

February 2024 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road Bearsden



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The cover picture: 'By yon bonnie banks' in late afternoon sunshine, early January

February 2024

Dear All,

A PORTRAIT OF HIS LOVE

I was fascinated to read the story recently of the Madrid Prado Museum's *Mona Lisa*, originally thought just to be a fine copy of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece. In fact, it was revealed more recently while the painting was being restored that it was actually done by an artist in Leonardo's workshop at the same time as the original.

It appears that the artist was working step by step with Leonardo and experts said that the restored copy shows what the *Mona Lisa* looked like when first painted in the 16th Century, as this painting has been protected from light and dirt for centuries.



During the restoration work an X-ray and infrared studies were carried out and it was realised that a landscape was hidden beneath the dark paint behind the subject. As a result it now shows the true genius of the master – just with a little exploration of what lay underneath.

That isn't far removed from what we are called to do as Christians: live lives that show off the genius, the love, the skill of the Master. We are not "copies" in that sense, because each one of us is uniquely crafted, each one of us has a special task, or gift, given lovingly by God.

During Lent many will try to find the best way to "return to the Lord, who will have mercy", knowing that God gives us all the opportunity to make a fresh start with him day by day. In fact God longs for us to return to him if we have wandered off down the path of sin, promising that he will forgive us.

One of the greatest texts we can remember is from the book of Lamentations: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning – great is his faithfulness."

However grimy our lives become, however much sin has covered up what we were made to be and do, God calls us back to him. He never gives up on us, always wanting us to be in a relationship with him.

And as Paul writes about more than once, we are to live lives worthy of our calling. God wills that we should be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another, loving, united, and peaceful. God is love – and he wants us to demonstrate that to the world by the way we behave.

As Lent begins this month, let us be bold enough to desire to show off the character, the skill, the heart of the Creator.

And let us remember those words of St Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.

Rev'd David

VESTRY NOTES 6TH DECEMBER 2023

- Payment for the Magazine: the method of payment for the magazine will be discussed with the congregation after Christmas.
- Work on the Rectory Roof: the estimate for work on the roof has been approved.
- Toilet in the Boiler Room: There has been concern about the use of the toilet in the boiler room because the facilities are not readily accessible. Visitors should be encouraged to use the toilets in the hall.
- The Vestry Treasurer: The transfer from Andrew to Tracey is now almost complete. Andrew has been co-opted as a member of the Vestry.
- Bishop Kevin: Bishop Kevin will be 70 in August and it is expected that he will be retiring. An announcement is likely at Diocesan Synod in March.
- John and Susan: The Vestry would like to thank John and Susan most sincerely for giving us such beautiful music in the Church in the absence of a permanent organist.

Brenda Hadcroft

VESTRY NOTES 7TH JANUARY, 2024

An extraordinary meeting of the Vestry was held on January 7th to discuss ongoing problems with the Rectory, especially after a flood caused by a leaky boiler and water damage in a couple of rooms caused by an issue with old pipes. The Vestry is most concerned that appropriate action is taken to ensure a comfortable and appropriate working and living environment for David and Stephen, and is engaged in a number of conversations bearing in mind the urgency of such issues and the church's financial situation.

Brenda Hadcroft

ASH WEDNESDAY

In keeping with tradition at All Saints there will be two services on Ash Wednesday – one in the morning and one in the evening – to meet the different needs of our congregation. There will be a Said Communion at **11.00am** (to give people time to get to Wednesday Lunch Group afterwards) using the 1970 Liturgy and a Said Communion at **7.30pm** using the 1982 Liturgy. Both services will include the imposition of ashes for any who wish to receive this.

Ash Wednesday falls on **February 14th** this year and is the first day of the Lent season.

LENT COURSE

After the success of our joint Advent course we are linking up with our friends from St Andrew's, Milngavie, for a Lent Course this year. This will take place on **Thursdays at 3.00pm in All Saints**. The dates will be February 22nd and 29th and March 7th, 14th, and 21st.

We will be using the Lent book by Bishop Sarah Mullally entitled: **Rooted in Love – Lent Reflections on Life in Christ**. Introduced and edited by Bishop Sarah (Bishop of London), the book features reflections that lead us deeper into the meaning and practice of life in Christ today. Drawing on the collective wisdom of all the area bishops in the Diocese of London, each reflection includes a Bible reading, a prayer and a suggestion for action based on the reading. The result is an exceptionally helpful Lent book, offering a rich array of biblical insight and spiritual guidance that Christians of all traditions can warmly welcome and appreciate.

If you want to get a copy of this book it is currently available fairly cheaply new or used via Amazon UK: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Rooted-Love-Lent-Reflections-Christ/dp/0281084882>

BISHOP KEVIN'S LENT APPEAL 2024

In line with our general policy of alternating between home-based and overseas charities, Bishop Kevin is pleased to announce that the recipient of our Lent Appeal collections this year will be **Friends of the Holy Land**. One glance at the charity's website (link below) should give some idea of the reasoning behind this choice in these deeply troubled times, but more details will be sent out in future weeks, as well as at our Diocesan Synod on Saturday 2nd March.

For the moment, please see details at <https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/>

SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS held during Advent and Christmas

Revd. David organised many events for Advent and Christmas, including a joint Advent course with St Andrew's and Compline on a Monday evening. Below are some appreciations of these occasions.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Our new church year got off to a splendid start with a joint Advent Carol Service with St. Andrews at 5pm on Sunday 3rd December. In our recollection, this is the earliest Advent Carol service we have had in All Saints, and it was certainly a great way to mark the start of the liturgical year.



This day was also the first for our new organist Esther, so I expect she will remember it well for some years; having to play for the Eucharist at 10.30am then the Carol service along with rehearsals. She and the choir did exceptionally well, coping with seven congregational carols and four anthems. The format was like the traditional Christmas Nine Lessons and Carols, but of course some of the readings were different.

Indeed, the two readings entitled "Advent" by Malcolm Guite and John Betjeman were not from the Bible, but were suitable and inspiring none the less. The emphasis was on our act of preparation as Christians to be ready for the coming of our Lord and this was suitably summed up by the opening choir anthem "Awake O Awake" by J.S. Bach.

The service was taken by Revd. David and Revd. Andrea and the readings were equally shared between members of both churches. The last congregational hymn "Lo He comes with clouds descending" was followed by the final responses before the blessing, and before we all made our way home to keep awake and prepare!

John Harrington

ADVENT COURSE

The Meaning is in the Waiting

Four weekly meetings were held in December on Thursday afternoons. Members of St Andrews and All Saints were welcomed with tea and coffee in the vestry but numbers meant that a move to the church was needed. David and Andrea led on alternate weeks summarising, from Paula Gooder's book, the daily studies for the four themes of Abraham and Sarah, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. The concept of "waiting" rather than immediate gratification, often sought in modern life, was referenced to our consideration of biblical stories and events.

It was difficult to follow in depth the many aspects covered and often it was frustrating to realise the limits of the information we have and how much is open to our own life experiences. However I found it thought provoking and the book worth further reading.

It was unfortunate that the meetings had to be moved to the church space as it was impossible and very frustrating to be unable to hear a fair number of the comments in discussions.

Christine Keen

A JOINT SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS

Those who missed this carol service on Sunday 17th December, organised by All Saints, New Kilpatrick and Bearsden Cross ministers, missed a treat. It was a really joyful event in the beautifully decorated New Kilpatrick church which was decorated resplendently with angels' wings. The colourful Christmas jumpers of the three ministers added to the vibrancy of the occasion!

The service was a mix of traditional and modern, both in terms of readings and hymns, and it worked extremely well. The readings included a couple of thought-provoking poems: one called "Bethlehem Song" which interwove lines from the carol "O little Town of Bethlehem" with observations about the sad state of



Bethlehem now. We also enjoyed an extract from "A Christmas Carol" read by Rev. David, some joint reflections by David, Roddy and Graeme and prayers. The joint choirs sang various well known Christmas pieces beautifully, and the 150 odd congregation produced a wonderfully uplifting sound during the audience carols.

We are very grateful to New Kilpatrick for hosting and their very warm welcome which included hot punch and shortbread on entry - a lovely surprise! It would be great if this joint service became a regular feature of our Bearsden churches worshipping together.

Celia Fisher

CRIB SERVICE

On Christmas Eve the church was filled with a splendid array of angels, shepherds, kings and a virgin Mary, all eager participants in our Crib Service. We were delighted to welcome a visiting family who included a beautifully dressed Mary.

The Rector greeted us with resplendent headgear as Rudolph and with a red nose, but swapped later for a green Santa hat which he deemed 'less silly'.

Everyone was tasked with imitating and remembering various animal noises and actions to accompany the reading of the Nativity story. Each time an animal or



other character was mentioned, the appropriate cacophony of sound was heard accompanied by much laughter.

The youngsters performed better than the adults, who had problems remembering the actions – some hee-hawed when they should have twinkled!

The number of animals increased exponentially as the story unfolded, until we appeared to have an entire farmyard. This was a memorable afternoon filled with merriment and enjoyed by the participants, but at its heart an age old story with a message of hope for all. Many thanks to Susan Gray and the Rector who provided treats and prizes for the children who took part.

Gill Hamblen

ASSOCIATION OF BEARSDEN CHURCHES CAROL SINGING



The annual ABC carol singing took place in Asda on Saturday 16th December. All Saints joined members of Baljaffray, Bearsden Baptist, Bearsden Cross and Westerton churches to sing for the first hour with Castlehill Baptist, Killermont, New Kilpatrick and St Andrews taking over for the second. The atmosphere amongst both singers and shoppers was friendly and relaxed with particular interest being shown by the children going shopping. The tunes were well-pitched, there was some lovely harmonising and we managed to sing our way through the carol sheet and start again at the beginning before our replacements took over. The magnificent sum of £715.22 was raised and this has been split equally between St Margaret's Hospice and the Drumchapel Food Bank. A big "Thank You" must go to Asda for providing the venue, the many shoppers who donated and everyone who came to sing, particularly those from our own church.

Celia and Penny

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Happy New Year All Saints! We had a wonderful break over the holidays beginning with decorating the church for Christmas and how beautiful it looked, as always. On Christmas Eve, Ellen and I attended the Watchnight Service fabulously led by David and Roddy at New Kilpatrick Church – it was such a lovely way to bring in Christmas Day.

Gioia

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS DAY

For the first time I chose to give up my **Christmas Day** to volunteer with Social Bite and I would highly recommend this. At Social Bite's Sauchiehall Street Coffee Shop myself and six other volunteers fed, watered and entertained the homeless and those who are on their own a full Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. It was such a privilege to do this and I had the most heart-warming and also heart-breaking time serving and chatting with all ages of extremely grateful people. We all (guests and volunteers) had, for a few hours, a sense of togetherness by dining and playing games or just sitting chatting about life. I reckon within my shift of 11am to 2pm there must have been around 100 to 150 guests and there was still the afternoon/evening shift to go!

Gioia

Editor's comment: what a wonderful thing to do, Gioia.

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNG EUCHARIST

The whole congregation were encouraged to sing all the verses of The Twelve Days of Christmas with actions at the Christmas morning service. A number of people expressed an interest in the Rector's comment that there was a religious significance to the song. Rev. David unearthed an article from our church magazine exactly 10 years ago with one interpretation of the song!

Here it is:

A Partridge In A Pear Tree

For almost 300 years after the Reformation, Roman Catholics in Britain were forbidden by law to practise their faith openly. The only way they could pass on their religion to their young people without arousing the fury or even the suspicions of the Protestant neighbours, was to put these teaching into code. '*Green grow the rushes o'*' was one of their catechism songs. The most well-known example though is the Christmas Carol '*The Twelve Days of Christmas*.' The accumulative pattern of the song, each verse adding some new gift and then working its way back through those gifts already mentioned, serves as a reminder of the way in which God, not only bestows fresh gifts, but also keeps renewing gifts already given.



A partridge in a pear tree - *God's gift of love, Christ*. To artists of the Middle Ages a mother partridge symbolized Christ, this was because it was believed that a mother partridge would sacrifice herself to protect her chicks. While the pear was a considered the fruit of love.

Two Turtle Doves - *The Old and New Testaments*. The dove being a symbol of salvation after the flood in the Old Testament. In the New Testament it represents the Holy Spirit.

Three French Hens - *Faith, hope and love*. Like French hens these gifts are highly valued for the beauty they bring.

Four Calling Birds - *The four Gospels*. Calling birds continually sing a joyful song just like the Gospels. The original text is *Colly Birds*, referring to common birds, signifying that it is everyone's task to spread the Good News.

Five Gold Rings - *Eucharist, Confirmation, Anointing, Holy Orders and Marriage*. Gold to signify the value of these sacraments, and a ring to signify the un-ending nature of them.

Six Geese a-Laying - *The six days of creation*. A goose egg usually takes 3 days to hatch after incubation signifying Christ in the tomb for three days before new the new creation.

Seven Swans a-Swimming - *The seven works of mercy*. Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead. Swans swimming look graceful and effortless but under the water they are paddling furiously this work similarly requires much unseen work to fulfill.

Eight Maids a-Milking - *The Eight Beatitudes*. Milk was considered as providing vital nourishment to life, the Beatitudes are similarly seen as providing vital nourishment to spiritual life.

Nine Ladies Dancing - *Nine Fruits of the Spirit*. Graceful dancers representing the grace that comes with showing these fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Ten Lords a-Leaping - *The 10 Commandments*. Lords, along with the King, made the laws of the land. These Lords are leaping because these laws are even above their making.

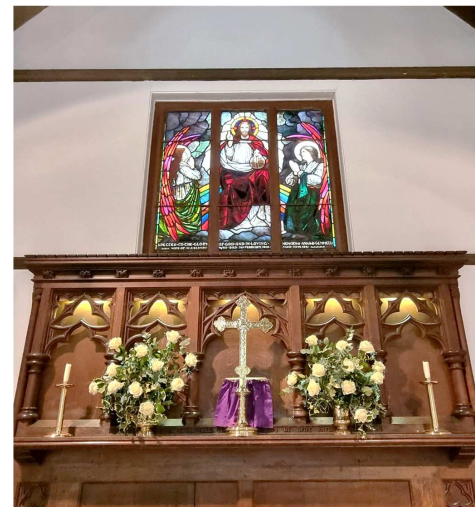
Eleven Pipers Piping - *The Eleven disciples omitting Judas*. Kings where always piped into court, hence the pipers to signify that the disciples where proclaiming the return of Christ the King.

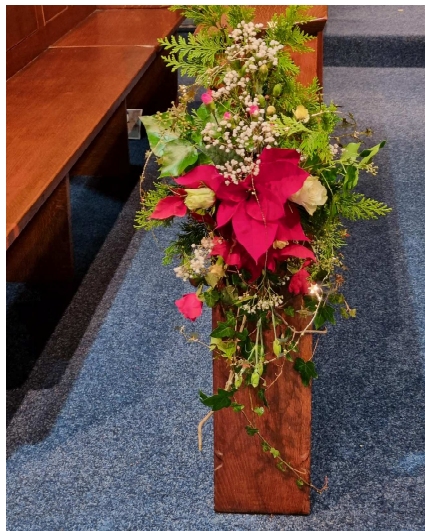
Twelve Drummers Drumming - *The twelve points of belief in the Apostles creed*. Drumming because the beat of these points of faith should be the underlying rhythm of life.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



As always the church looked stunning for the Christmas services. The Flower group, led by Ann Caie, excelled this year. Below are a few examples but the overall effect was uplifting.





WEDNESDAY LUNCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Those who came to the lunch on December 6th were excited to see a lovely array of greenery and decorations provided by Sheena, Susan and Pauline. After the meal with delicious soup and sandwiches, everyone had the opportunity to create a unique table arrangement to take home. Members of the Church flower group were available to help (if needed) and it was with great enthusiasm that we all participated.



MISSION CHRISTMAS ABERLOUR



A massive thank you to everyone who donated presents. As you will be able to see from the photos, we were able to donate so many wonderful gifts to Aberlour for children who may have not received any presents this year. In total we were able to raise £400, which is a fantastic amount raised! Thank you to everyone for their kindness!

Ellen

Well done to Ellen!

A lovely mix of arrangements resulted and it was good to see the skills of gentlemen as well as ladies!

It was a very happy and enjoyable event and many thanks go to those whose imagination and hard work enabled it to happen and to brighten a winter's day.

Christine Keen

WEDNESDAY LUNCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Great excitement for this happy annual event. Tickets booked and Susan produced again the beautiful festive cards. Helpers mustered to prepare the festive repast. Those appearing annually were warmly welcomed back. Special donations of crackers from Pauline, cake and table decorations, made the hall alive with colour, with our firm favourite John our master of the Carol singing.

The appearance of Cinderella and the panto troupe raised great hilarity and was enjoyed by everyone. Well done Rev. David and his troupe!

It was a great party in true All Saints style. A lot of effort by a lot of people with many visitors, enjoyed by all and raising a goodly sum for a really good cause.

Well done Brenda and Andrew for steering the WLG through the Covid waters of the last few years to happy and busy times. Having Rev. David playing such a positive role in the weekly get-together is a joy for us all.

A thank you as recited by Cinderella

We would like to say thank you for all that you've done
To make quite certain our party was fun.

David writing the panto and acting in such
And all fellow actors-we did laugh so much
Thank you to Edward for taking a place
So beautifully reading and leading the grace
John playing the carols and making us sing
We really did enjoy ever-y -thing

For makers of soup and bakers of cakes
And for doing the shopping- the time that it takes
For making the punch we enjoyed before lunch
For our pinny clad servers, an excellent bunch!
For transporting members and bringing them here
And knitting the hats to bring sailors cheer.
For buttering the bread and filling the rolls
And laying the tables and washing soup bowls
For doing the dishes and fulfilling our wishes.
To Wendy our thanks for bringing us Mabel
She's lurking there somewhere down under the table
To all of our helpers for those things digestive
And to Pauline our thanks for the décor so festive
A very big thank you to you one and all

For coming, partaking and answering the call
Our thanks go to Douglas for once more being here
The money we've raised will bring you good cheer
Our group couldn't manage without you being here
So come back after Christmas, we'll see you next year.

But there is one more thing to put on the agenda
A very big thank you to Andrew and Brenda.
We are all very grateful for all you have given
Your reward isn't here but you'll get it in heaven
A present is here for Wendy and Mabel
May we give it to you from the Christmas table.
It would be great if Mabel could talk
But Wendy just wear the hat when you go for a walk
To all our thanks with a small Christmas gift
The tablet is there for you to lift.

So last and not least we give thanks to our guests
And David we ask you to all of us bless.



Sheena MacDonald

Thanks from Elaine Perret

I would like to thank all the people who made the two Wednesday lunch group festive lunches such fun. Firstly the Flower Group who helped us to make a Christmas table decoration. The amount of greenery, candles, baubles, containers with oasis, for us to use was unbelievable in its quality and quantity. I still have my arrangement as I write and it's 9th January! We'd had a lovely lunch too.

Then the Christmas Party. My goodness there was a surprise in store after our rather splendid lunch. A pantomime - Cinderella. All parts taken by members of the congregation. Our Rector who produced the show was one of the performers. It was very well received and added to the fun.

Douglas, from the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme came to lunch and gave a truly emotional 'thank you' for the presents and cheque for £1000 which Andrew presented to him. Then Carols accompanied by John Harrington on the piano. So a very happy and appropriate commencement for Christmas.

Elaine

But it was not only the players who dressed up. First prize went to Jean for her amazing costume -and of course Mabel has a special award.



A message from Jean: Very many thanks to the lunch group for the wonderful Christmas party. They thought of everything for an unforgettable experience and I especially enjoyed the making of the table decorations. Everyone had a great time. Many thanks again.

EPIPHANY SERVICE



At the service for Epiphany on January 7th, Rev David 'chalked' the front door of the church, asking God to bless the building and all who enter during the coming year.

A POEM FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Love's Philosophy by Percy Bysshe Shelley 1792 - 1822

The Fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,
The winds of heaven mix for ever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single,
All things by a law divine
In one another's being mingle -
Why not I with thine?

See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdain'd its brother:
And the sunlight clasps the earth,
And the moonbeams kiss the sea -
What is all this sweet work worth,
If thou kiss not me?

Percey Shelley was born in 1792 into an aristocratic family and was educated at Eton and University College, Oxford from which he was expelled in 1811 after refusing to admit that he had published a pamphlet on atheism. He became a Romantic Poet and later married his second wife, Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein. He died in 1822 at the age of 29 when his boat sank off the coast of Italy.

In this beautiful and much-loved poem Shelley tries to justify his plea to the woman he loves by using images from the natural order: if it is part of a divine law that these elements of nature work in tandem with each other, why, he asks, can she not do the same?

In the second stanza the imagery becomes even more vivid - the world he sees about him - the mountains, heavens, waves, the sea, sunlight, moonbeams and the earth - are all linked by gestures of love. But is it worth anything, he asks, if she does not love him?

Brenda Hadcroft

THE ASSOCIATION OF BEARSDEN CHURCHES

Unity Lunch

The ABC Unity Lunch, attended by 70 diners from the various Bearsden churches, was held in Baljaffray Parish Church on Saturday 20th January to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

An excellent lunch of soup, sandwiches and cake was provided by Café Crème and the speaker was Michelle Candlish, National Scottish Development Manager for Linking Lives, UK. <https://linkinglives.uk>

This is a charity working to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst older people, providing the support, advice and resources required to set up befriending schemes which may include social events and activities. Michelle told us of schemes she had set up including one in Orkney. Questions from the audience highlighted isolation in other groups such as students and Michelle directed us to organisations offering support.

Our own Rev David thanked Michelle for her interesting talk, linking it with this year's theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity "You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27)

Celia and Penny

SOME WORDS FROM YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Since my last report I have attended a meeting of Diocesan Council (25th November) and the North-West Regional Council AGM (NWRC; 17th January hosted by us at All Saints).

Discussion at Diocesan Council was focused on two issues:

1. Proposals from the Diocesan Environmental Group (DEG) on how to implement the province's Net-Zero Action Plan (NZAP; Apologies for all the acronyms!);
2. The plan to advertise and appoint a full-time Diocesan Administrator to cover the bulk of work currently performed by our (part-time) Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer.

On the first point, there was an interesting presentation to Council by the DEG. As mentioned in my last report, the DEG is suggesting that we initially focus more on changing individual behaviours, rather than major capital building projects. This means focusing on the following Provincial Guidance points:

1. Training and Education; 2. Rooted Worship; 3. Build a Movement. The thinking behind this is that we cannot move forward with resource-intensive capital projects without strong motivation, and that this can only be built by convincing people of the theological imperative for change.

On the second point, Council agreed to support the appointment of a Diocesan administrator. This post has been advertised already and the closing date now past. Personally, I think this is an excellent move because the work was becoming too much for people in part-time posts.

In other, more-recent, Diocesan news, many of you will have heard that Bishop Kevin was taken ill over the Christmas period and had to have an operation. He is now recovering well but taking it relatively easy as he returns to full-time duties. Finally, the Bishop's Lent Appeal this year will be for Friends of the Holy Land (<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>).

As mentioned above, we hosted the NWRC AGM recently. Big thanks to Louise Benson and Brenda Hadcroft for sorting out the catering and Rev. David for leading the service! At the AGM we voted to retain the current office bearers: Rev. Andrea Hagenbuch (St. Andrew's, Milngavie), Chair; Myself, Vice-Chair; Tim Rhead (St. Andrew's, Milngavie), Secretary. Morag O'Neill (St. Augustine's, Dumbarton) and Richard Smith (St. Michael's Helensburgh) were put forward for election as lay members of Diocesan Council (my term of office comes to an end in March). Other discussion at the AGM focused on the matters previously discussed at Diocesan Council and reported above. We also discussed at length

some of the major property issues facing charges within the region and how best to address them. We resolved to write to the Diocese asking for urgent support.

In other news, it looks like St. Bride's, Hyndland is close to appointing a priest-in-charge who looks likely to be in post by Easter this year. NWRC are also planning a joint Ascension Day service on Thursday, 9th May, at St. Bride's (hopefully officiated by the new priest!).

Looking forward, I have my final Diocesan Council meeting of my current term on 3rd February and Diocesan Synod on 2nd March. Also, Bishop Kevin is likely to retire quite soon, so we shall be looking to elect a new bishop in the relatively near future. As usual, any questions or comments about my role, please let me know.

David Simmons

SALE OF BOOKS

Thank you for your support of the bookstall in the hall.

We managed to give £100.00 to the Glasgow Children's Holiday Scheme.

As our book shelves are pretty full, we aren't taking in more books at the moment. So do come and look at the books and hopefully buy some please!

Mary Stott and Jane Lowis

ST VALENTINE

Brenda has contributed a lovely poem for 'Valentine's Day', which is also Ash Wednesday this year. Here is one story about him (thanks to Wikipedia) - there are more legends!

Valentine was a 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Western Christianity on February 14 and in Eastern Orthodoxy on July 6. From the High Middle Ages, his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of beekeepers.

Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since at least the eighth century.



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..

At the moment of editing this magazine, during Storm Isha with rain coming down in buckets, it seems we might need an ark very soon!

MEA CULPA...

As editor of the magazine, my worst fear is of omitting an article, submitted by a contributor -did I mention under pressure.

Unfortunately this does happen and indeed below is such a one. Written immediately after the event as the author was going on holiday, I failed miserably. Those of you who remember the cake event at the WLG in November will be happy that this appreciation is now in print, and I hope I'm forgiven. I also enjoyed the cakes!

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Lunch with a Difference

It's 'cake day' sounded more like an episode of the Great British Bake Off than our Wednesday lunch at the start of November. But cake day it was, and the cakes that appeared were equally as impressive and varied - from parkin to coffee and walnut, fruit cakes, apple cake, cinammon and strawberry to mention just a few.



So, with the promise of cake we were expecting extra visitors. What we hadn't bargained for was that Brenda was moving house and wouldn't be there, and that Edward was also away. Help! Hallowe'en hadn't finished with its tricks either and we had no less than four power cuts over lunchtime. Help again!

Luckily, the soup lasted, and like the magic porridge pot fed close to 30 people. And with a mad dash to M&S for extra rolls everyone had plenty.

Thanks to all the helpers who rose to the occasion splendidly. We welcomed the regulars and also had some new visitors. We hope they come back. The cakes were all delicious, and I hope some made their way to friends and neighbours as was intended. Many thanks to all who donated them.

Kate Ross

STAMPS

Thank you to all who have given me stamps. I sent quite a lot away yesterday. More stamps have come my way already so more will be on there way soon. Please keep saving all year round for **Bone Cancer Research Trust**. Thank you again for that. Happy New Year one and all.

Elaine Perret

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

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

Andrew Long will provide the log in details on request.

Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	4 February Presentation of Christ (White)	11 February Next before Lent (Green)	14 February Ash Wednesday (Purple)	18 February Lent 1 (Purple)	25 February Lent 2 (Purple)
Celebrant	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev Kevin Francis
9.00am Service	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)			Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
10.30am Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist		Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
7.30pm Service			Said Eucharist		
Stewards	Kate	Pauline		Andrew	Janet
Eucharistic Assistants	Louise	Graham		Celia	Jenny
Readings	Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40	2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9	Joel 2:1-2,12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15	Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
Reader	Janet Stack	Graham Caie		David Simmons	Mary Stott
Intercessor	Celia Fisher	David Hamblen		Sheena MacDonald	David Simmons
After-service Coffee	Fiona Gillian	Kate Sheena		Elaine Mairi	Jane Brenda
Other events	A 9.00am Said Eucharist will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. There will be an 11.30am Said Eucharist on the 1st Wednesday of the month. This month there will also be a Said Eucharist for Ash Wednesday on February 14th at 11.00am, as well as the 7.30pm Said Eucharist. All of these services, <i>except the 7.30pm service</i> , use the 1970 liturgy.				

The Editor for the March edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, 18th February 2024**.