

May 2023 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road Bearsden



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

On June 15th the Rev David Guest will be instituted as Rector of All Saints

Other contacts can be found on the printed copy in the church

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

Web Site Co-ordinator: Janet Stack (janet.stack@btinternet.com)

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The cover picture: during the service on Easter Day, an empty Cross is decorated and then placed outside where it can be seen by passers-by .

May 2023

Dear All,

It is now all change at All Saints with the news that the new Rector will be taking up his post in June. This will therefore be the final pastoral letter which I shall write for the magazine. I would like to take the opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to be your interim priest. I have really enjoyed ministry with you, and it has been wonderful getting to know you all. Throughout almost two years we have shared many moments of great joy but also times of sadness and loss, each pivotal occasion bringing us closer together as we sense the presence of God in all we do and feel.

Now we are in the celebratory season of Easter.

The Church devotes seven Sundays to exploring the Easter message and its implications for us, its Easter people. On Easter Day we celebrated the victory of life over death. In the remainder of the Easter season, we examine what that victory means for the disciples and for us.

On day of the resurrection the disciples gather late in the evening frightened hiding behind closed doors. Jesus then appears to them in that room and only after he bestowed his peace upon them do they recognize him. He breathed his Holy Spirit upon them.

But eight days later the disciples were back behind closed doors. So, Jesus came to them again and once more bestowed his peace upon them.

Jesus came to the disciples. He forgave them. He transformed them.

The point is Jesus came to the disciples. In every post-resurrection appearance, Jesus appeared to the disciples wherever they were - to Mary Magdalene sobbing in the garden, to the disciples cowering behind closed doors at what was probably the lowest point in their lives, crushed by despair, consumed by grief, and overwhelmed by doubt. In all these situations Jesus sought them out, he came to them.

And so, it is with us. When misery overwhelms hope, when faith dissolves to doubt, when fear replaces courage, when loneliness devours us, God finds us and comes to us wherever we are.

We may not recognize him at first, but he comes. It may be in the kind deed of a stranger, in words of encouragement from a colleague, in the embrace of a friend, or even in difficult words of tough love from our family.

God comes to us.

Jesus also forgave the disciples. He tried many times during his ministry to explain to them the fate that awaited him but in the they deserted and denied him. When Jesus found them behind those doors that first evening and again the following week – afraid, he didn't argue with them or criticize them, he simply forgave them.

"Peace be with you." These were his first words to them. It was neither the peace of a casual greeting nor a wish but a healing gift, a restoration of their relationship with God.

It was new life, Easter life.

We're just as human as the disciples and just as likely to hide behind closed doors for various reasons. We may hide because of fear, possibly because of shame over our misdeeds or embarrassments. There are times when we're wounded, sorrowful, or afraid, or even worse, have caused another to be so. Maybe our faith wavers frequently or even disappears entirely at times. Each of us has our own special set of doors behind which we hide. But no matter how often we slip back behind those doors, God offers us peace, love, and mercy. God offers us the restoration of right relationships, new life, Easter life. God provides a community to enfold us and food to nourish us. God forgives us.

Through baptism and the sacrament, we also have received his Holy Spirit and are sent out from behind our individual doors. And so, we leave behind our fear, doubt, and embarrassment and begin a new life. A life filled with the hope of the resurrection, an Easter life. As God transformed the disciples, he also transforms us.

"We are his Easter people and alleluia is our song."

Happy Easter to you all and may I wish you all the best for the future.

With all my love and prayers

Andrea

We are very grateful to Andrea for her wonderful support and friendship during the vacancy period, and for her inspiring Pastoral Letters each month.

There is a link from our website <http://bearsden.church.scot> to the Bishop Kevin's Easter Message, "Do not be afraid".

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW RECTOR, THE REVD. DAVID GUEST

An Adventure in Space and Time

Greetings! As I prepare for the grand move from south to north I wanted to say an enormous thank you to you all for your support and welcome in the appointment process – and of course to say how much we are looking forward to being with you very soon.

In expanding what you know, please note that I am NOT the late David Gest, Liza Minnelli's ex-husband. So there will be no reminiscences about life being a cabaret or anything with a "Zee!"

You will quickly learn that, among other things, I have a huge passion for Doctor Who – you will soon spot my personalised numberplate or the various items in the Rectory!

It's an exciting year for us fans, as the programme celebrates its 60th anniversary. In February, it was a joy for me to help run and do live stage interviews at a Doctor Who event alongside Doctors and companions galore. Not only have I been a "Whoover" throughout the decades I have also had the honour to have had chapters that I wrote included in various books about the series.

A drama about the creation of the programme was made 10 years ago called An Adventure in Space and Time, and the title comes to my mind when I reflect on making new beginnings and continuing my Christian journey of adventure walking alongside you all in Bearsden.

The seasons of the Church year and indeed the different shades of ministry and where God calls us to be at any given moment require us to do a bit of time travelling – looking to the past for the benefit of wisdom and experience; looking to the present, so we're in touch with reality and discovering the truth in the here and now; and looking to the future, when we anticipate the coming of Christ at the end of time as King.

They are "adventures" because we can't get through them passively. We have to get involved. And while we may not meet any Time Lords along the way, we are most certainly bound for an encounter with the Lord of Time, for whom a thousand years is like a day, who "inhabits eternity" according to Isaiah.



While we could possibly do with a Rectory that is "bigger on the inside" like the Doctor's TARDIS for all our stuff, it is definitely something we should aim for as a church – having a welcome that is bigger than people expect when they first see us, having hearts and minds ready and willing to explore the community around us and all that God calls us to be and do.

We are so looking forward to sharing the adventure with you, recognising that we can all benefit from one another's wisdom and experience, eager to ensure All Saints is a place where we learn from the past, make the most of the present, and walk enthusiastically and confidently into whatever the future may hold.

And if you are a fellow sci-fi fan, just remember: the geeks shall inherit the earth!

Revd David

VESTRY NOTES 13 APRIL 2023

- The Installation of Rev. David Guest as the new Rector will take place in the Church on **Thursday, 15 June at 6.00pm**. There will be refreshments after the service. A copy of the Cambridge University Press Coronation Bible will be given to Mr. Guest to mark his arrival.
- The Rectory is in the final stages of its refurbishment: a shed has been ordered for the garden and shelving for the study has been designed.
- Presentation for visiting clergy: on behalf of the congregation the Vestry will give each of the visiting clergy a book token to express our sincere thanks for their kind ministrations during the vacancy.
- Presentation to Jim Craig: there will be a presentation to Jim Craig as a token of our gratitude for his many years of service as Property Convener.
- Church Heating: the Church heating problem has now been repaired. The Vestry thanked Andrew for his continued hard work in resolving the problem.
- SEC Net Zero Action Plan: David Simmons intends to lead a group which will make suggestions for the plan. This will be advertised in the magazine. p5
- Congregational Records: The Vestry is intending to make some changes to the way we keep records in accordance with legal requirements. A notice will be sent to every member of the congregation.

- Flowers at Easter: The Vestry would like to thank Ann Caie and the Flower Group most warmly for the stunningly beautiful floral decorations in the Church at Easter.

Brenda Hadcroft

REACHING "NET ZERO" BY 2030 – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

As many of you know, the Scottish Episcopal Church has set itself the ambitious target of achieving "net zero" carbon emissions by 2030. Each charge in the Diocese has been asked to think about how they might do this on an individual basis. As such, the vestry has decided to form an environmental group to work on this, chaired by myself. Please get in touch with me if you want to help and we'll organise a meeting as soon as convenient.

David Simmons

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 - 20 MAY

Volunteers from churches in Bearsden and Milngavie will be delivering envelopes and leaflets through doors this week hoping to raise funds to support projects around the world, but particularly in Malawi which has had links with Scotland for many years. Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

The impact of the recent Cyclone Freddy in Malawi has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. Gifts this May will continue to support the pigeon pea project and other vital work around the world.

There are several ways to donate. In Milngavie you may get an envelope delivered – this can be returned to any local church or to Ruby Red in Milngavie precinct. If you live in Bearsden you may get a leaflet through the door which will encourage you to donate through a Just Giving page – you can find it here. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/bearsdenchristianaidweek2023>. Anyone can give to Christian Aid online - <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-002736> - or just search for Christian Aid Week online.

I'm afraid I don't have information for those of you who live further afield but there will be the opportunity to give via envelopes in the church pews. These will

be put in place before the 14th and can be returned at the back of the church on 14th or 21st May.

Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are in a position to do so.

In addition, Bearsden Cross Church is holding a coffee concert in aid of Christian Aid on Sat 13th May at 11.30. This will comprise of an hour of popular operatic arias and ensembles from favourite operas featuring vocalists from the Royal Conservatoire. Admission is £10, cash only, payable at the door. Coffee and home baking is included in the cost and is available from 10.45am.

Celia Fisher

A SERMON ON THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

BY THE REVD PROF. JOHN RICHES

The Gospel of John 20:19-29

John 20:25: Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.

This is a story in two scenes, with a linking passage introducing Thomas' doubts, set on the two Sundays immediately after the crucifixion. John, unlike the writers of the Synoptic Gospels, is quite fond of these multi-scene stories, like the man born blind. They're one of the ways in which he reflects on the meaning of what's going on. This ultimately is a story about new beginnings, forgiveness, restoration, new life and new tasks - and the nature and grounds of belief: quite a lot for 11 verses.

At the most obvious level, this is a story about how the disciples respond to the discovery of the empty tomb and to the news of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene. Peter and the Beloved Disciple have seen the empty tomb and responded differently to it: the Beloved Disciple saw and believed; presumably Peter saw and didn't believe, thinking, like Mary Magdalene, that the body had been removed. Mary also saw and didn't believe until Jesus appeared to her and she recognised him.

As our story starts, the disciples – minus Thomas - are hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They have heard the news from Mary Magdalene but they are still fearful, dispirited. She may be the first witness to the resurrection but her words appear to have fallen on deaf ears. All of this changes when Jesus appears – miraculously – to them. He greets them: *Peace be with you!* It is of course more

than a simple greeting, though it is that: a resumption of communication beyond the grave, after breakdown, denial, death. More than that, for the attentive reader at least, it picks up Jesus' promise in chapter 14 that after he leaves and returns to the Father, he will come to them will give them his peace and remove their fears and relieve their troubled hearts. (14:18ff) This is not just a resumption of the old life they had lived with Jesus before his death: It is the inauguration of a new life, now that he has returned to the Father! And the disciples respond with joy: their eyes are opened as they see the marks of his crucifixion. Their Lord, who bore all this to remain true to his calling and mission to a suffering world is still with them.

His coming to them after his death, of which he shows them the signs, has changed everything. How great that change has been, turning everything upside down, becomes immediately clear. Jesus had promised at the Last Supper, that after his death he would go to the Father and would then come to them to give them his peace, to enfold them in the love that he shares with the Father, and to give them the Spirit. Their joy shows that they are beginning to sense the new life that is coming. So, Jesus repeats his greeting: *Peace be with you!* And now he commissions them, gives them their new roles: As the Father sent me, so I send you; breathes on them and gives them the Holy Spirit. This is way more than just an appearance to the disciples to convince them of his survival, his having been 'raised from the dead': it is the inauguration of a whole new way of life: they (all) are to step into Jesus's shoes (the shoes of the Fisherman) and will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue to embody and share the love that Jesus has brought.

Like so much in the Gospels, it's a story of extraordinary compression: forgiveness, restoration, Jesus coming to them from the Father, commissioning, filling them with the Spirit, giving them the power of the keys: it's Easter, Ascension, Pentecost all in a few verses. Or perhaps one could say that here in this scene and the one that follows, the reality of the Resurrection, something that escapes, transcends our comprehension, our ability to put it in categories drawn from our interaction with a finite world – here in this short narrative the Resurrection is being experienced and expressed as its power is felt in the transformation and commissioning, the calling and inspiration of a group of terrified and dispirited disciples - Easter as transformative power.

And this is not just a story about being restored to fellowship and friendship with him, disciples back again with their Master; rather they are to take his place, to be sent as he was to bring life to a fallen world: As the Father sent me, so I send you! Extraordinary! Those who ten minutes before were dejected, fearful, who

had completely let him down (Peter!) are now by an extraordinary act of grace to be sent to bring healing and renewal to the world. Just think what has flowed from that!

And the point is that the power that can work wonders through these all-too-fallible men and women is the power that can absorb all the destructive force of the Roman military power, can triumph over death and in triumphing bring life, renewal to all. That and quite a bit more was all packed into the first scene.

The second scene is a kind of comment, a second order reflection on the question of faith and evidence, proof of belief. Interestingly, it brings out the problematic nature of the story of the Empty Tomb (something that doesn't feature in Paul's letters at all, by contrast with accounts and references to Jesus' appearances). Up to this point nothing has convinced Thomas that Jesus has been raised, is alive. Not the absence of the body from the tomb, not the other disciples' account of Jesus' appearance to them. Thomas needs to see for himself. But as Jesus has told them before his death: true faith does not depend on such seeing, on some kind of tangible evidence, but on the experience of the new life, the peace that he will give them before he leaves them. 'On that day, you will know that I am in my Father and I in you.' Believing is not grounded, somewhat unfirmly, on witnesses to the resurrection appearances of Jesus: it is the acknowledgement, confession of the power of the new life that those experience who are drawn into the circle of God's love.

Thomas' insistence that he must see – touch – the wounds in Jesus' body reveals his lack of insight. He reduces the marks of the depth and costliness of Jesus' love into tangible evidence of his post-mortem existence; turns something that should draw him into the living heart of Jesus' compassion for a fallen suffering world into a prop for his wavering faith. How much more fortunate are those whose belief is not founded on such 'evidence' but who believe because they have experienced in their own lives the power and transformative force of that compassion.

As the epistle had it: Although you have not seen him, you love him and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Or as Luther might have put it: To know Christ is to know the benefits of his passion and resurrection in our lives, not have some kind of proof of his continuing existence which then stands between us and committing ourselves into his loving care and discipleship.

John Riches 16 April

SERVICES DURING THE VACANCY

During the vacancy period, we at All Saints have been blessed with a variety of celebrants, each of whom has contributed greatly to our worship Sunday by Sunday. We feel very well-served and strengthened in our faith.

The above sermon by John Riches deserves a close reading. Often the central message is mainly about 'Doubting Thomas' whereas John found so much more within the passage. It was delivered on what used to be called Low Sunday, when, after the Easter celebrations, the church attendance was often 'low'!

Sunday April 23rd in particular needs a special mention: at the last minute we had no organist due to sudden illness and no choir due to holidays. Our celebrant was Revd. Moira Jamieson, returning for the first time after hip surgery. The Communion wine was nowhere to be seen. Andrew was dispatched to buy a substitute, though the wine was discovered at the last minute. But Moira led the service calmly and thoughtfully without a hint of frustration, preaching an inspiring sermon on the Road to Emmaus experience, 'Like a fire burning in us' (Luke 23:32). Bryan (the only choir member present) led the singing, manfully, to a final applause from all.

It has been a delightful experience to meet and talk with all our visiting clergy and we are very grateful to them for sharing their thoughts and beliefs.

EASTER SUNDAY



Easter Sunday was a joyous occasion, with the service conducted by the Revd. Neil Heavisides, who preached a thought-provoking sermon.



The Church was decorated beautifully by the Flower Group organised by Ann Caie. Photos of some of the arrangements are here but the overall effect was glorious.

The choir began the service from the back of the Church by singing our traditional favourite hymn: This Joyful Eastertide! Some of us oldies remember that in the days (40 years ago?) when George Farrow was organist and choirmaster, on Easter Day he conducted the men and boys choir outside before the service, at the corner entrance to the church, joyfully singing that hymn to the outside world.

A more recent tradition is the Cross in the Church, initially covered in dark greenery, but filled with flowers by all during the communion. Afterwards it is placed in the garden where it is on full view. Several passers-by came to take a photo and spoke of its impact.



MORE ORGAN WORK

John Harrington

As I said in my article last month, we have had problems with the part of the instrument that the congregation can't see. It is called the Swell organ. It is so called because it does exactly that; it has the ability to make the sounds louder or softer. It lies at the rear of the instrument and the pipes there are enclosed with louvers at the front which when opened give the effect of a crescendo and conversely, when closed, a diminuendo. I said in my last article, that this part of the organ is difficult to work on, so the vestry agreed that we should ask our organ tuner Paul Miller, to repair this part of the instrument.

Paul and his friend started work on Monday 17th April and he hopes to finish by the end of the week. As I write the work is underway, I hope you find the photos of the pipes and the work of interest and once again I repeat my plea for anyone interested to help me with this work to contact me or any member of the vestry.



BONE CANCER RESEARCH TRUST STAMP APPEAL

A belated thank you for stamps which you saved for me and have been forwarded to BCRT. I am also forwarding a letter received from Siobhan (my contact at the trust) which I thought you may like to see.

Best wishes and please keep saving stamps, thank you.

Elaine Perrett

Dear Elaine

Thank you so much for supporting the Bone Cancer Research Trust Stamp Appeal. We've had a fantastic start to the year, welcoming lots of new Stamp Champs to the team! Ahead of our public announcement tomorrow, we're very excited to share the Stamp Appeal total for 2022 with you!

Your used stamps raised an amazing **£10,471** in 2022!! This is enough to fund an incredible **349** hours of life-saving research! Every £ raised from your stamps has gone directly into funding our life-saving work. In 2022 we committed an extraordinary £2.6m to research, making it our largest yearly commitment to primary bone cancer research yet! **This has only been made possible because of wonderful people like you.**

Are the children in your local school collecting their stamps? Has your local supermarket placed a collection box? We'd love to share any success stories and see pictures from your Stamp Appeal collections. Please send over any photos you'd be happy for us to share on our social media!

On behalf of everyone here at the Bone Cancer Research Trust and more importantly, the patients and families who will benefit from your stamp collecting, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. We're excited for another year of stamp collecting!

Best wishes

Siobhan

P.S. Don't forget about our display collection boxes! Perfect for schools, workplaces, church or anywhere in your local community. Please respond to this email with your details if you'd like one (or more!)

Siobhan Cullen

Regional Relationship Manager
Bone Cancer Research Trust

EMILY DICKINSON

1830 – 1886

May-Flower

Pink, small, and punctual,
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,

Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every human soul.

Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
Nature forswears
Antiquity.

The American poet Emily Dickinson wrote this lovely poem in 1863. The short lines, each with their own statement, conjure up for us a familiar woodland scene in which a little pink and fragrant flower appears every year exactly on time, hiding its head in April, and in full bloom in May. The little flower, like the robin, is known and loved, and even touches our human soul. It is a symbol of irrepressible new life which in the last two lines makes nature reject the notion of perpetual old age: the life of a flower (just like our own) is very short and there are no aged flowers in nature!

Brenda Hadcroft

Editor: I wonder what flower it is - maybe Epigaea or ground laurel, common in the USA?



SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY

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	7 May Easter 4 (White)	14 May Easter 5 (White)	21 May Easter 6 (White)	28 May Pentecost (Red)
Celebrant	Rev David Cameron	Rev. Prof John Riches	Rev David Cameron	Rev Moira Jamieson
10.30 Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
Stewards	David Hamblen	Tracey Conway	Celia Fisher	Kate Ross
Eucharistic Assistants	Hanan	Jenny	Graham	Celia
Readings	Acts 7:55-end 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-end John 14:15-21	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11 John 17:1-11	Acts 2:1-21 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23
Reader	David Hamblen	Bryan Stack	Sheena MacDonald	Gillian Kingslake
Intercessor	David Simmons	Louise Benson	Andrew Long	Celia Fisher
After-service Coffee	Jane Brenda	Joyce John	Janet Gioia	Pauline Tracey
Other events	There will be no Wednesday mid-week service during May			

The Editor for the June edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday 21st May, 2023.**