line discussion from Glasgow university this month. The participants were two Pfizer chief scientists (both Glasgow alumni), a professor of immunology and a professor of virology, both from Glasgow.

They explained the development of the vaccine. A year ago they hadn't even started, yet in 266 days it was not only developed, but tested, trialled,

manufactured and given to the first recipients in Britain. Quite mind blowing teamwork, and the first major use of an mRNA vaccine; an idea 30 years in the making.

Their achievement was put into perspective by looking back at the last major world wide pandemic in 1919. A hundred years ago no one knew what caused the illness known as Spanish flu: viruses were hypothetical organisms but not identified. Yet a hundred years later we can identify the virus, work out its genetic code, identify the areas of the genome important for infection (the spike proteins), and make the vaccine. Amazing!

As a researcher in immunology in the early 1970s I can only marvel at the progress made in this young science. We knew that molecules held the answer to specificity, but only had crude methods at our disposal to demonstrate immunity in the lab. Molecular medicine has an exciting future and I felt proud of Glasgow producing so many amazing scientists.

Kate Ross

“WORDS, WORDS, WORDS” (HAMLET)

In the December Magazine I noted some words which have changed in meaning over time. Here are some more.

Many Old English underwent through time a narrowing of meaning, for example: **Deer** used to refer to any animal, akin to modern German '*Tier*' 'animal', Danish '*dyr*'. So in Old English you had to specify the sort of animal (*deor*) you meant: *sæ-deor* 'sea animal', *deor-cynn* 'animal kind', etc. You find in Old English curious lines such as *se camel, thæt micla deor* 'the camel, that large (muckel) deer' or 'the panther is a wild *deor*'.

Lust: Old English *lust* refers to any kind of pleasure or desire; hence *lust Cristes*, 'the desire for Christ'; *lust-full* meaning 'full of pleasure' – you find it in expressions such as 'if you want/ desire to know more, then read....' The modern sense of 'lust' was called '*synna lust*', 'the desire for sin'. Modern Germanic languages retain the innocent sense of 'pleasure'. One of our Danish friends referred to the small gazebo in our garden as 'your lust-house' – 'lust-hus' in Danish!

Meat: In Old English '*mete*' meant any kind of food before its meaning narrowed to 'flesh'. Today we recognize '*sweet-meat*', but earlier there were terms such as '*flesh-meat*', '*morgen-mete* 'morning food or breakfast' and interestingly '*wyrt-mete*' 'vegetable meat/food'.

Stench: Old English *stenc* meant ‘any smell’, so you have phrases such as ‘the sweet stench of roses’ or the ‘stench’ in church coming from incense.

Starve. *steorfan* in Old English simply means ‘to die’ by any means not only by hunger or cold. You could ‘starve’ by a spear, beheading or the plague.

Stool Old English *stol* meant any kind of chair. God sits on *halgan stole* ‘on his holy throne’; the bishop’s *stol* was his ‘throne’. *Cathedra*, from which we get ‘cathedral’ in Latin, originally meant ‘an armchair’, hence the ‘seat’ of the bishop or ‘cathedral.’ Certainly grander than a wee stool!

Other Old English words broadened their meaning such as Old English **halig-dag** ‘holy day’ came to mean any ‘holiday’; the link is the fact that one didn’t work on saints’ days. Old English **sælig** meaning ‘blessed’ as in ‘the silly baby Jesus’ was broadened and degraded to ‘stupid’.

Old English **brid** was ‘a young bird, a fledgling’, ‘a chick’, then it later came to mean ‘any bird’; **fugol** ‘fowl’ was the Old English word for any bird and that was narrowed to mean today’s ‘poultry’. With a long ‘i’ [ee] vowel in ‘**brid**’ there was another word which gives us ‘bride’, while yet another Old English word **burd** meant originally ‘an embroideress’ was narrowed to refer to ‘a lady’; in time this word became ‘bird’ a pejorative term for a woman or girl. “She’s ma bird!”. **Bridle path** comes from a different source, meaning a path used by (bridled) horses and not wide enough for a carriage. And talking of girls, the Old English word **gerle** originally referred to all children, male or female, until the 15th century when it was restricted to young females. **Boy** originally meant a male slave, servant, knave, someone bound down or fettered in service, hence it may be connected to the word **buoy**, an object fettered in a harbour. **Boy** wasn’t used in its modern sense of a young male until 14th century.

Graham Caie

LABYRINTHINE RAMBLINGS

Well, there’s still not a lot happening out there, so there’s only one thing I’ve got to write about – my continuing battle with mud and rocks.

I think that when I last wrote, I said that I was targeting the end of January to have completed the digging out of the circle that will eventually contain the labyrinth path with its accompanying borders. In fact, things progressed rather more quickly than I expected and it got done with a week or two to spare! It’s nice occasionally to be able to report something going better than planned; after all, this stage took very nearly four months.

It seems hard to believe already, now that the weather has suddenly become so much milder, but when that digging was finished, everything was frozen hard,

and for some of the time, under a few inches of snow. As you’ll have gathered by now, almost nothing in the way of mere weather will stop me working on something when I have become sufficiently obsessed, but I have to admit, snow covering everything does slow me up a bit!

However, on all but a couple of the very worst days, I was able to turn my attention to the walls. You may recall that the plan is to have two raised beds curving round parts of the outside of the labyrinth itself, providing some shelter and a sense of enclosure. These raised beds (formed by turf embankments to be topped out



with topsoil) were to be faced on their outer sides with drystone walling. I had rather expected to do that job at a later stage in the project, but the weather meant it was a possible task to undertake, while nothing else could be done. As you see from the photo, the walls are more or less built. Any real drystone waller would point out that they are not particularly well done, and in fact are not true walls, as they are only the face of the soil bank, so are not fully double sided. Also, although I dug out a truly phenomenal number of big rocks, I did not have enough large and well shaped ones to create as authentic a top course as I would have liked. If you look at traditional walls you will see that the top level is usually comprised of quite big stones, with the arrangement varying by region, often round here, slabby stones on edge across the top. This looks good and helps bind the whole wall together. Sorry, this is getting a bit technical. Suffice it to say, that



I had to use what I had available, and I hope once the soil has gone in and has been planted up, it will look pleasing. I have also thrown around a lot of rocks, aiming to sort them by size, so I’ll know what I can use where. Some of the small ones have gone into the innards of the wall, and most of the rest are being used filling up the soggiest areas of the path-to-be. This path has now been marked out in paint (twice – I had to redo it today!), and now has ‘withies’ (just sticks planted upright in the ground)

reinforcing the markings in case the paint washes out again. Once I have finished shoring up the soggy areas, I can start putting down aggregate as the sub-layer of the path itself. I don't know whether I will have enough 'cricket-ball' sized stones to edge the path; time will tell.

All in all, considerable progress has been made, and the biggest challenge ahead is probably carting barrow after barrow of aggregate, soil (tons and tons of soil!), and ultimately gravel, up our fairly steep lawn to be added as appropriate. Oh yes, then it'll all have to be planted up!

Mairi Ross

A REPORT FROM YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friends, I must apologize for my lack of communication as your lay representative. The combination of an increased workload in my day job and the prodigious productivity of yourselves filling up the magazine have delayed me. I shall try to summarize, succinctly, my recent activities on your behalf.

There have been several meetings of the North-West Regional Council (NWRC) since I last wrote. In **October** we had a joint meeting with the North-East Regional Council (NERC) to discuss an interesting report on "Spirituality during the time of Covid" produced by Dr. Lewis Blair, a clinical psychologist and member of St. James the less Bishopbriggs. This was, of course, when lockdown measures were easing in the autumn. I have an electronic version of the report if anyone wants to read it. We had the NWRC AGM at the end of **November**, with no significant changes in personnel. I think this is also when we had a joint meeting with the NERC to say hello to the new Dean, the Rev. Reuben Preston, who led us in a session of meditative prayer. The last regular meeting of the NWRC was **earlier this month** when we received a report from our Diocesan Council rep and shared recent experiences from our charges. We are to have another joint meeting with NERC on 22nd February ("tomorrow" as I write!) at which Prof. David Atkinson, late convenor of the Provincial Church in Society committee will be talking about "Science and Faith in a pandemic: exploring some of the ethical, social and spiritual/theological implications". All meetings were, and continue to be, on Zoom, of course.

Probably the biggest piece of news in the region is the sad decision to close St. Mungo's, Alexandria. Unfortunately the congregation at St. Mungo's has been declining for some years and it is now unsustainable. Exactly what will happen to the building and its contents is still being discussed. It is likely that Diocesan staff will not return to work in the old offices in George Square, but wait until the summer when the new offices open in Cochrane Street. Diocesan finances are in

a healthy state, despite the best efforts of the council to increase the deficit, which is one of the reasons for the welcome reduction in our diocesan quota this year. It is pleasing that the Bishop's Staff Group is now back to full strength so we look forward to benefiting from their energy over the next few years and thank Rev. Canon Gordon Fyfe (now the new Rector of St. Margaret's, Newlands) who held the fort in the interim and continues as Synod Clerk. The Diocesan Synod, due to have been held on the 6th March, has been postponed because of insurmountable logistical difficulties. It is hoped to re-schedule this after the new Diocesan offices are opened in the summer.

My final news is about General Synod, which I attended as one of the NWRC representatives. This took place online on 5th December, 2020, and was very impressively organised using a system which allowed us not only to share worship and discussion on Zoom, but also vote on motions. The main points of discussion were proposed changes to Canon IV (the Canon of the Church which governs how we elect Bishops), how best to implement the Church's ethical investment policy and Clergy wellbeing. There were some "breakout room" discussion sessions as well. The successive lockdowns have particularly brought into focus how we need to support our clergy in their work and grant them the same rights and privileges that apply in other vocations, which not all congregations seem to do.

Anyhow, I think that's all I need to share just now. As always, happy to discuss any of the above as I have more detailed records and notes that I can share.

David Simmons

ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY

Janet Stack and I are keen to host a virtual Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony on **Saturday 20th March 2021** at 10.30am.

We will use resources and materials prepared by Tearfund Scotland and Janet will also give us a first hand account from her time in Ethiopia a couple of years ago - a Coffee Ceremony is of great importance and significance to the people of Ethiopia as we heard when we attended a virtual coffee ceremony on 20th February.

This young lady is pouring the coffee from the traditional jug, a jabena.



Tearfund, amongst other organisations, provide support to the people of



Ethiopia, especially in assisting with the availability of clean water. Children will often have to miss school as they may need to walk for half a day to collect water for the family.

This photo shows a typical scene, but it is hard to imagine the weight of the water in that container and yet she waved cheerily as we passed. Sometimes you

will see the water being collected from an almost dry, but muddy, river bed by old and young alike.

If you would like to join us for this interesting and new experience of a coffee morning, with lots of time for chat, please email Janet at janet.stack@btinternet.com and we will get back to you with more details and joining information. Ethiopian coffee can be sourced at Gavin's Mill, so we will be able to provide you with the real thing. Cakes and biscuits are optional!

Louise Benson



The view from Ardinging Nature Reserve during February

ROTA FOR THE SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

As far as we are currently aware, entry to the Church building for worship will be not allowed during March, and all services will be on Zoom at 10.30 am.

Date	Celebrant	Reader/intercessor	Reading
7 March	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Celia Fisher	Exodus 20:1-17
14 March	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Andrew Long	Numbers 21:4-9
21 March	Rev Kirstin Freeman	David Simmons	Jeremiah 31:31-34
28 March Palm Sunday	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Louise Benson	Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Editor for the March edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to her at janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Friday 19th March, 2021**.

A Poem for the Coming Spring and a Happier Future

Suggested by Brenda Hadcroft

The Lamb by William Blake (1757-1827)

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!