

July-August 2021 Magazine

Rector

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The cover picture – Jane Haining. A Scottish Missionary. See page 3.

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church
Drymen Road, Bearsden*



Dear Friends,

By now you will have doubtless heard I will cease to be Rector of All Saints at the end of August, the official announcement follows. I will be heading to Cumbernauld and Monklands where I will be part of a team of people throughout the province exploring Transitional Ministry and how it may benefit congregations. The Diocesan Canon Missioner, Rev Audrey Stewart, was licensed as a transitional minister at Port Glasgow in March and the Diocese of Brechin has recently made several transitional appointments. This is an exciting new development for the Scottish Episcopal Church and I am privileged to be invited to be part of it.

All Saints will now enter its own period of transition. The diocese will guide the vestry through the process over the how and when they can appoint a new Rector, and +Kevin will appoint a priest to be your interim, who that might be is not yet known. Please be patient with your vestry. They will keep you fully informed but they in turn will not have much to tell you until after I have left. This is standard procedure as, for a variety of reasons, charges are not allowed to begin the process of looking for a new Rector until after the current one has left. These are strange times to be leaving. I probably will not have the opportunity to say farewell to you all in person, but nevertheless, I will carry you all in my heart and continue to pray for you and all that God has in store for you in the years ahead.

We have just had the Ascension when Jesus leaves the disciples once more. It is a timely reminder that God calls us into new things. As the disciples look up shocked and surprised that Jesus has left them again, angels appear and tell them: stop looking up to what was, a new thing is about to happen, the Holy Spirit will come upon them and bless them for the work that is still to be done. God has and will bless you for the work which is still to be done in this place, work that will never be completed until Christ himself returns in glory.

May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun warm your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may you be held in the palm of God's hand.

Blessings
Kirstin

The official announcement

Rev Kirstin Freeman has been appointed as Rector of the Charges of Holy Name, Cumbernauld and St Paul & St John the Evangelist, Monklands, and comes to this post from the Charge of All Saints, Bearsden where she has served since 2009.

Kirstin says, 'I am excited to be joining the congregations at Monklands and Cumbernauld; and as we work together for the glory of God in the north-eastern corner of the diocese, I am hugely looking forward to the great adventure that God has called us into.'

Bishop Kevin says, 'We are delighted that Kirstin is perceiving the call of these two Charges to help them discern the Holy Spirit's promptings to engage in the development of ministry for the coming years in Cumbernauld and Monklands. She brings with her much passion, imagination and commitment to growing creative ministry in both Charges as they look to a future through and beyond the pandemic experience. It is vital to the future life of these Charges that Kirstin is able to bring fresh and vital energy, direction and vision to the work of the Scottish Episcopal Church in both areas. The excitement of the potential for the future in both Vestries is a source of enormous consolation for all concerned and I look forward to the work of the Vestries and Property Committee in enabling the housing needs to make this work able to flourish for the life of our Diocese.' Please pray for Kirstin and her family as she prepares to leave Bearsden in the coming months and move to Holy Name and St Paul & St John the Evangelist.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP KEVIN...

Trust is a very precious gift. Constantly, we are being told that trust in institutions – the law, the medical profession, the monarchy, the church – trust is at an all time low in such institutions, all of whom have great influence over our lives. Trust is a gift of love which, like all gifts of love, reflects God's life in our own lives.

God is love and God trusts each one of us to show this love in our lives, and that is what it means to build the Kingdom of God. God trusts us to build his Kingdom in building relationships, and the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ shows just how much trust God puts in each one of us.

This, to me, proves that trust in God is worthwhile, it gives confidence in faith itself. Trust is a gift of love which grows when given away; our trust in God, in love, grows as love responds to love. Throughout the gospels, Jesus's encounters with individuals show trust in the simple fact that we are made in the image of God and have so much God-given human potential to grow into the people God trusts us to be. The disciple is one who recognises the call of the Jesus of the

Gospel, trusts in God and the love which encourages us to be the people God knows we can be. Peter's denial, Thomas' doubt, Mary Magdalene's grief: the individual disciples grew, grow, through their experience and trust in God.

Holiness was the word the Psalmist used to describe the longing for God and the trust in God that the disciple knows and feels. Jesus proved that God is with us in that longing and gives us as many second chances as we need, despite our denial, and our grief, and our doubt. The mark of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the confidence we feel that God is with us in these horrible things we would rather not experience, and we trust that we grow through them and see meaning and purpose in them, so that in every aspect of our lives we grew more into God's image, we grow in integrity. Integrity is perhaps the synonym for what previous generations called Holiness.

Why is trust the subject of this reflection at this particular time? It is because at this time of transition and change, as we enter the new reality post-COVID, Trust in God will bring us trust in each other and give us confidence to face the future. At Diocesan Synod in July we have the life of our whole diocese to consider and equip to face the future. Confidence in building God's Kingdom in Glasgow & Galloway is why the Synod meets, and trust in God, in each other, in being disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, trust will guide give us confidence to make our vision real.

With every blessing...
+ Kevin

JANE HAINING - FRONT COVER

Scottish missionary Jane Haining is to be included in the Scottish Episcopal Church's liturgical calendar "on account of her faith-filled life and example that saw her die in the Nazi Concentration camp of Auschwitz Birkenau". General Synod carried a motion from the Faith & Order Board that Ms Haining be added to the calendar of saints and heroes of the faith on 17 July each year, the anniversary of her death in 1944.

Jane Haining was a Church of Scotland Missionary in Budapest who was caring for Jewish children at the outbreak of the Second World War. She was asked to return to her native Scotland when war broke out, but refused to abandon the children in her charge, and was transported to Auschwitz. On one of the occasions she was asked to return to the UK, she replied: "If children need me in the days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in the days of darkness?"

In its report to Synod, the Board reported: "Jane Haining is well known in Hungary (there is a street named after her in Budapest) but less so in Scotland. Work has been going on between SEC and Church of Scotland colleagues on educational materials on Jane Haining and the Holocaust for Scottish schools.

"She is an outstanding example of Christian witness in a life lived for others – and in this case, those of other faiths – and the willingness to face death as a result." Synod backed the motion overwhelmingly.

ALLELUIA



The Scottish Government have finally announced that once we are in level 1 or below we may resume congregational singing. At the time of writing this we are not quite there yet with the recent extension of level 2, but hopefully before the end of July, we will be. It will still be necessary to wear masks whilst singing, nevertheless it will be a joyous milestone on our road out of this pandemic.

We have missed over a year of favourite hymns, however it would seem most appropriate to resume our singing with one of the Easter hymns. What is your favourite Easter hymn? Maybe it is Thine be the Glory, Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem, The Strife is O'er, or how about Now the Green Blade Riseth as we celebrate life returning.

Whatever it is, let Kirstin know your favourite Easter hymn and we will sing the most popular choice as our first hymn once we can sing again in church.

TUESDAY MORNING EUCHARIST

The service on Tuesday morning via zoom follows the 1970 liturgy. The same log on details are used as for a Sunday. The services for July and August are as follows:

6th July, 13th July, 20th July, 3rd August, 10th August, 17th August beginning at 10.30am.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Diocesan Synod 31st July 2021

Our postponed Diocesan Synod remains scheduled for 31st July, and will take place via Zoom. Papers should arrive with attending clergy and lay representatives by 17th July, and any motions for debate should be submitted for consideration as soon as possible, and certainly no later than Friday 2nd July, if they are to be included with the papers. Such submissions should be emailed to Bishop Kevin at bishop@glasgow.anglican.org, and copied to John Mitchell, at diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org

Constitution

One of the items for discussion and debate at Synod will be our proposed new Constitution. This development of a new Constitution has been a long-running saga in the Diocese, and one which Bishop Kevin is keen to conclude and complete, by introducing a Constitution that reflects what our Diocese does, rather than what it used to do, and a constitution which is more in keeping with the Canons of our Scottish Episcopal Church as well as offering more transparency, flexibility, and bringing us closer to Synodical arrangements that exist in the other dioceses of the Province. To that end, the proposed new Constitution (now in its ninth draft) has been compiled by a small group comprising Bishop Kevin, Dean Reuben, The Chancellor, Provost Kelvin Holdsworth and The Diocesan Secretary, then submitted to Bishop's Staff Group for their review and further fine-tuning, after which it was submitted to Diocesan Council in their May meeting, where it comprised the main bulk of our business. After much discussion, a final draft was agreed, and will be included with the Synod papers.

Lent Appeal

At the time of writing, the impressive total of monies raised for our Lent Appeal in support of Aberlour Child Care Trust is £9,783, including donations sent directly to Aberlour as well as those sent through the Diocesan office and the JustGiving page.

The appeal will close at the end of August, so this is a final reminder that the easiest way to donate (and allow Gift Aid to be claimed back) is to go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diocese-of-glasgow-galloway> Whether donating as an individual or as a Church via your Treasurer, please add the name of your church to the Donation Notes (even if you are an individual who prefers to remain anonymous).

New Diocesan Centre

The handover of our new Centre is fast approaching. Almost inevitably, Covid-related issues regarding working practices have delayed this handover until late-June, but we remain confident that this promised date will be maintained. More details – and pictures – will be available at, and after, Diocesan Synod.

Our Digital Church Seminars on Zoom

Petko, our Digital Missioner, will offer hour-long Zoom seminars, focusing on a variety of easy-to-achieve actions to improve the online presence of our churches, as a continuation of Our Digital Church, every first Monday of the month, beginning on **Monday, 5 July at 6.30pm**. July's seminar will focus on claiming the Google search card associated with your church through Google My Business, a free and easy-to-use tool for organisations to manage their online presence across Google, including Search and Maps.

The seminar is open to all, particularly intended for those who manage websites and social media on behalf of Scottish Episcopal churches. To receive Zoom details, email Petko at digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org, or you can always reach the Digital Missioner on Mondays, 10-11am during Zoom Office Hours, on email, and on 07719611007.

Clergy and Lay Reader News

Rev Liz Crumlish will be ordained to the Priesthood by on Saturday, 3rd July at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. She will continue to serve as Curate at St Oswald's Church, Maybole.

Rev Keith Thomasson has been appointed as Rector of St Ninian's Troon.

Ray Gascoigne has recently been appointed Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers.

Ray has been a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church since 1972, serving at Holy Name Cumbernauld.

Rev Paul Romano retired as Rector of St Ninian's Pollokshields on 30th May.

THE PRIMUS'S CHARGE GENERAL SYNOD 2021

"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven. Do not place your light under a bushel basket. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden".

These are phrases which are very familiar to us, but which at this time have felt difficult, particularly during the last year and a half. Difficult because the journey

we have been on sometimes took away from us the things we naturally did to make the light shine, and sometimes felt like the bushel basket was very close.

But the psalmist wrote so many wonderful words, and I simply quote: “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. I have been meditating on the psalms for much of the pandemic, day by day as we read them in our morning and evening office, I have tried to spend a bit of time thinking about the words more deeply, yet what I am now finding is that as the rules and regulations, the guidance and the frustrations in people have changed then the available time each day has diminished. Those promises I made to keep my diary centred on the holy have begun to slip. I realise that I am once again thinking of those words that I know by heart rather than words that I am reading, and therefore the more familiar psalms are coming closer to the fore, hence: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. What does it mean to fear no evil? Who can genuinely say that they have not at times been fearful? I certainly can’t. There have been moments in the past year and a half when I have been afraid; often that fear is for my family and for those I love but couldn’t get to, fear for those things that are precious.

Yet that fear isn’t about evil, it is about the illness, worldly concerns and those we love. Evil is about assault on the godliness in and around us. The assault on our relationship with God, and a desire to turn us from God. The words of this psalm are telling us not to fear evil because the Shepherd carries to protect us the rod of defence and the staff of guidance, both things needed if we are to reach the table prepared for us, to be anointed and to dwell in God’s house.

So what is it that makes me really afraid, pushes me to take shelter with the shepherd? It is the assault on the godliness in and around us, the degradation of those who are different from us, the assault on the humanity of those we don’t understand, the laying of blame at the feet of those who have no voice. I see things around me that talk of the valley of the shadow of death. Child poverty, the plight of refugees, the aggression shown to those who are racially different, the need by so many to be so publicly critical of each other. Dragging people down because they are easy targets, the list goes on. We often seem to cope with these things around us because we can make ourselves busy doing things that might make a difference. These past months have shown me the worst of this. Long days of meetings about, well, I am not always sure. These months that have often reduced my response to important matters to one of writing letters and posting on social media. Yet in the midst of all that the green pastures of love

and care can be glimpsed, the letter written not in anger but in thankfulness or in concern, the small package arriving with an aid to prayer or a beautiful picture. We know what makes us smile, we know when we are at God’s work, we feel it in the air, we sense it on the hairs on our skin and we feel it in our hearts.

Let’s try to uncover that place of quiet waters as we sit in Synod, using this time to discover the things we can use to bring hope and joy to those we meet on our pilgrimage, discussing how we can help those on the edge of society, acknowledging that we can disagree on detail but always trying to agree on the message we are asked to proclaim. The message revealed in the Good Shepherd, the Lord and Saviour of us all. The message of Love.”

The Most Rev Mark Strange
Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDANCE PLAN WELCOMED BY SYNOD

General Synod members have backed a ten-point guidance plan on the first step towards the Scottish Episcopal Church achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Following a motion at last year’s Synod for a programme of actions to be brought to General Synod 2021 to resource the SEC in working towards the 2030 goal, the Church in Society Committee’s Technical Group on Climate Change presented a programme along with useful resources “aimed to equip the whole church for the urgent response that is needed towards achieving net zero carbon emissions”.

The Group has set out actions for different levels of the SEC to pursue, as congregations, dioceses, provincial level and as individuals; suggested more detailed action on buildings; listed useful resources; and indicated further work to be carried out. A Toolkit is currently in preparation, designed to provide practical recommendations for the implementation of action plans and including for instance a means of working out a church’s carbon footprint.

“The changes we need to make encompass almost all aspects of our life as a church; not only our buildings, but in every area where we burn coal, oil or gas,” reported the Group. “We need to transition to renewable alternatives as far as we possibly can, and where this is not reasonably practical, we need to reduce, save and offset. We do not underestimate the challenge. But there are many steps we can already take which will make a difference and we need to plan now for how and when the bigger challenges could be met.”

The Rev Dr Jenny Wright, Convener of the Church in Society Committee, spoke to the report, telling Synod members: “Achieving net zero by 2030 is no small feat. Neither are the obstacles insurmountable. I hope that the programme of actions, today’s presentation and the group discussions will be the first of many such conversations. This is merely a starting point – we recognise that support and resources on both provincial and diocesan level are necessary. Rest assured, you will not be left alone to reduce your carbon footprint and engage with climate action.”

Professor Donald Bruce, chair of the Technical Group on Climate Action, reminded Synod of the urgency of the need to take action, and the responsibility of everyone to contribute.

“We are not alone in this task,” said Prof Bruce. “There’s a movement right across the chorus in the UK and some excellent experience to draw upon from Eco-Congregation Scotland, it’s English equivalent: Eco-Church, the Church of England and Church of Scotland both have excellent expert energy advice which we can call upon. And this is real world rooted advice, based on what you can really do, on the ground in a real church.”

All four climate change motions were carried virtually unopposed, and the guidance and action documents were endorsed and commended. Within the motions, Synod also called on Standing Committee to put in place appropriate structures to enable action at provincial level, with Dioceses called on to do the same at congregational level.

The SEC action plan document can be found on both the Provincial and our own web site. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy please ask.

VESTRY NOTES – MEETING OF 23 MAY 2021

- The Vestry met on Monday 23 May, which was too late for a report to be put into the June Magazine, so the matters discussed are summarised here.
- The meeting was held in person in the Drymen Hall for the first time since the beginning of the Covid epidemic, which was popular with all.
- The Treasurer reported that two payments from the Christmas Appeal had not been made. The one to South Africa was being held until the situation there improved, and the one to the Emmanuel Ministries in Ramallah had been returned, as the Charity was no longer active. It was decided to redirect the sum

involved in the latter donation to the DEC for emergency relief in Palestine after the recent conflict.

- The Quinquennial Review had been held and the resulting report was presented to the Vestry. It would be discussed at the next meeting.
- The north boundary wall of the Church was still awaiting repair. Even though it was acknowledged to be tilting along its full length, there was no obvious case for replacing the wall in full, and so it was decided to rebuild the collapsed section, with the addition of a suitable buttress to prevent it from collapsing again.
- As a result of Covid restrictions, the Church cellar and the flooded organ blower within it had not been examined since December. In view of the recent relaxation of restrictions, it was agreed that the cellar could now be re-entered, and an assessment of what work was necessary carried out.
- Appropriately regulated activities for children in the Halls, were now permitted, and one group had already re-started, with at least one more to follow. As far as adult meetings were concerned, the Hall Convenor agreed to write to users stating that it was the intention to re-open the Halls for general use from the beginning of September, subject to such government regulations as might be in force at that time.
- The immediate re-introduction of Coffee in the Hall after Sunday Services was considered, but the majority of Vestry members considered that this was premature. The Vestry agreed to keep the possibility of taking this step under review at future meetings. The next meeting will be on **Monday 12 July**.

Andrew Long

THE CURRENT STATE OF ALL SAINTS FINANCES

I have heard that some members have become worried that, in common with many other churches, All Saints might have run into serious financial difficulties during the pandemic. I can re-assure readers that this is not the case, despite our Halls having been closed for over a year now and hence the donations for their use having dried up. Although we did transfer a significant sum from the reserve to the general account at the beginning of this financial year in October to cover our initial deficit, since then we have by and large broken even. I do not anticipate, as things stand, the need to move any further sums from the reserve in the foreseeable future.

There are two important reasons for this encouraging financial performance. The first is the generosity of the Diocese in reducing the Quota payments it asks for from charges by 20% for the year 2021, and also in re-imbursing 20% of the

payment we completed last November for 2020. The second reason is that members have been punctilious in keeping up their Free-Will Offering contributions throughout the period of restrictions, and have also made extra generous one-off donations to help meet our expenses. On behalf of the Church, a grateful thank-you to you all for your generosity.

One point I should like to make strongly as a result of what I have said above, is that, as soon as the Bishop makes an appointment of a new Rector to All Saints to follow Kirstin, we will be in a secure position to be able to pay the full stipend and relevant expenses to the new incumbent. We will also be able to cover the costs of temporary pastoral cover during the coming interregnum without any difficulty. I hope this puts the concerns of any worried members to rest.

Andrew Long, Treasurer

THE LABYRINTH

I promised Janet I'd have a photo of the finished labyrinth in time for this magazine, and in order to get a photo of something finished, it's usually necessary to finish it! So we did. As of today, June 13th, we got the last bit of gravel on the path (or rather, Niall did – I've hurt my back!). It's all planted up and is officially complete! And yes – here is a photo to prove it.



I have immensely enjoyed creating this, even, up to a point, when it required digging a bottomless pit under water, or hacking through earth fairly literally as hard as iron. It all seems a bit unreal now, looking at the finished product – which

I think I began on the 1st October last year. I do occasionally ask myself how long it would have taken if I had just paid someone with rather more manpower and some heavy duty digging equipment, but then it would have cost (I imagine) a small fortune, and I wouldn't have had the inestimable secondary benefit of it as my 'sanity project'!

Anyway, that's that. What I really want to tell you about is the sheep incident! This happened a couple of days ago, when I was putting finishing touches to the labyrinth. I'd been aware for some time of the sheep in the neighbouring fields sounding a bit excitable, and it was evident that the farmer was around and was manouvering them. Some movement caught my eye and I looked up to see quite a lot of sheep enthusiastically heading down our drive and then jumping over the wall onto our neighbours' lawn (from which they would inevitably progress to ours, as there is no dividing fence). Frantic shouts of "Awaay" and "Coom bye" came from the farmer and were swiftly followed by the sheepdog which also leapt our wall and very neatly rounded up the sheep and sent them back over the wall and back towards the top of the drive. So far so trivial. The sheep however, had other ideas, and as the farmer remarked a little later "they're too healthy". They obviously decided this was an excellent game and having gone 20 yards up the drive to oblige the dog, promptly leapt over the wall back again into our gardens! Rather to my regret, as I was looking forward to seeing how many times they could play 'here we go round the mulberry bush', at the second attempt they got herded all the way back out of our property.

On the whole it was just as well. I don't think sheep would cause the total devastation a stray herd of cattle can produce when they find themselves in your garden, but for someone who has just spent eight and a half months trying to perfect a garden feature not designed to accommodate farm animals, I was relieved to see them depart.

Mairi Ross

Editor's comment: no apologies for encouraging Mairi to finish the labyrinth in time for this magazine – actually the end result looks even better than the photo. An amazing achievement and congratulations to Mairi and Niall!

Stop Press: see page 21 for some amazing photos of the labyrinth, taken from a drone.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS

A dear friend and former colleague of mine, now sadly departed, suffered a stroke from which she made a good recovery. I visited her regularly to cook lunch for us both and sometimes her husband, a friend and former colleague of David, would

join us. I always enjoyed this as she possessed an Aga and the food always seemed to taste better than from my electric oven.

Eileen also loved to chat and, as she read extensively, she would recommend books to me. Her bookcases were large and full and she introduced me to many books. I love biographies especially of women. A biography of Edith Cavell was one of these - "one of ours!" said Eileen laughing, as she and Peter had met at the Royal London Hospital where she and he had studied nursing and medicine respectively.

Edith Cavell had also trained in her late twenties at the London having previously been a governess to the children of a French family. She later moved to Belgium where she set up a college of nursing. Not only did I enjoy the excellent read but on my next visit to Norwich I went to visit her grave and attended an exhibition held in 2015 to mark the centenary of her death by firing squad at the hands of the Germans in Belgium during WW1. She had patients who were casualties from both sides of the fighting and she firmly believed that the British would be taken and shot rather than held as prisoners of war. She therefore collaborated with Belgian resistance workers to aid them to reach neutral Holland where they were safe. Edith was the daughter of an Anglican clergyman and this reminded Eileen that I would probably enjoy the fictional tales of Barbara Pym of which she had several and so I did.

I am currently reading my way through Pym's works.

For those of you who haven't yet met her, she writes from her close observation of people. She was born in 1913 and died in 1980 a daughter of a solicitor who attended school in Liverpool before going to St Hilda's College, Oxford where she read English Literature. She never married but worked for an organization concerned with Africa in what seems to be a supportive roll of the more "important" males. From the sidelines, she was able to study people and describe them.

Although all the books differ there is some continuity of theme between them. We meet Anglo Catholic priests aplenty from North Oxford to London and their wives and daughters in some cases. The main characters in almost all are unmarried, well-educated women in their thirties who are wondering if they will marry but feel as if they might not and who are often ambivalent about it. Most of her women, whether single or married, do not feel that life is very fulfilling and seem to assess themselves as inadequate although most of the men see them in a more positive light, but at the same time as their handmaidens whom they can rely on to make life easier for them. Older women and especially those in their seventies who are unmarried feel they can interfere in the lives of everyone else and go to a great deal of trouble to amend and put a stop to anything of which

they disapprove. Pym gives us a view into their minds as well as describing their actions and all in an amusing way.

I read them with a smile on my face but one entitled "Crampton Hodnet" made me really laugh. I am currently rereading "Quartet in Autumn", which is rather sad and was written not long before Pym's death. It is a masterpiece but best left until the end. Happy reading.

Mary Stott

ALEX AND JEAN ASK: IS THIS THE BEST WISTERIA IN BEARSDEN?

Definitely and the editor's decision is final!



LIFE

Charlotte Bronte
1816-1855

Life, believe, is not a dream
So dark as sages say;
Oft a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day.
Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,
But these are transient all;
If the shower will make the roses bloom,
O why lament its fall?

Rapidly, merrily,
Life's sunny hours flit by,
Gratefully, cheerily,
Enjoy them as they fly!

What though sorrow seems to win,
O'er hope, a heavy sway?
Yet hope again elastic springs,
Unconquered, though she fell;
Still buoyant are her golden wings,
Still strong to bear us well.
Manfully, fearlessly,
The day of trial bear,
For gloriously, victoriously,
Can courage quell despair!

A poem for today suggested by Brenda Hadcroft

THE STORY BEHIND THIS LANDSCAPE by Susan Gray

2020 saw the realisation that our world, as we knew it, was about to change.
COVID-19 – coronavirus – originating in the Far East spread across the world.
Nowhere was safe!

March 2020 – UK went into lockdown – a word that was to become a regular feature of our vocabulary and everyday language.

Wash hands regularly, use sanitiser, stay at home, only go out for essential shopping, and do not have anyone visit your home. These are the messages pounded out every hour, day, week and eventually every month.

NHS – overloaded, stretch to the limit, beds full, staff at breaking point, services cancelled and friends, families, and those people we did not personally know, cope with severe illness, death, and grief. Loneliness played a large part. No upbeat messages for many a long day.

And yet ...

The natural world was changing- rivers/seas and our atmosphere was beginning to heal itself. Waters that had been polluted were changing – they were becoming cleaner and clearer – fish were returning and other marine life – some that had not been seen for long years were being seen again. Yes COVID 19 impacted on the human life but its impact on our natural world was significant. Would it last?

This Landscape pays homage to the crisis the world has been, and still is, in.



Reading the landscape from bottom left

We see the darkness descend as the virus is rampant – all locked down – no people to be seen.

Beyond the darkness we see the green of nature- trees with their green foliage, then the bareness of winter and on into spring when the blossom grows again, each tree bearing signs of growth at its base.

Equally along to the right we see the blue flowers of ‘forget me nots’, a tribute to those who haven’t survived – never forgotten. Then we see the earth, in turmoil, a symbol as we struggle with life and loss.

Waters and rivers of the world begin to show signs of healing – once heavily polluted now cleaner and clearer. Fish and other marine life return and are seen once more.

Rules are announced - follow and obey – we will win – we will save lives.

2 metre rule; stay away from others/ shop alone/ no social gatherings/FACTS and facemasks become the norm.

Scientists work their wonders – discovery of vaccines – all to remove COVID 19 from our lives and heal.

And so, the path goes on – leading to healing- to saving of lives – a long path.

Vaccines arrive and we wait for the letter inviting us to receive it. Two shots and the virus will wane.

Overarching everything and everyone is the expertise and commitment of the NHS without whom life would be so different.

The Rainbow adopted as a symbol of hope – of daylight, of hope covers all of us – at its end, the ‘pot of gold’. Not too long now is a fervent prayer.

FROM YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friends, a brief report on my recent activities on your behalf. There was a Zoom meeting of the North-West Regional Council (NWRC) on Tuesday, 15th June, with the Bishop and Dean present. Whilst this was largely a “how’s it going” Q&A session, the Dean took the opportunity to update us on some of the decisions made at General Synod (which took place 10th-11th June). He highlighted the decisions made to improve clergy wellbeing, namely an increased holiday provision, the adoption of a 5-day working week for stipendiary clergy, a new complaints procedure and a bullying and harassment policy. All of these developments were well overdue to start to bring the SEC into line with other employers.

The Dean also highlighted the decision of Synod to back a 10-point guidance plan towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030: a highly ambitious goal. For further details see the SEC website: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/>

As part of the general discussion at NWRC, our friends from St. Augustine’s, Dumbarton, gave us the reassuring news that the successful outcome of their search for a new Rector ran relatively smoothly despite covid restrictions.

Finally, a note that Diocesan Synod will take place online on Saturday, 31st July. Amongst the business will be discussion and debate of the long-awaited revised Diocesan constitution

David Simmons

Some Comments on the upcoming Vacancy

I was among the many members of the congregation surprised by Kirstin’s recent announcement that she is moving onto new pastures. I know that many of you are anxious about what will happen and what the future holds for our church. Please be reassured that the vestry are already “on the case” and beginning their preparations for the upcoming vacancy and search for a new Rector. The words of Mother Julian come to mind “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” Let us remember the lilies of the field and not worry too much. Now that our Diocesan leadership is back to full strength there are plenty of people to guide us through the next few months and well-established procedures. As mentioned above, recent vacancies have been resolved successfully and we have many friends within the Diocese to call on for advice. Obviously it is going to be an unsettling period for all of us, but, speaking on behalf of the vestry, I am sure we will come through it well.

Whilst it would be premature to say too much more at this stage, there are a few things that we can do straightaway. The first consideration is that we are quite a small vestry at the moment with only five official members. Whilst a cliché, it is nevertheless true that “many hands make light work”, so please consider whether you might be able to help out by joining the vestry either as a co-opted member or, should we be able to soon, by putting yourself forward at our next general meeting.

Second, whilst we shall obviously be asking Kirstin for a detailed list of the many jobs that she does, other than leading our worship, that we shall need to cover during the vacancy it would be really helpful if you could let the vestry know of any specific concerns you have so that we can make sure nothing gets forgotten. Finally, the vestry are planning to apply for funds from the Province’s “Recovery and Renewal” Fund to maintain our online service provision both post-pandemic and post-Kirstin.

If you have any thoughts or concerns please either email myself (David.Simmons@glasgow.ac.uk) or the Vestry Secretary, John Brooker, and we shall endeavour to get back to you.

David Simmons

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Why I climb trees by Alexander Roach

I climb trees first and formerly because they present a challenge and are a nice change to the flat climbing walls I'm used to from the climbing club. It adds a third dimension to climbing that I rarely come across. Additionally, the lack of restrictions and the fact that it will hurt a lot more if you were to fall helps me focus. The adrenaline provided by said risk broke up the days I spent in lockdown. It's nice to be unobserved and look down on everything, it creates a sort of stillness and calm that, combined with the fact that no one ever casually looks up without reason lets you just relax in peace. There is a tree near my home that provides all these things and I go to read there quite often. Recently I read and wrote a book review on *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce there. As Tom's main source of fun is climbing trees it felt appropriate and it provided the right atmosphere for reading the book.



Why I Swim by Imogen Roach

I first learnt to swim on a family holiday in Lake Ohrid, Macedonia. The lake itself is one of Europe's oldest and deepest and is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. In the day, the waters are turquoise and clear and at night, the bullfrogs sit on the lily pads at the harbour and croak the backing track to Ohrids nightlife. However, the real magic of Lake Ohrid, at least for five-year-old me, was being in the water itself. Something about being in the open air, under the sun, it made the water feel alive in a way I wasn't sure how to explain. I've always felt a connection with the open water. My mum is fond of telling the story of when she took toddler-me to see a beach for the first time and I ran (leaving a trail of my clothes behind me), completely delighted, as fast as I could into the sea shouting "JAMBO JAMBO," while my Granny had conniptions, convinced I would drown. (I still have no idea what was significant about the word Jambo).

During lockdown I was stuck inside doing online school and worrying about exams and dissertations I didn't know would even happen, but every Saturday my mum would drive me to Mugdock park or Loch Lomond, and I would go in for a swim.



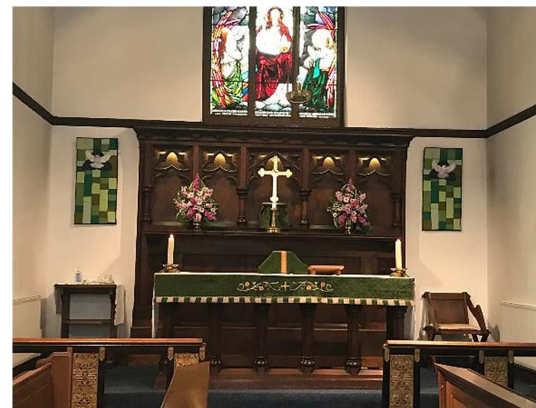
These swims usually only lasted 5 or 10 minutes, especially in January in the cold, but I loved them. The little beach at Milarrochy Bay, Loch Lomond was my favourite. I went one evening in March and the water was flat calm, the sun was setting behind the hills as I swam out and everything was stained pink and gold. It was still and peaceful. The sky was so big, and I felt all alone, like I was the only person awake at that moment, but it wasn't a bad feeling.

What I liked most about wild swimming was the feeling of the cold spreading through every fibre of my body, chasing away the stress, filling me with adrenaline whilst also making me feel grounded. The fact that when you are swimming the only thing you are thinking about is the cold, the water and the sky.

Now it's warmer, school is over for good, and things are starting to feel more normal, but I hope that wherever I end up, I'll always have a towel and a tolerance for winter lochs.

Editor's comment: we are delighted to receive articles from our younger members. It is encouraging to hear how they have coped during a very difficult time for them. Congratulations to Imogen who has a place to read Social Anthropology at St Andrew's University.

ALTAR FLOWERS ON JUNE 20TH



It was delightful to see fresh flowers on the altar – a hopeful sign for the future. Many thanks to those who arrange them so beautifully.

A DRONE'S EYE VIEW OF THE LABYRINTH



ROTA FOR THE SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30 am.

Date	Leader	Service	Reader/ intercessor	Readings	Service Stewards
4 July Pentecost 6	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	David Simmons	Psalm 123 2 Cor 12:2-10	Celia Fisher Tracey Conway
11 July Pentecost 7	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Graham Caie Kirstin Freeman	Psalm 85:8-13 Eph 1:3-10	Janet Stack Andrew Roach
18 July Pentecost 8	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Louise Benson	Psalm 33:1-5 James 2:14-17	Andrew Long Kate Ross
25 July Pentecost 9	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Catriona Craig Kirstin Freeman	Psalm 145:10- 18 Eph 3:14-21	Andrew Long Celia Fisher
1 August Pentecost 10	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Celia Fisher	Psalm 78:23-29 Eph 4:1-7	Tracey Conway Andrew Roach
8 August Pentecost 11	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Andrew Long	Psalm 126 1 Tim 2:1-4	Celia Fisher Brenda Hadcroft
15 August Pentecost 12	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Mary Stott Kirstin Freeman	Psalm 34:9-14 Eph 5:15-20	Andrew Long Kate Ross
22 August Pentecost 13	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	David Hamblen	Psalm 34:15-22 Eph 6 10-20	Andrew Roach Janet Stack
29 August Pentecost 14	Rev Kirstin Freeman	Said Eucharist	Graham Caie Kirstin Freeman	Psalm 15 James 1:17-27	Andrew Long Brenda Hadcroft

The Editor for the September edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to her at janet.stack@btinternet.com by Sunday 22 August, 2021.