

# February 2023 Magazine

Rector Vacancy     *The Revd. Andrea Hagenbuch has been appointed as Interim Priest and can be contacted for pastoral emergencies on 0141 942 0029*

All other contacts can be found on the printed copy in the church



Web Site: <http://bearsden.church.scot>

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The cover picture: Galanthus snowdrops. Heralds of spring, these little bulbs are among the first plants to flower in the new year, often pushing up their heads above a carpet of snow.

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal  
Church*

*Drymen Road Bearsden*



February 2023

Dear All,

This is the first pastoral letter of 2023, so I wish you all Happy New Year and many blessings.

The year has begun on a very sad note for All Saints: the sudden death of Niall Ross just after Christmas has been a great shock to us all; our hearts go out to Mairi. It is always sad when people we love die but it is particularly difficult and painful when they are taken with little or no warning and before their time.

As I write this letter on a cold and frosty January afternoon, Christmas and its celebrations seem a long time ago now. However, at church the festivity continues as we celebrate the season of Epiphany.

We began with the feast of the Epiphany – the revelation of the Son of God by the wise men to the Gentile world. These men from the East were called to enlighten the world with their divine discovery, a world that would never be the same again, a world that would be *inspired* to see things differently through the life and love of Christ.

As we begin a new year we pray for a sense of this *inspiration*.

We read the story of the three Kings in Matthew's gospel. They were not actually kings but magi – wise men, probably astrologers – people who knew the secrets of the stars. We don't have much historical information about these characters and their journey. St. Matthew says they came from the East. Some scholars have speculated they were from Persia. We like to think that there were three of them, but St. Matthew doesn't say that, and the number has varied throughout the church's history; 2, 3, 4, 8, even 12. We call them Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar but those names didn't come about until the seventh century.

And as for "the star?" various theories exist. It has been viewed as a supernatural phenomenon, just a regular star, a comet, or sometimes a planet. But whatever the facts were... the truth of sacred scripture is never limited to or contained only in the past.

It speaks to us today.

We don't know what was in the sky, what they saw, that first night. We don't know what was in their minds; what they thought, asked, or talked about. We don't know what was in their hearts; what they felt, dreamed, or longed for. But we do know that there have been times when we each have experienced Epiphany. Times when our night sky has been lit brightly, times when our minds have been illuminated, times when our hearts have been enlightened. Those times have revealed to us a life and world larger than before. They have been

moments that gave us the courage to travel beyond the boundaries that usually influence our lives.

Epiphanies are those times when something calls us, moves us to a new place and we see the face of God in a new way; sometimes so human that it almost seems ordinary, maybe too ordinary to believe.

Yes, God notices us, knows us, lives within us, and calls us. God is continually revealing himself in and through humanity, in the stories of our lives. Those pivotal moments of love, sorrow, hurt, joy and hope.

These are the stories of our lives, epiphanies that forever change who we are, how we live, and the road we travel. They are often the moments of ordinary everyday life in which divinity is revealed in humanity and we see a glimpse of God's glory shining through the earthliness of our being.

Despite the gloominess of the weather, the news and our weary souls, as we embark upon a new year may we feel boosted and inspired by the Holy Spirit, to be positive in body mind and spirit and heed the words of Saint Paul to the Ephesians as he tells them.

"We have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him, I pray therefore that you will not lose heart" Ephesians 3:13

Amen

Many Blessings to you all

Andrea

### Mid-week Eucharist in February

There will be no Said Eucharist on Wednesday 1st February as Andrea is away.

Wednesday **22nd February 11.30am Ash Wednesday:** Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday **5th April 11.30am** – Holy Week – Said Eucharist

### VESTRY NOTES 12 JANUARY 2023

**Warm Space :** In conjunction with the other Bearsden Churches, the Vestry has decided to create a Warm Space for people who are struggling with their fuel bills. This will happen on Wednesdays between 11.00 and 4.00 at the same time as the Wednesday Lunch. It will start on 18 January, Signs will be put up outside the Church. Any Offers of help will be very welcome.

**Health and Safety:** A second First Aid Box will be purchased. It will be positioned in an accessible place in the Church.

**Visit of the Preferred Candidate for the post of Rector:** The Vestry has made a programme for the visit and is very much looking forward to meeting him on 18 January.

**Church Flowers:** The Vestry would like to thank Ann and Susan for the stunningly beautiful flowers in the Church over the Christmas period.

Brenda Hadcroft

## CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

In the midst of preparing vegetables and bread sauce, it was lovely to take a break and go to the service of lessons and carols on Christmas Eve, led by Andrea and with music organised by Jeremy. Our choir was slightly depleted by absence and illness, so it was great that members of St. Andrews and from the University Chapel Choir could join forces with All Saints.

It was also lovely to welcome St Andrews members to the service and both congregations could take part in the familiar readings and carols.

Thanks too must go to the 'elves' in the kitchen for the delicious mulled wine and mince pies served after the service. A lovely start to the Christmas celebrations.

Kate Ross

## CHRISTMAS DAY

The Christmas Day Service saw the congregation come together to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The Church was dressed in the finery of flowers and greenery so typical of the importance we, at All Saints, place on the spiritual occasions of the Church year.

The figures of the Nativity were in place in the chancel welcoming the Baby Jesus. (The Wise Men were still travelling to Bethlehem. They made their appearance for Epiphany).

Rev. John Riches led our worship, accompanied by the traditional hymns that we know and love. It is indeed the singing of these hymns that allow us to truly know that a miraculous event happened all those years ago.

John preached the story of the Birth of Jesus and added another dimension. He had brought his grandchildren who read, in turn, the Story of the Nativity allowing



us to hear the Story from young voices. This further emphasised the significance and importance of this so very special event.

It was with great delight also that the congregation welcomed Matthew David James Rutherford - Tabitha and Scott's baby boy accompanied by his grandparents - the Craigs and his aunts and uncle. He was the perfect baby in every sense, sleeping through the whole Service. It was a joy to see and meet him. A truly memorable Service. One that all in attendance will remember and treasure.

Susan Gray

## THANK YOU TO THE FLOWER GROUP

A very depleted flower group (due to a widespread attack of Covid) made a splendid job of decorating the church for Christmas. Well done, especially to Susan for taking over the organisation at the last minute. Many thanks to Ellen and Gioia for the marvellous contribution they made, including finding the Christmas tree, unraveling the lights, then decorating and finally the clearing up.

Ann Caie holds our group together and thanks are due to her for her years of service and the regular tea party meetings. The church looked beautiful and warms our hearts at this special time in our yearly calendar.

Not forgotten.....To all others who contributed a warm Thank-you and well done

Sheena McDonald

## A few of the many beautiful arrangements







## WEDNESDAY LUNCH CHRISTMAS PARTY



14th December, and it's the most eagerly awaited event in the All Saints calendar: the Christmas lunch!

It hardly needs to be said that the food was delicious (it always is!). I don't know how many of us were there, but the room was full, and we enjoyed a Christmas soup, the usual tasty sandwiches, and some sausage rolls as a welcome seasonal addition. We also had some fruit punch and other drinks. And there were crackers!

Toys and donations were given for the Glasgow Childrens Holiday Scheme, and we heard from Douglas Wilson about the charity's year. It is particularly satisfying to know that we are supporting a local charity that has a clear and beneficial impact on the lives of people who really need the help.

Then there was the raffle – or raffles, on this occasion. There were multiple prizes, even for the free tickets, and they were all a bit better than the usual gems, so all the lucky winners were happy to admit to having a winning ticket!

We finished with some carols, beautifully led by John Harrington on the piano.

First prize for costume was unanimously awarded to our elf, Lou. Truth to tell, there wasn't much competition, except from Mabel, who did her best to steal the show (as ever), and even tried to join in the carols!

Many thanks to Brenda, Andrew, and the many helpers who on this occasion and throughout the year, do such a magnificent job feeding and hosting everyone!

Mairi Ross

Those who look closely at the accompanying photos of the Christmas Party, will recognise, sitting at the table near the entrance door, Niall Ross, husband of Mairi. Immediately after the party, Mairi wrote the above appreciation. As All Saints members know, Niall was taken grievously ill on 28 December, and died in hospital the following day. Niall and Mairi were staunch supporters of the WLG, and greatly enjoyed their visits to the lunches. Niall will be sorely missed, and our

sympathies go out to Mairi and the rest of Niall's family for their loss. A full appreciation of Niall will be published in the next magazine.



The Wednesday Lunch Group Christmas Sale on 30 November 2022, raised just over £300. Together with the surplus from weekly donations earlier in the session, the WLG was able to write a cheque for £700 for the Glasgow Childrens' Holiday Scheme, which was given, together with the Christmas presents donated by All Saints members, to Douglas Wilson the administrator of the Scheme at the WLG Christmas Party on 14 December. A further £500 was raised at this Christmas Lunch and was sent to the Holiday Scheme early in the new year.

Andrew Long

### **WARM WELCOME.....WARM HUB AT ALL SAINTS**

In conjunction with the ABC initiative for warm spaces, All Saints is extending the hours that the Drymen Hall is open for the Wednesday Lunch Group until 4.00pm. This means that the Hall is now open to welcome anybody from 11.00-4.00pm on Wednesdays serving coffee, tea, soup etc.

There will always be someone to chat to and have a hot drink with during these times. So, if you, or anyone you know would like a bit of company and warmth please do come along.

There are other warm hubs available in Bearsden – please see the spreadsheet in the hall or ask Celia.

Celia Fisher

## **TRIBUTES**

We are very sad to report that we have lost some good congregational friends during December: Renee Cross, Sheila Benson and Niall Ross. A tribute to Niall will follow in the March Magazine.

### **A TRIBUTE TO RENEE CROSS**

Renee Cross, who had been a stalwart member of All Saints for many years, passed away in early December at the age of ninety-two.

Renee had always been a very busy person with a great zest for life. She had been secretary to the late Bishop Derek Rawcliffe, edited the church magazine in the early days, Mothers' Union member holding various positions in the diocese. Her great friend Gwen Mawbey was a fellow MU founder member. Renee was a creche helper too and much more.

Renee was the wife of Don, mother of four, grandmother and great grandmother. She and Don spent the early years of their married life in Malaya where three of their four children were born.

After this Renee lived in Bearsden for forty years enjoying life in Scotland. After Don's death in 2005, Renee moved in 2006 to Greenock to be nearer her daughter Liz and family.

Jean Stirling and I did visit her there from time to time before the pandemic hit and occasionally Renee would join us for a Mothers' Union lunch in Bearsden. Irene Ballantine telephoned her often with news from Bearsden.

On a personal level I found Renee had a wonderful listening ear and gave very wise counsel. Renee is remembered with great affection and will be missed by us all.

Elaine Perrett

### **A TRIBUTE TO SHEILA BENSON**

Sheila Helen Walker Hallaway was born on 2nd February 1923 the first child of Eileen and Frank Hallaway. She was born at home on 10th Street in North Vancouver, allegedly in a snow storm and had her first encounter of the great outdoors that very day when her mother wrapped her up and put her out on the porch in her pram! Brother Dick joined the family in 1925 and the family moved to their lovely longterm home at 866 Sutherland Ave.



Then began what to some may seem a charmed childhood. My cousins Gregg and Ross and I have grown up on tales of life in North Van, and for those of you familiar with *To Kill a Mocking Bird* much of that book resonated with me when I read it. Nothing to do with the racism or awful prejudice contained in that book, but the life of small town in the 20's, where everyone knew everyone else and childhood was good. Mum had so many friends from those days who she kept in touch with all her life. The family would spend the summer months on either Gossip Island or at Boundary Bay and from the masses of photos Gregg and I have, Mum and Dick spent most of their time in the water.

Before leaving school Mum had been accepted at the University of Washington in Seattle to study journalism, but when the US entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941 that put paid to her plans for university. She never did become a journalist but was encouraged for years but her Aunt in the Lake District to publish the stories she told me as a child; alas not to be! She was however always a great story teller.

Things were not too bad for a girl in her late teens however, as her parents opened their home to Commonwealth service men out on the West Coast training for the war effort. The offer was there for servicemen to join the family either for a meal or for accommodation. Great if you're a teenage girl having all those dishy guys about! My grandmother always said that she hoped some other mother would do the same for her son, which is indeed what happened when Uncle Dick was wounded at Arnhem and he was billeted with a Dutch family to recuperate. The guest book from Sutherland Ave, sadly lost, had over 1300 signatures in it. It was during these war years that Mum developed her interest in clothes and looking smart and she remained a "snappy" dresser as Dad would say, all her life.

When she was still a baby, her mother and one of her sisters, Auntie Dip, brought Mum to the UK all the way across Canada by train to Halifax and then across the North Atlantic. My grandmother wanted her sisters who had remained in England to meet her new baby and she also wanted to meet her new in-laws in Carlisle. They returned by the same route in 1938, when Mum had eyesight saving surgery at Moorfields Hospital in London. The surgery was unable to save the sight in one eye and her remaining eye had limited vision - something that few people ever realised. She had a fantastic time in '38, apart from the surgery of course, and was in her words "spoilt rotten" by relatives. In total we counted up recently that Mum had crossed the North American continent by train, car on a Greyhound bus 10 times, and the North Atlantic 5. Lost count of the number of times she flew to Canada thereafter! A born traveller!

After the war Mum worked in Toronto and Ohio and when, in 1949, her friend Betty suggested she join her on the trip to Scotland to visit her sister who was married to a Scottish sea captain based in Paisley, Mum jumped at the chance. Her father agreed to pay her passage one way but said she'd have to earn her way home. She sailed up the Clyde on 16th November 1949 and after staying in Paisley for a few weeks spent Christmas in Croydon with her aunts. But that was never going to work as they watched her every move, so she came back to Glasgow where she had liked the people, got a job and digs in Kersland Street and, at a dance at the Overeas Club in February 1950, she spotted a tall, dark, handsome man come into the dance hall with a group of friends and knew at the moment he was the man she would marry. And that is what happened. Mum and Dad were married at St Mary's Cathedral on Great Western road on 6th July 1951, and spent 56 happy years together.

They started married life in Crown Terrace which she loathed - too cold and draughty after a Canadian home, so when after a few years they bought their first home on Monreith Ave in Westerton she was blissfully happy to have a garden, a dog and lovely neighbours. I joined the family in 1957 and had a lovely early childhood in that house. My grandparents visited us there in 1960, the first time Mum had seen them for over 10 years and the first time they met their son-in-law and granddaughter. We moved to Rubislaw Drive in 1962 and it was to be her home for the next 60 years.

Although like many women of her era, Mum did not work after she married, I can never remember her not being involved in one charity or good work or another. The great advantage for me was that she was always there when I got home from school and ready to listen to my tales. In the early days she worked with children with learning disabilities, then on the The Red Cross, Cancer Research, the library trolley at the plastic surgery unit at Canniesburn, and many more that I can't remember. She was President of the Canadian Club of Glasgow in 1966-67 at the time of the Canadian Centenary. She continued her membership of the Canadian ladies lunch club for the rest of her days.

Mum was the longest and oldest member of Bearsden flower club, she played bridge for years until the lighting caused her eyes too many problems. She loved gardening, but her main and abiding passion was reading - so many books over the years, all neatly catalogued by author. Mum grew up with dogs and continued her love of dogs throughout her life. Mum loved music and introduced me to opera and classical music and we had a mini season ticket at the RSNOC from 1991 until Covid arrived. Our last outing was to a lunchtime concert at the Conservatoire at the end of October.

When I moved to Troon in 1988, Mum and Dad considered that they had gained a pied-a-terre by the sea and indeed visited me many, many times over my 25 years there. I moved back to Bearsden over 9 years ago and have absolutely no regrets about that move to be with Mum. David has played a big part in her life over these and I thank David for being by my side throughout these years.

It will be so strange without her this Christmas, a time she always loved, although I can never remember a Christmas meal with just the three of us - she always invited friends or neighbours who were on their own or whose family were overseas.

Mum was a woman of routine - she wrote a day a page diary faithfully every day starting in 1953, she did a Herald crossword every day, had a whisky at 5 pm and the news at 6 pm. She also put pins in her hair every night (something she'd be horrified that I have mentioned!) - but on the day she was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at the end of October, as an emergency, and after 5-6 hours waiting in the admissions unit she eventually got a bed on a surgical ward I left her, both of us exhausted, at 1am. As I closed the door to her room there she was sitting up in bed putting pins in her hair! I guess that in a way sums her up - it's that indomitable spirit that got to to nearly 100 years of age, despite 2 heart attacks in her late 40's, numerous health scares, and such poor eyesight.

The bedrock of Mum's life was her faith, nurtured at the Children's Special Service Mission at Boundary bay in 1933. She came to this church in 1954 and has been a faithful and active member until recent weeks, for all of those years. She was active in the Ecumenical group in Bearsden, helped in the early days of our links with the church in Drumchapel and hosted a house group for years. Her favourite activities were leading the Women Fellowship and being on the flower group. The fellowship, friendship's and love of this church family meant the world to her.

I have received many comments about what a character Mum was and a one off, what a loyal friend she was, that she spoke her mind and didn't suffer fools gladly and how she and Dad were like a double act, all of which are true. However to me she was just my beloved Mum, and my goodness we had fun over the years.

Sheila was my mother, my sister and my best friend and I thank God for her.

Louise Benson

## **ASSOCIATION OF BEARSDEN CHURCHES**

We have been able to resume more activities with our friends from the other Bearsden churches. Carol singing at Asda has been restored to the calendar and a very select group (probably due to the requirement for skating abilities to arrive safely at the venue) were welcomed by Asda staff to enjoy smiles and waves from shoppers, particularly from some young children who seemed fascinated by the novelty of hearing carol singers on their shopping excursion. Despite the weather, the carol singing raised £612 which was distributed equally between Drumchapel Foodbank and St Margaret's Hospice. Thank you to everyone who came along to sing.

January usually brings the Unity Supper. In an attempt to widen its appeal, this year it was decided to organise a lunch instead of a supper. The intention was to hold the event at Baljaffray Church but unexpected problems in their kitchen led to Killermont Church kindly acting as hosts in their beautiful light and airy hall where we were made welcome at very short notice. The catering was provided by Gavin's Mill.

The lunch was followed by a very enthusiastic and balanced presentation by Laura Young who is studying for a PhD related to the environment and land. She told us how she became aware of disposable "vape" containers, which contain lithium batteries, littering public spaces. She used social media to highlight the problem and eventually received support from the Scottish Health Secretary for a ban on their use. She also spoke about cycle lanes from her experience of using them suggesting that everyone affected by their creation should be involved in their planning. This would prevent developing unsuitable routes from the point of view of both users and the community.

During lunch Laura asked her audience for questions relating to environmental issues which she could include in her talk. Electric cars were a popular topic and her view was that, although developments are taking place in manufacture and modularisation to extend the life of the car by enabling parts to be replaced easily, there is still work to be done to reduce the environmental impact of the car and facilitate the use of public transport. She highlighted the fact that India and China produced the highest level of emissions but this is driven by our own reliance on the products produced in these countries. Laura suggested that tool banks would be useful to many of us as we could borrow rather than purchase tools which we are likely to use infrequently and so reduce our environmental impact.

Relevant websites:

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk>

<https://carbonliteracy.com>

In this lively thought provoking talk, Laura outlined her own environmental journey including a challenge to encourage environmental work in her community from the minister of the church she attended. This resulted in the planting of an orchard in the church grounds. The presentation also linked her work with her enthusiasm for Christianity using biblical passages such as the creation in Genesis. The message from this sensible, knowledgeable young woman is that we all need to work together to protect our environment.

Celia and Penny

## **FRIENDSHIP HOUSE – APPEAL FOR HELP**

17 Park rd., Milngavie

G62 6PJ.

12/1/23

We are once again looking for new volunteers to help run our café, and I would be very grateful if you could put a notice in your intimations or news sheet or church magazine to advertise this. You may remember that Friendship house is a charity run by volunteers from all the churches. We provide tea, coffee, scones, cakes toasties or filled rolls, very cheaply, but also a warm space and the offer of friendship, all of which are even more important these days. We are currently open only 2 and a half days, Thursday and Friday 10 till 4 and Tuesday 10 till 1, but if we had more volunteers we could go back to 5 days per week. Many of our volunteers have given their time over many years and really should be allowed to retire. Some have had to give up because of illness, either their own or that of relatives. Sessions in the kitchen or as befriender (serving and / or chat), are either from 10 till 1pm or 1 till 4pm, and can be as little as 1 per month. If anyone is interested, I would be happy for them to contact me on 07719949929, or at Friendship house at the above times when any of the volunteers would be happy to show you around.

Yours faithfully, Rhona Raeburn

## **BOOK STALL**

Just a reminder the book stall is up and ready in the church hall- plenty of excellent books to choose!

Mary Stott and Jane Lewis

## **CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY BOOKS**

There are now some bible story books on a shelf at the back of the church, which I hope that families might use when they come to worship with us. Stewards on duty might like to offer them. When my own children joined the adult services for more than a short length of time, they seemed to like looking at the pictures and, later, reading the story books that I brought with us. However, we don't seem to have a story book specifically for either Christmas or Easter so, if anyone has something suitable that is no longer needed, please feel free to pass it to me, otherwise I can easily purchase them. Many thanks.

Pauline Waugh

## **SOME WORDS FROM YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE**

I apologise that it has been so long since I updated you on my activities as your Lay Representative. Since my last report, there have been a number of events and developments.

First, you are probably interested in our progress on filling the Rectorial vacancy. As I write we hope to be closing in on the end of this process. As you know, we had a range of applicants which was whittled down to a short-list of three, of whom two were interviewed in early December (the third one withdrew). After the interviews the interview panel named their preferred candidate who has now visited us in Bearsden. During this visit, this person met members of the vestry, explored the local area, inspected the Church and Rectory and had meetings with the Dean and the Bishop. The vestry met after the morning service on Sunday, 22nd January, and made the decision to offer the post to this candidate. The next step is for the candidate themselves to make a decision, in the light of their visit, about whether or not to take up the post. If they do then we should be able to make an announcement soon, subject to certain formalities. If not, then we shall have to re-advertise the post.

Meanwhile, I attended my first face-to-face Diocesan Council of the “new era” on 26th November, 2022. At this meeting, as I promised in my last report, I brought up the issue of the number of recent church closures, especially in our region (most recently Alexandria and Drumchapel, of course). This is clearly an issue of grave concern for the future of the Diocese. Whilst nobody likes to see charges close, there are certain minimum requirements for them to stay open, not only enough money to maintain the buildings, pay the bills and pay the clergy stipend,



but also enough people to form a vestry and elect office holders consistent with the charge's constitution. Whilst our Diocese is not exactly short of money, it is imprudent (and I speak as one of its current trustees!) to throw money away on charges that are doomed to close in the near future. Consequently, the Diocese is currently undertaking an audit of Charges, examining their constitutions and ensuring that all trustees and office holders are adequately trained, as we move forward. I dare say there will be further closures on the horizon, but I am confident that the Diocese is in good hands with a view to a more robust, if somewhat leaner, future.

We discussed these issues further at the North-West Regional Council (NWRC) AGM on Wednesday, 18th January, hosted in our church. I can also report that, following this meeting, the office holders remain the same, with Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch as chair, Tim Rhead (also of St. Andrew's Milngavie) as secretary and myself as vice-chair. Special thanks to Brenda Hadcroft for leaving us some surplus cake and sandwiches from the Wednesday Lunch Group, Andrea for organising the tea and coffee and Louise Benson for not only helping distribute the catering but also doing all the washing and clearing up!

Note that we shall also be hosting a joint choral evensong at All Saints of the North-East and North-West Regional Councils on **Sunday, 5th, February at 5pm**. We will be joined by the choir of St. Michael's, Helensburgh, along with St. Andrew's Milngavie, for this, and it should be a joyful occasion, so please join us in welcoming these visitors to our church!

I cannot finish without a mention of the recent sad loss of two highly valued members of our congregation: Sheila Benson and Niall Ross. Our hearts go out to Louise, Mairi and their respective families at this difficult time. We shall certainly miss Sheila and Niall very much.

David Simmons

## OUR WONDERFUL NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE!

On Monday 9th January I started my first infusion of an immunotherapy drug and a CT scan on the same day. On returning from the first Church lunch of 2023 on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, there was a letter waiting for me dated 5th January 2023 asking me to attend hospital for a CT scan on **Thursday 1st January 2099!** I know that modern medicine can perform marvellous treatments for a variety of diseases but I am not expecting to be available for a CT scan in 76 years from now!

David I. Stott

## JOHN UPDIKE

1932-2009

### January

The days are short,  
The sun a spark,  
Hung thin between  
The dark and dark.

Fat snowy footsteps  
Track the floor.  
Milk bottles burst  
Outside the door.

The river is  
A frozen place  
Held still beneath  
The trees of lace.

The sky is low.  
The wind is gray.  
The radiator  
Purrs all day.

In this lovely short poem, Updike use his wonderful poetic skills to create a series of stunning, but familiar images: the sun appears like a thin spark of light in the short space between day and night, a narrow streak between two sheets of darkness; we see snowy footprints on the floor and bottles bursting ; the river is frozen to stillness, held in place by bare trees made beautiful by frost and snow. But the last stanza reminds us that winter is gloomy too. It is as though Updike can't resist a parting flash of wit by adding, 'Yes, of course, January is beautiful, but let's face it, it's also dark, windy, cold and wet, so stay at home and keep the central heating on!'

Brenda Hadcroft

## HOUSE GROUP NEWS

The Monday house group had some lovely meetings throughout the Autumn. Beautifully lead by David Wheatley and mentored by Rev, Professor John Riches. David presented this as part of his studies for his Degree in Theology. Four years ago, five of us had the most wonderful and memorable week in The Holy Land together. Never to be forgotten.

David looked at some of the amazing aspects of the influence and history of this wonderful city and its environs; the Romans, the Jews, the Desert, Masada, the gates and streets of the city of Jerusalem.

For the five of us to share with the House group was a privilege: the wonderful moments of an early morning voyage on the sea of Galilee; to sit and (have the most delicious apple cake) in a garden overlooking the Golden Domes of Jerusalem; to swim (with great difficulty) in the Dead Sea; for me to visit the Church of England church in the city and kneel on the hassock inscribed with Newbiggin- by the -sea (The Northumberland fishing village, home of my in-laws) all experiences of a lifetime; and to visit the Masada and the amazing tunnels beneath the city of Jerusalem.

Our thanks go to David for his research, his knowledge and his presentations and to John for being with us. Another very happy and successful series of meetings while enjoying Janet and Bryan's warm Hospitality.

*Addendum:*

If ever you have the opportunity: Go to Jerusalem. It can enrich your faith beyond compare.

We will be restarting meetings soon -more details to follow.

Sheena MacDonald

## THE E GROUP

We continue to study "Equality is Biblical" by Penelope Wilcock, and our first meeting after the Christmas break is on Wednesday 1st February at 21 Kelvin Crescent at 7.30pm. If anybody would like to join us they would be most welcome.

Tracey Conway

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30 am  
Zoom Meeting Number 913-382-1554 Password Housegrp  
Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	5 February Third Sunday before Lent (Green)	12 February Second Sunday before Lent (Green)	19 February Sunday before Lent (Green)	26 February First Sunday of Lent (Purple)
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev David Cameron	Rev David Cameron	Rev. Prof John Riches	Bishop Gregor
<b>10.30 Service</b>	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
<b>Stewards</b>	Pauline Waugh	Andrew Long	Janet Stack	Brenda Hadcroft
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Louise	Graham	Hanan	Jenny
<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 58:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Romans 8:18-25 Matthew 6:25-end	Exodus 24:12-end 2 Peter 1:16-end Matthew 17:1-9	Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11
<b>Reader</b>	Mary Stott	Andrew Long	David Hamblen	Bryan Stack
<b>Intercessor</b>	Ceila Fisher	David Hamblen	Sheena MacDonald	David Simmons
<b>After-service Coffee</b>	<b>Joyce</b> John	<b>Janet</b> Gioia	<b>Pauline</b> Tracey	<b>Gillian</b> Fiona
<b>Other events</b>	There will be a said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes on <b>Ash Wednesday February 22nd at 11.30am</b> There will no mid-week Eucharist on <b>February 1st</b>			
	<b>5pm Sunday February 5th Evensong at All Saints</b> with the Rector and choir from St Michael's Helensburgh and St Andrew's Milngavie, joining us at All Saints North West and North East Regional Councils combined evensong			

The Editor for the March edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to [janet.stack@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.stack@btinternet.com) by **Sunday 19th February, 2023.**