

September 2021 Magazine

Rector Vacancy For any pastoral emergency please phone John Brooker until an interim priest is appointed. All contacts can be found on the printed copy.



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Cover picture: St Ninian from Book of Hours of the Virgin and St Ninian, 15th century. See p7 of the magazine

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church
Drymen Road, Bearsden*



Dear Fellow Members of All Saints,

On 1st September, with the departure of Kirstin to serve in Cumbernauld and Monklands, we enter a new Chapter in the nearly 125 year history of our All Saints Church community. As we do not yet have in place an Interim Pastor, whom we might ask to write the traditional opening letter in our Magazine, it falls to me as an editor, who also serves on the Vestry and is thus privy to the work going on to smooth the transition into the period of interregnum, to write to tell you about the arrangements for the next month, and for the longer term until a new Rector is appointed.

Firstly let me assure you all that the 10.30 am Sunday Eucharist will continue in the way it recently has. The Diocese has to nominate priests each month to celebrate Communion for us; those who will be coming in September are named in the table on the back cover of the magazine. Not only will the service continue to be held in the Church, but we will aim to keep the Zoom streaming working for a while for those of you who are not yet wishing to come in person. Full details of the new Zoom Login are given *in the detailed article which follows this letter*.

The service will be followed from 5 September by Coffee served in the Hall, as was the usual practice before the coronavirus appeared. We are also hoping to gradually re-institute many of the other traditional features of All Saints life. The Wednesday Lunch group will we hope restart at the end of September, and House Groups later in the autumn. We also hope to hold more social gatherings as the interregnum progresses.

The Vestry would like to invite you all to consider returning to worship in person in our lovely Church, if you have not already done so. There are still some restrictions to our resuming singing and prayer together, and receiving communion in the way we did before Covid struck, but we do hope that you will all feel able to return soon. A warm welcome will certainly await you. We should also like to ask you to remember the members of the Vestry in your prayers as we move into the interregnum, as we seek to recover from the effects of Covid safely and as we begin to look for a new Rector to serve at All Saints over the coming years. There is going to be a lot to do in the next few months, but with your prayerful support and the blessings of Almighty God we are confident that All Saints will soon re-emerge as an active force in our community.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Long

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST MONTH OF THE INTERREGNUM — SEPTEMBER 2021

At its meeting on 9 August, the Vestry made a number of decisions about the immediate future of the Church and its patterns of worship. Not only was it faced with the absence of a Rector from September, but also with the Covid restrictions recently in place being largely removed, allowing many Church and Hall activities to resume. This article describes what we hope will happen in the first month of the interregnum, although of course it has to be subject to the possibility that some Covid restrictions might need to be re-imposed.

Celebrants at the 10.30 Sunday service and the organisation thereof

During the interregnum, the Diocese will nominate clergy to come to All Saints on a Sunday by Sunday basis to conduct the 10.30 am Eucharist. The list of celebrants for September has been received and is given in the table on the back page of this magazine. Eucharists will continue to be of the first element only, but the wafers will be taken and consumed at the altar rail. Masks will continue to be worn during the service, and sanitising protocols followed at entry and before communion. However entry and exit from the main door are both now permitted. Regrettably we will not be able to offer other alternative services at this stage.

Details of the Pattern of Worship at 10.30

We will continue to worship from the Blue Book (1982 Liturgy). Lessons will be drawn from the SEC Lectionary, and the Old Testament lesson and Epistle will continue to be read by members of the congregation. The Gospel will be read by the celebrant. The intercessions will also be led by All Saints members as is the current practice. We have recently been singing hymns in Church (though continuing to wear masks) using a recorded accompaniment. However the organ is now working again, and it is our current intention to use it to accompany hymns, provided organists can be found. We hope this will start on **September 5**. We will not however have a formal choir leading the singing for the present.

After-service tea and coffee

We intend to resume serving tea and coffee after the service, starting on **5 September**. We haven't yet finalised the protocols for this, but suggest that people continue to wear their masks until seated at tables, as they would in a commercial café. Note that there are now no restrictions to the use of the toilets in the Halls before, during or after services.

Zoom access for the 10.30 services

The login details for the streaming of the service on Zoom will change on 5 September. The new code is **913-382-1554** and the password **Housegrp**. If you have any problems with access please notify me after the service – I will generally be in Church and so unavailable until later on.

Wednesday Lunch Group

Provided Covid restrictions are not re-imposed, we hope to restart the Wednesday Lunch group at the end of September. We will start with an outing on **Wednesday 22 September**, to replace the similar event which was planned but not held in Spring 2000. We will aim to go to Ross Priory, but have not confirmed this yet. The cost will be around £20, which you can pay on the day. If you would like to come, please notify Brenda Hadcroft or myself before 17 September, saying whether you would like a lift, or whether you would be able to drive and perhaps to pick up and carry one or two others. Regular lunches will resume on **Wednesday 29 September**. More details later.

Hall Usage

Activities in the Halls will resume imminently, and quite a few of our regular users are poised to return. However as many of you will know, John Brooker wishes to give up the job of Hall Convenor, which he has done with distinction for many years. The Hall Convenor takes booking for Hall use and acts as the first point of call should there be any problems. However the donations for Hall usage and receipts for payment are handled by the Treasurer. Should you be willing to consider taking this on, please contact John or another Vestry member to let you know more about it.

Andrew Long

VESTRY NOTES — MEETING OF 9 AUGUST 2021

- The Vestry met on Mondays 12 July and 9 August. However the material covered in the former meeting has been largely overtaken by that in the latter and so these notes will concentrate on the 9 August meeting.
- The meeting was held in person in the Church so that the phone signal was strong enough for Zoom to be used to contact a member then staying in Aberdeen. All members were thus present, apart from the Rector. The meeting was chaired by David Simmons, the Lay Representative.
- The minutes of the July meeting were approved.
- The Vestry had already decided to continue streaming of the Sunday morning services on Zoom after August, and the details of how this would be done were discussed. David Simmons's hardware would be used. The Zoom account used

was in Kirstin's name and was not transferrable. However the Treasurer had set up a Zoom account for the Monday Church Housegroup and this could be made available to the Church as a whole. This was agreed. (Details of Zoom services from 5 September are given earlier in the magazine).

- The Vestry agreed to hold the two outstanding AGMs for 19-20 and 20-21 on the same day, **October 24 2021**, after the Sunday service. The first of these would be largely limited to formal work on finance and retrospective appointments, and the immediate past and the future of All Saints would be discussed in the latter meeting.
- The cellar was now dry and protected from further flooding and a timetable for restoring the organ to working order was in place. The Treasurer noted that about 10 cm of rain had fallen on the day of the Vestry meeting, but that the the cellar had remained unflooded; this had been an excellent test of the repairs.
- Coffee and tea were now permitted to be served in the Halls after services, and the Vestry decided that this would resume on 5 September. Pauline Waugh had volunteered to take over the organisation from Jean Stirling, who had been doing this job for many years. The Vestry expressed its thanks to Jean for her faithful service to the Church in this area.
- Under property, it was noted that Kirstin would vacate the Rectory during September, which would give us the opportunity to extend the Quinquennial survey to this building. Consideration of the Quinquennial report on Church and Halls was postponed again to a future meeting.
- The Treasurer had circulated the third quarterly financial report in July. It had been much as anticipated. He also noted that the work on the drains would cost around £5,000, which would need to be drawn from reserves as it was not included in the budget for the year.
- The Vestry had two papers concerning the transition to the interregnum to consider, one from the Lay Rep summarising the jobs which needed to be performed by members to keep the Church running, and the other discussing the tasks which would have to be done to ensure a smooth transition. After discussions, the Vestry made a number of decisions which are detailed in the previous article.
- As the Vestry was currently well below the number of normal members who were permitted to serve at any one time, the Vestry decided to co-opt a number of members, many with recent experience, to serve until the AGMs, when they would hopefully seek regular membership at the election. Such an increase in membership would help to ease the load on members during the

transition period. Graham Caie, Louise Benson, Tracey Conway, Brenda Hadcroft, Celia Fisher and Philip Thompson were co-opted.

- The next meeting would be held on **Monday 6 September**.

Andrew Long

REPORT ON DIOCESAN SYNOD, 2021

The 2021 Synod of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway was held online on Saturday, 31st July, hosted on Zoom by our friends at St. James-the-Less, Bishopbriggs. Synod began with a Eucharist service incorporating the **Bishop's Charge**. Bishop Kevin chose to use the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola to talk about *God, Mission and Discipleship*. Using the example of biblical jubilee, he talked about the need to meet and celebrate and the need to consider the wellbeing of all. He talked about *Mission* as an "attitude", citing the shocking example of the current apparent need for foodbanks in such a rich country as the UK and the refusal by some to share the world's resources (e.g. covid vaccines). He argued that, despite figures to be presented at Synod showing reduced Diocesan numbers, that decline is not inevitable, especially if we all embrace the idea of acceptance of all people, as they are, with no need to change or adapt before being welcomed. He cited the example of the revised Diocesan constitution as providing us with a clear way forward. Bishop Kevin also reflected on the need we all have to be touched and held by God, and on how this need has been enhanced by the physical distancing required because of the pandemic. He argued that the essence of Discipleship is the expectation of jubilee with the knowledge that God is always with us.

After a short break, the main business of the morning was the presentation of and debate on the **revised Diocesan Constitution**. This revision has been necessary to bring our Diocese in line with others in the Province and to comply with Charity Law. One of the main changes is that the elected members of Diocesan Council would be reduced from 14 to 10 (four clergy, 6 lay) and would not be elected by Regional Councils, but by Synod itself. All Diocesan Council members will, in future, therefore, need to be members of Diocesan Synod, which has not always been the case in the past (for example, when I was a member of Diocesan Council for some years, despite being the Alternate Lay Rep for All Saints at the time). The Revised constitution also clarifies the role of Regional Councils, the Diocese's executive (now called the "Bishop's Core Group") and the process of how to bring items of business to Synod. Debate focused on how these changes affected the balance of power between the Regional Councils and the Executive

in the Diocese, but the changes were robustly defended by Dean Reuben and the revised constitution was accepted by a clear majority vote of Synod. Whilst I have my own reservations about checks and balances in this new constitution, it is good to have some clarity now, given that it has been in the offing for some years.

Following on from this debate there was a brief discussion about the sad request from the congregation of **St, Mungo's, Alexandria**, that they be closed. The final service at St. Mungo's will be on Sunday, 29th August at 3pm. There was a vote on this closure which was carried by a large majority of Synod. The morning concluded with a brief presentation on the **Bishop's Lent Appeal** which was, this year, for the Aberlour ChildCare Trust. Bishop Kevin spoke warmly about the work of this Trust and his own visit to one of their services in Govan.

The afternoon began with the presentation of **Congregational Returns** by the Synod Clerk, Rev. Canon Gordon Fyfe. Whilst these statistics show a significant drop in numbers across the board between 2019 and 2020, the Synod Clerk pointed out complications due to the effect of the Pandemic and the withdrawal of St. Silas, Glasgow, from the Diocese. Following on from this was the **Treasurer's report**. Despite the pandemic and a large reduction in total funds over the last financial year (to November, 2020), you will be pleased to hear that the Diocese is still in a very healthy financial state. Consequently, Diocesan Council have budgeted for another large deficit in the next financial year. In another change it has been decided to transfer all Diocesan investments to the Provincial Unit Trust Fund. This move will save money in agent's fees, ensure that our money is ethically invested in line with Provincial policy and obviates the need for a Diocesan investment committee. Members of this committee were thanked for their work over the last few years.

The next item of business was a report on **General Synod** from the Dean. As mentioned in one of my previous Regional Council reports, Dean Reuben focused on the changes to policy on clergy wellbeing and guidance on how to meet the Province's ambitious climate change targets. The Dean shared some very useful resources which I hope we can look at as a church in the near future. After a brief presentation by the Diocesan **PVG** convenor, during which she thanked all charges for providing their returns on time, the **Digital Missioner**, Petko Marinov, gave us a rather beautiful and inspiring report about his work over the last 18 months, focusing on the assistance he has given churches to provide online worship and engage with social media.

After a short break the **Canon Missioner**, Rev Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart, delivered a passionate and inspiring report focusing on the need in our Diocese

for *Transitional Ministry*. Canon Audrey explained that, in recent years, clergy incumbencies in the Diocese have tended to be rather too brief and that one of the causes of this was a poorer fit between the new priest and their charges. She argued that by focusing on “transition” rather than simply “change” we could improve this matching process and also view periods of vacancy as an opportunity for reflection and growth rather than a just a hiatus. Some of our Diocesan clergy, including our own Rev. Kirstin Freeman, have been trained in transitional ministry and this will now be seen as an important aspect of Diocesan activity, overseen by the Canon Missioner. We will experience this process first hand very soon, and I for one am very excited by the prospects of this new initiative.

The final item of business at Synod was an update on the new **Diocesan Centre**, which is now nearing completion and almost ready for staff to move in, once covid restrictions have relaxed enough. I must say the photographs of the new Centre looked very impressive and I look forward to visiting once it is open.

Synod concluded with a confirmation of its Acts by Bishop Kevin and a Blessing.

If you have any questions or want further details, then please let me know.

David Simmons

ST NINIAN – see the cover picture

Feast Day September 16th

We believe that St Ninian was a Briton, born around 360 and died around 432; He is generally credited as the first Christian missionary to Scotland, responsible for widespread conversions among the Celts and possibly the Southern Picts.

The only even vaguely reliable written evidence about St Ninian comes from the account of the Venerable Bede, a Northumbrian Monk writing some 300 years later. He wrote:

"the southern Picts received the true faith by the preaching of Bishop Ninias, a most reverend and holy man of the British nation, who had been regularly instructed at Rome in the faith and mysteries of the truth".

Historically we do know that from the 7th century people have made a pilgrimage to visit the shrine of St Ninian in Whithorn believing in his power to cure illness and perform miracles.

The photo shows the entrance to St Ninian's Cave, Wigtonshire



THE ALL SAINTS DRAINAGE SAGA



Last November, just before the Church closed for the second lockdown, Kirstin noticed an odd smell in the sacristy and opened the trapdoor to reveal some four feet of static water in the cellar below (see Fig 1 which shows the tidemark of the flood against the author). There was no sign of this water level decreasing, so Jim Craig arranged for drainage engineers to come in and pump out the cellar, as an emergency action. The firm involved was Probe Drainage of Kilmarnock who have since proved to be excellent and conscientious contractors. However because of the Covid restrictions we were not able to do anything to identify the source of the flooding problem.

I became involved in the new year, when I tried to understand how the flood had happened. It was not unknown for the cellar to flood – it had happened in around 2005 but no-one knew the reason for it and how it had been cured. It transpired that there were no existing records of the Church or Hall drainage system we could find, even of the work done as recently as 2011. The cellar has an unusual brick construction, which was explained by John Harrington referring to Charles Elliott's history of 1997 ("A Temporary Building"). On p. 75 he records the bellows for the organ installed just after the First World War being powered by a "water engine". However it is not clear when the water-powered blower was replaced; most likely this was done in 1926, when the organ was itself replaced by a Connacher instrument which appears to have lasted until the early 1970s. However the brick chamber to collect the water from the engine remained.

My research seemed to suggest that there was no outlet from the base of the cellar which was consistent with the flood having remained at constant level for many days before being pumped out before Christmas. There was a possible source of the flood water near the ceiling where a drainpipe from the sinks in the sacristy ran into an open pipe. But I was never entirely satisfied that this was the true source of the flooding. Then on Sunday 4th July, there were a series of cloudbursts over Bearsden, and when I examined the cellar the next day, it was flooded again to a depth of around three feet. Once again the water appeared to be static and constant in level.



There was no other solution than to get Probe Drainage in to pump out the cellar again, which they arrived to do on 8th July. However before we started pumping I asked them to open the sump above the main sewer outlet from the whole site (the square manhole to the east of the path from the gate to the main door – see Fig 2). They found this flooded to what I judged to be the

same height as the water in the cellar. Probe Drainage put a TV camera down into the outlet drain from this sump and found that it was completely blocked by tree roots against which paper towels had been trapped. By probing around they managed to remove the towels and some of the roots, and this allowed the square sump to drain. At the same time the water in the cellar also drained away. This showed us that the problem was that, with the main outlet blocked, all the drains on the site had filled up to a level of about two feet below the surface. It also showed that there was a connection from the bottom of the cellar to the rest of the drains, which was found behind a grating flush with the wall, which had not been noticed before (Fig 3). The level of the flood was limited by escape from the cellar into the solum under main floor of the church. This was obviously a serious problem but with an easy solution. Probe Drainage came back in a few days later to use their rotary cutter to bore out the tree roots. They then completed the job at the beginning of August by patching the joins in the main outlet pipe to stop the tree roots getting into the sewer again. Their repair is obviously working well. On 9th August there was another major cloudburst over Bearsden which deposited about 10 cm of rain, and flooded the Church garden and main path to a depth of several centimetres. However the cellar remained unflooded.



A couple of footnotes to this story. Firstly the organ blower (which drives the air into the instrument to sound the pipes) is situated in the cellar, and was under water during the flood. Luckily the power was off at the time due to Covid restrictions. A local firm of electrical engineers was able to remove the blower electric motor after the first flood, dry it out and get it running again. When the

second flood occurred the motor was away for repair and was not re-installed until the drain work was completed. But the organ is now working again and available for use. We must ensure that the outlet sewer remains clear and that there is no sign of build up of water in the square sump, or else the blower will get soaked again.

Secondly, the Church has very few historical documents about the history of its buildings, and in particular there is no full plan of the really quite complicated drain arrangement. I have done some work to try to trace the water flows from the sinks and toilets (drain-spotting?), but this is by no means a complete survey. I will write up what I have found and deposit copies in all the files I can think of. But what we really need is a Church archive in a well-known place which is never raided. This article can go into such an archive.

Andrew Long

READERS AND INTERCESSORS

The Readers and Intercessors rota for September and October 2021 has been prepared , however if any of our former Readers would like to join the rota again from November onwards we would be very pleased to welcome you back.Or perhaps some may wish to join the rota for the first time. in either case please do not hesitate to contact me.

I also wonder whether any of the congregation would feel moved to join the Intercessors Rota? This role does not have to be onerous at all - there are many forms of prepared Intercessions available on the internet , or in specific books. I have found the books of Susan Sayers very helpful over the years.

Some of the resources readily available include the set form of Intercessions at the back of the Blue Book , many set forms on the Church of England and Scottish Episcopal Church websites and plentiful “posts” from churches throughout the world! All forms can be added to or altered to suit current local or international issues requiring specific prayer or intercession.

As above, if anybody feels that they would like to join our rota please do not hesitate to contact me for a chat. We would be delighted to welcome you to our small group.

Louise Benson

Fall, Leaves, Fall

Emily Bronte
1818 – 1848

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

In this lovely, short poem Emily Bronte seems to conspire with nature to bring on the autumn which she loves. She expresses her own emotional connection with familiar autumn scenes which have a very special beauty, but sadly to many of us are a depressing reminder of the approach of winter.

Brenda

A BOOK REVIEW

If anyone is looking for a different read I can recommend my book group's latest book, **Waking Lions by Ayelet Gunder-Goshen**

Set in Israel, the story is about a young neurosurgeon who, coming home late from work, hits a man in the road and kills him. When he realises the man he has hit is an Eritrean refugee he resolves to keep his accident a secret. However, unknown to him the man's wife has witnessed the accident, finds his wallet and starts to blackmail him; not for money but for his medical skills and supplies that he starts to steal from the hospital.

As the story unfolds and more lies are told to cover his activities, further aspects to the story are uncovered. Drug smuggling, racial problems as well as the inevitable problems with his own family come into the story. Lots of moral questions are raised, as well as aspects of life in Israel that I was unaware of.

An interesting book.

Kate Ross

AN UNEXPECTED MESSAGE

Upon opening the Bible, which had belonged to my Mother, a small cutting from a church newspaper fell out. This is what it said:

Fancy Meeting You

I dreamt death came the other night
And heaven's gate swung wide;
With kindly grace an angel came
And ushered me inside.
And then to my astonishment
Saw folk I'd known on earth;
Some I had judged as quite unfit
Or of but little worth.
Indignant words rose to my lips
But never were set free:
For every face showed stunned surprise-
NO-ONE EXPECTED ME!

I am sure we all hope to be there together on the other side with past and present members of All Saint's.

Mary Stott

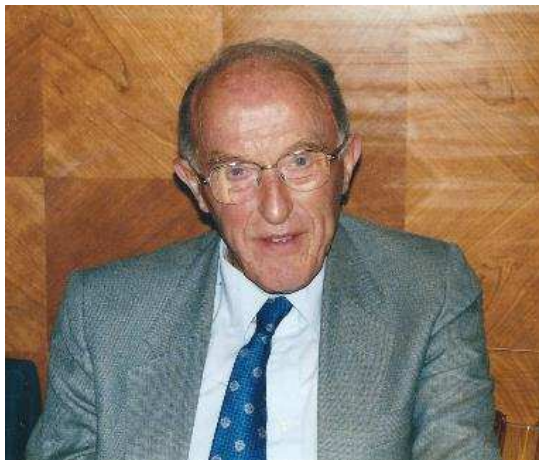
Sadly, we have three deaths to record over the summer of well loved past and present members of All Saints: Keith Robinson, Margaret Dunn and Abe Vaughn. Some memories follow.

THOMAS KEITH ROBINSON OBE

Keith, as he was known, was a member of All Saints from his arrival in Glasgow with his wife Joyce and four daughters in 1965 until he moved to Buxton following his marriage to Pat in 1991, after the sad death of Joyce in 1989.

Keith was born in Manchester and started his career in teaching in Manchester and then Sheffield. In 1965 he moved to Jordanhill College of Education to train teachers of economics and modern studies, and in 1971 was appointed Director of the National Curriculum Development Centre (Social Sciences), for which he was awarded the OBE.

Keith was an inspirational member of All Saints congregation, serving as Lay Reader for many years. He was also Stewardship convenor and Leader of the Bible Class. As David Wheatley states in his memories following, he was instrumental in setting up house groups, at one time on every day of the week, including one that is still going today, with a few of the original members.



He was a great teacher and led a large group of us through the Bishop's Certificate in Christian Education (Lichfield Diocese). This took several enjoyable years to complete and was an excellent foundation for our Christian faith. Those evenings with Keith's leadership were memorable and we shall always think of him with love and gratitude.

Keith died on July 22nd and was cremated at Macclesfield Crematorium on August 9th followed by a Commemoration Service with Thankfulness held on August 25th, after which half of Keith's ashes are interred in the grounds of St John's Church along with Pat's ashes. Keith had requested that the other half is placed with Joyce and Christine's ashes in the All Saints Garden of Remembrance.

Keith tried to visit All Saints each year about the time of the anniversary of Joyce's death, September 27th, so it is very appropriate that there will be a service of interment on Sunday **October 3th**, following the Harvest Service, conducted by Revd. Kenneth Roach, with Robinson family members present. We will hold a harvest lunch that day and hope as many as possible of the congregation will attend, again a fitting tribute to Keith who was chair of a newly formed Social Group and organised the first Harvest Supper in All Saints in 1970.

Some Memories of Keith from David Wheatley

I first met Keith through All Saints Church soon after our arrival in Bearsden in 1979. Keith was instrumental in establishing the House Groups for All Saints Church in Bearsden during the interregnum following Malcom Wilson's tenure as minister. I was fortunate to be involved with him in establishing a bible class for the teenagers in our congregation. His Christian commitment, his wide knowledge of biblical theology and his sharp intellect were soon apparent. These were excellent attributes for conveying the Christian message, which he did with

deep commitment and understanding, to the benefit of many members of our congregation.

Our paths were to cross on many occasions. It was my privilege to be able to replace his aortic valve, an operation he took in his stride. For those of my generation the bond between surgeon and patient was frequently strong, implying shared respect and trust. This was certainly the case with me and with Keith. Following his move to Buxton we remained in contact. Keith and Pat visited Scotland on many occasions. I recall our mutual surprise when I was training at an otherwise deserted Loch Katrine early on a cold winter morning for a cycle race when I came across two lone walkers who turned out to be Keith and Pat. Our conversation then about Keith's activities with the Buxton parish confirmed his continued Christian commitment, and it was apparent that his new life in Buxton with Pat was a source of great contentment and happiness following Joyce's death.

It is very appropriate therefore that Keith's ashes should join those of Joyce and Christine in All Saints Garden of Remembrance, a church that meant much to Keith and his family, and a church to which he contributed so much.

David Wheatley

MARGARET DUNN

Died Monday 9th August aged 86.



Margaret came to All Saints because we had a "back to church" campaign. She quickly established herself with great energy doing her stint on the vestry and becoming social convenor and we all remember the Jazz and Supper nights she organised with her team of helpers. The book stall was another of her ideas. She was part of the lunch club, flower group and house groups.

Margaret's day job was as a health visitor and she worked out of Drumchapel Health Centre and then in Bearsden from Courthill Clinic. As a result, lots of people knew her.

Family always was the mainstay of her life.

She had lots of friends and, if you were one of them, she would be loyal and generous and there for you. She was cheerful and positive and looked on the

bright side of things and a generous host and a excellent cook She was a strong supporter of the RSNO and Scottish Opera, the theatre and the GFT.

She was in hospital during lockdown for a few weeks but there was no diagnosis in spite of all the tests. Getting home to her flat was her aim and this she managed. She came by taxi to visit Alex on the Friday afternoon before she died We had a good chat, going down memory lane, 61 years of it, with lots of laughs. Her parting words to Alex were “you will come and see me next week”. I think that was a good last memory of her for us to have.

Jean and Alex

ABE VAUGHN

Many of you will not know Abe who was a regular attendee with his wife Maureen at Evening Service in years gone by. He suffered severely from Parkinson’s disease for many years so unable to come to All Saints, although he always took a lively interest in the church and faith.

Maureen previously served on the vestry but has also been unable to come to All Saints recently due to Abe’s deteriorating condition. There will be a service of cremation at Clydebank Crematorium on September 2nd at 3.30pm led by Revd. Kenneth Roach.

OUR CHURCH LIFE IN DENMARK



Ann and I spent almost 20 years in Copenhagen before coming to Bearsden and All Saints. In Copenhagen we attended St Alban’s Anglican church, very near the famous Little Mermaid statue. It looks very English in Gothic Revival style and has an interesting history. The Danish-born Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII, largely funded the building in 1864 which was opened in 1887. The site was

consecrated and the foundation stone laid in 1874 in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra), King Christian IX and Queen Louise of Denmark, Tsar Alexander III of Russia and his Danish wife, Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, and George 1 of Greece (also Danish) and his Queen Olga, and many other members of foreign royal houses, besides the entire diplomatic corps, Government Ministers and representatives from Army and Navy, as well as Greek, Russian and Roman Catholic Priests.

I had the privilege of writing a history of the church and when reading in the church archives came across many stories about the many European royal families whose royal yachts were docked nearby before meeting at St Alban’s; then they would travel north on a special train to Frederiksborg Castle in Zealand. The Danish, Greek, Russian, Norwegian and Romanian royal families were all closely related and enjoyed the relaxed freedom of Denmark in the summer to have family gatherings. One incident noted in the archives stands out. During a church service at St Alban’s the Russian Tsar’s Cossack bodyguards charged up to the choir stalls, pulled out an old man from behind the organ, suspected to be an assassin, and flattened him in front of the altar. The Chaplain intervened and explained that the would-be-assassin was just pumping the organ bellows! Most of the royals had hidden themselves below the pews and sheepishly emerged.

When we arrived in 1972 there were still a few old ladies who remembered Queen Alexandra’s visits, as she and her sister Dagmar, the Dowager Empress of Russia, bought a mansion together not far from the church and it was there that Dagmar lived after the Russian revolution. The English ladies at St Alban’s were a remarkable group; all very wealthy widows of Danes, but living in the past with St Alban’s creating a link to the England they once knew. One of them lamented how Denmark had changed over the decades but England hadn’t; each summer she took up residence in her suite at Claridge’s in London and, as nothing ever changed in Claridge’s, she was convinced that England also never changed! They very much lived in the past and disliked changes, such as the introduction of the Peace in the liturgy. “I shall have to wear gloves in the future as you might have to shake hands with – well just *anybody*!”

The church was the official chapel of the British Embassy and the incumbent was called Chaplain to Her Majesty’s Ambassador. The front rows were reserved for the British Ambassador on the right and American one on the left. Other diplomats of less prestigious countries sat behind them, with us, the hoi polloi, even further back. When we first went to the church we were asked if we were “dippy [diplomatic] or business”; my answer of “university” didn’t impress! But we persevered and became attached to the congregation and the church. I was

secretary of the Church Council (vestry) and Ann taught in the Sunday School amongst many other duties. The Council was chaired by the Ambassador and this led, thankfully, to very brief Council meetings. I remember once the Chaplain was upbraided by His Excellency as his sermons were too long and made the Ambassador late for his tennis appointment after church! The kind of vestry chair every rector would love!

St Alban's for most of our time in Denmark was under the care of the Bishop of Fulham and Gibraltar. A curious title for a bishop who covered all Europe. The origin of this anomalous title is the fact that the Bishop of London in 1883, originally with London and the entire continent in his charge, made the Bishop of Fulham a suffragan bishop with the task of covering the vast area of 42 countries in Europe, stretching from Tenerife to Moscow. He was constantly travelling, as he had to conduct all confirmations, and, although not stipulated, almost had to be a bachelor! We always enjoyed his visits as there was the inevitable jolly party in his honour, and he insisted on staying at the British Embassy where he had a good dinner the night before Sunday. We waited with bated breath for his prayers to our monarchs as he often forgot which country he was in. He always got Elizabeth II right, then you could hear him thinking "It's August 23rd, so I must be in Monte Carlo, no, it's Denmark but what on earth is their Queen's name...." He once called Margrethe 'Queen Fredericia', a town he'd passed *en route* to Copenhagen! One day in 1980 I was summoned to the British Ambassador's office as he had been requested by Margaret Thatcher to find a new name for the Bishop. He was to be called Bishop of Europe, as Fulham was pretty ridiculous, but she insisted that "Gibraltar" be kept in the title for political reasons. So was it 'Bishop of Gibraltar and Europe', which didn't make sense, or "Gibraltar in Europe", which was obvious? As my expertise was in English language, surely I had a solution! In the end they settled for "Gibraltar in Europe" but I'm pleased to see now that Gibraltar has been dropped and the title is now "Bishop in Europe". Maggie would not have approved!

One incident stands out. The Chaplain couldn't find a replacement when he was going on holiday, and was getting desperate when one day a young man in clerical attire came to the church. The Chaplain pounced on him and asked him to take over services for a month which he gladly did. We sent enquiries to his bishop in Australia but got no reply until eventually we found out that he was a sad young man who aspired to the priesthood but had been rejected. He disappeared as quickly as he came when we found out the truth.

The all-male choir was famous throughout the land, but one day the Chaplain asked them to raise their hands if they believed in Christ. Precious few hands

were raised, so he dismissed them all on the spot and replaced them with members of the congregation with differing singing abilities, to put it generously. I think the majority of the congregation however would have preferred angelic sounding agnostics!

The church's centenary was in 1987 and Princess Margaret came to officiate at celebrations. I was involved in the preparation of an exhibition and we had several mementoes sent over from Buckingham Palace. We claimed it was Royal Chapel, so designated by Queen Alexandra, and so dressed the choir in royal red robes. Buckingham Palace initially disputed this claim, so we discarded the red and returned to blue robes, just before the Palace admitted their error and we could go back to red! Queen Margrethe kindly agreed to help us fund-raise for a refurbishment of the church in the 1980s and hosted a dinner dance; we all had to learn Les Lanciers, a square dance which the Danish Queen loves, but I'm not sure if we lived up to her expectations.

We were sorry to leave St Alban's after so many years; we'd made very many friends there over the decades, our children were baptised and went to Sunday School there, and it had become part of our lives. It's very nostalgic going back again, now that we are the oldies remembering church events 50 years ago!

Graham Caie

BEARSDEN FESTIVAL



This Festival had run very successfully for several years until sadly the Covid pandemic struck making indoor gatherings impossible. Originally the brainchild of Roddy Hamilton (New Kilpatrick) its aim was to provide uplift to the local community by involving them in a variety of projects and activities, mainly arts and sport related held over a weekend.

The small committee is now needing an injection of a few more people who would be happy to help with moving this forward, with the hope that another Festival might be held in the Summer/Autumn of 2022. They are keen to involve people from other Bearsden churches and it seems an ideal opportunity for us to become part of a worthwhile community project.

A Zoom meeting is to be held on **Wednesday 8th September** for initial discussion, and I can provide details of this or any further information required. Please let me know if you feel able to help with this valuable project.

Gill Hamblen

A SPLENDID LOCKDOWN PROJECT

At the beginning of the first 'lockdown' in March 2020, (almost difficult to remember) - our son Ross and daughter-in-law Elaine both started to work from home at the kitchen table. After a few months and holiday to Florida cancelled, they decided that a garden room/office was needed. With two weeks already booked off in July, plans drawn up by Ross, materials agreed and sourced, they started to build. Everything was done by Ross with help from Elaine (the younger), including two sets of bi-folding doors, two Velux windows, underfloor heating and much more with power connected to the house by a qualified electrician. Taking around seven months to complete, while both working full time, they have a wonderful room to work from at their home in Carluke overlooking the golf course, with a view of Tinto Hill near Biggar in the distance.

Elaine Perrett



HOPE IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

The news recently about climate change, Afghanistan, political ineptitude and covid consequences, has been discouraging, depressing and even alarming for most of us. However, we have recently hosted our daughters, Virginia and Angela, and Angela's two sons on several different visits that have shown a refreshing and more optimistic alternative view of the state of the world, and which have certainly modified my own somewhat sceptical view of what humankind can achieve.

Our younger daughter, Angela, shown here swimming toward France in the distance, has recently completed her participation in a relay race from Dover to Calais, swimming the channel as part of a well-trained team.



Shortly after, her eldest son, Matthew was commissioned in the British Army at a ceremony at Sandhurst and is soon to join his regiment, specialising in military intelligence, where his computing skills will be put to good use. His girlfriend, Emily, whom we met is completing her Masters degree in a climate change related subject. Matthew's younger brother Chris, shown with him, having already worked in Whitehall for experience, is completing his Masters degree in Economics with the aim of joining a major international or government organisation.

Angela (with Clara) and elder sister Virginia

(editor's comment: where have the years gone since Sunday School days!)

Meanwhile, our elder daughter, Virginia, arrived from America, and not to be outdone by her younger sister, joined her in swimming in Loch Lomond. She is very active in kayaking near her home in North Carolina and is very fit. Her daughter (our only granddaughter) is a very



self-assured, confident twenty-one year old lady nearing the end of her University training aimed at paediatric oncological nursing in America.

What struck me forcibly during our many conversations was that all of these young generation family were very well informed about world events and were deeply concerned with climate change issues and other events in the world. But they were seemingly unfazed by the problems that cause us and many of our older friends and older family such disquiet, and were confident about their future and the ability of humankind to overcome present problems.

It reminded me that Ann and I were both born during the most worrying time of the second world war when rationing, blackouts and alarming news of military setbacks were the way of life. Life was less complicated then lacking instant communications from all over the world. It was to be long after that the true horrors of the second world war became common knowledge.

And yet we recovered, consigned the past to history, and participated fully in a very different post-war world. My experience of the viewpoint of younger members of my own and other families at this time of seemingly insurmountable problems gives me renewed confidence and hope for the future.

David Wheatley

ROTA FOR THE SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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

Date	Leader	Service	Reader/ intercessor	Readings	Service Stewards
5 Sept Pentecost 15	Rev Harriet Johnston	Said Eucharist & Hymns	Janet Stack David Simmons	Psalm 146 Jas 2:1-10,14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Andrew Long Kate Ross
12 Sept Pentecost 16	Rev Canon Prof John Riches	Said Eucharist & Hymns	Graham Caie Louise Benson	Psalm 116:1-8 Jas 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Tracey Conway Janet Stack
19 Sept Pentecost 17	Rev Moira Jamieson	Said Eucharist & Hymns	Catriona Craig Andrew Long	Psalm 54 Jas 3:13-4:3,7-8a Mark 9:30-37	Andrew Roach Celia Fisher
26 Sept Pentecost 18	Rev Moira Jamieson	Said Eucharist & Hymns	Mary Stott Celia Fisher	Psalm 19:7-14 Jas 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50	Brenda Hadcroft Kate Ross

FREE WILL OFFERING 2021 – 22

I hope to bring the 2021 - 22 Free Will Offering envelopes to church on 19th and 26th September. If you aren't able to collect the envelopes, they can be delivered to you but please let me know if your address has changed recently.

It is also helpful to know if your tax circumstances change so your Gift Aid status can be amended and the claim to HMRC is accurate.

If you no longer intend to use the Free Will Offering envelopes, please would you contact me:

email me at inglis.rannoch@btinternet.com or contact me on 0141 942 5649.

Penny Inglis

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