

March 2024 Magazine

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The cover picture: "Pieta", the last monumental composition by Russian artist Mikhail Vrubel (1856-1910) in St. Cyril's Church, Kyiv, Ukraine. See p21.

*All Saints Scottish Episcopal
Church*

Drymen Road Bearsden



March 2024

Dear All,

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

I wonder what you think of when you hear the word "fast"? Do you think of it as an instruction not to eat so much as usual for some purpose, or is it a word that just conjures up thoughts of haste, busy-ness, and a breathless way of life?

It always seems rather odd that we have been encouraged to fast during Lent – a period when we should be taking a breath and reflecting on our relationship with God and taking a break from living life in the fast lane!

Jesus says to His followers in Mark's gospel, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." It's a perfect invitation in this busy world of ours and the 40 days of Lent provide an ideal opportunity to respond to that invitation.

Jesus fasted for the 40 days He was in the wilderness. It might be a little much to suggest we do exactly the same thing, but we certainly need to follow His example in some way during the Lenten season. If you look in your Prayer Book you will find that, among other fast days, the 40 days of Lent are set apart to be observed by every member of the Church. I was once given a little advice guide of ideas on how to respond to this Lenten demand:

1. Not to eat sweet things.
2. Not to take sugar in tea, etc.
3. To eat no meat on one or two days in the week.
4. Not to watch so much TV.
5. To give to God what you would have spent in sweet things, sugar, etc.
6. To make up your mind to do some little thing, strictly to please another, every day.
7. To get up five minutes, or more, earlier, and to give that five minutes to special prayer or religious reading.
8. To practise (if it is not already your custom) short prayer at midday.
9. To use the Collect for Ash Wednesday every day.
10. To read a short Lent reading every day.

We might all have variations on that idea, but it's helpful to have some kind of discipline for ourselves planned out. Lent means spring, and it is a time when everything reminds us of growth: the trees budding, the flowers coming into bloom, the birds building their nests, all nature becoming more and more beautiful. May God find that same growth of beauty in our souls by Eastertide!

Revd David

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

We have a number of services during Holy Week and Easter which aim to help people reflect on the last days of Jesus, the triumph of the Cross, and the victory of the Resurrection. There was interest in having a joint service with New Kilpatrick sometime after the success of the Christmas services and Roddy and I have chosen Good Friday in the afternoon as a suitable time to come together in a service of prayer and meditation. All the following services are in All Saints' church unless otherwise noted.

Palm Sunday, March 24: Sung Communion at 10.30am, including blessing of the palms and dramatized reading of the Passion from Mark's gospel. If you would like to be one of the readers for this please contact the Rector.

Monday, March 25: Compline at 7pm.

Tuesday, March 26: Passion Play*(see article following) in New Kilpatrick Church – 1.00pm and 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday, March 28: Sung Communion with footwashing, 7.30pm

Good Friday, March 29: The Way of the Cross, prayers and meditation, 2.30pm (joint service with New Kilpatrick at All Saints)

Easter Sunday, March 31: Said Communion (1970 Liturgy) at 9.00am and All Age Sung Communion at 10.30am.

Easter Songs of Praise, organised by Association of Bearsden Churches, Westerton church, 7.30pm

Revd David

UPCOMING ABC EVENTS

The ABC is keen to support the important work of ecumenism in these challenging times for all church clergy. So, after a very successful ABC Unity lunch and talk in January, please come and support some of the following:

World Day of Prayer

Killermont Church - Friday 1 March - 9:30 to 10:00. The theme is 'Palestine'. The café will be open for fellowship afterwards.

ABC Holy Week Services

Please note, these are in addition to the services Rev David has written about which take place at All Saints. The services following take place at various Bearsden churches.

Monday 25 March – ‘Way of the Cross’ – St Andrew’s Church – 19:30

Tuesday 26 March – Passion Play* – New Kilpatrick Church – 13:00 & 19:30

Holy Thursday 28 March – Joint Service between Bearsden Cross Church & New Kilpatrick Church to be held in New Kilpatrick Church – 19:30

Holy Thursday – St Andrew’s Church – 19:00

Good Friday - Joint Service between Bearsden Cross Church & New Kilpatrick Church to be held in Bearsden Cross Church – 19:30

Good Friday – St Andrew’s Church – Veneration of the Cross – 15:00

Good Friday - St Andrew’s Church – Way of the Cross – 19:00

Songs of Praise – Easter Sunday 31 March

This will take place in Westerton Church at 19:30. The format will be favourite Easter hymns chosen and introduced by a lay member of the different churches. Last year the congregational singing was really uplifting so do come and enjoy yourselves. There will be refreshments afterwards. If you would like to choose a hymn please contact Celia or Penny.

Celia and Penny

*THE PASSION

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in a moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story, *The Passion*, which is coming to Bearsden in Holy Week.

Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, this powerful contemporary drama leads the audience up to and through the events of Holy Week, to the cross and beyond.

The drama will be presented at New Kilpatrick church on **Tuesday, March 26th**, at 1.00pm and 7.30pm. Tickets are free from the church, or email mail@nkchurch.org.uk or phone 0141 942 8827

The Passion is presented by Oxford-based LAMPS. Lamps Collective is a group of professional writers, actors, and musicians whose Christian faith underpins their lives and work. LAMPS productions seek to inspire, challenge, and entertain. To provoke thought about the nature of God and life. To resource the church, refresh its members, and reach out beyond its walls. LAMPS is an acronym which stands for Love, Action, Music, Poetry and Stories.

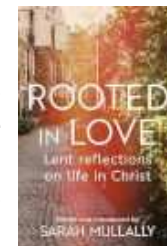
Useful resources to accompany the show can be found at: <https://lampscollective.com/the-passion-stories/>

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 is taking place on **Thursdays at 3.00pm in All Saints**. It continues on 29th February and March 7th, 14th, and 21st.

We are 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**.

Friends of the Holy Land works to support the lives and witness of Christians living in the Holy Land through prayer and practical projects, recognising that their presence in the land where Jesus once walked is an important witness to all Christians.

In these deeply troubled times, support for Christians in the Holy Land provides a lifeline for them. So many Christians have had their lives completely destroyed by this war, either directly for those in Gaza or indirectly for those in the West Bank and Israel. Tourism has shut down, work permits have been withdrawn, many Christians have lost their ability to make a living. Friends of the Holy Land helps with emergency support and projects to help them rebuild a sustainable future to remain in 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 and a link to contribute to the appeal: <https://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/>

VESTRY NOTES 5TH FEBRUARY 2024

- Magazine: new arrangements have been agreed for the distribution of the magazine. Revd. David will inform the congregation at the next Sunday service.
- Property Convener: John MacKenzie has resigned as Property Convener. The Vestry thanked him for his service.
- Fundraising: it was agreed that due to the current financial situation fundraising is now essential, and the Social Committee will be reconstituted to organise it.
- Security: there are concerns that the Church has been left unlocked on several occasions recently. It was agreed that a list of key holders should be made.
- Safeguarding: Fiona Hempel is now the Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Church.
- Christmas Services: the Vestry agreed that the programme of services had been very successful and thanked everyone who was involved.
- Holy week and Easter Services: Revd. David has proposed a programme of services which will be in the March magazine.
- Church Leak: remedial work will be done on the Bell Cote to fix the leak.
- Church Laptop: The Vestry has agreed to buy new audio-visual equipment to improve the broadcasting of services. This will be paid for using a grant received from the Diocese during the vacancy.
- The next meeting of the Vestry will be on 11 March, 2024.

Brenda Hadcroft

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

Our magazine continues to be a well-produced, informative and valuable resource for our church and within the wider community. Since the closure of Purple Edge's shop opposite the church last year (who were responsible for our printing and continue to do it from a different base), the Vestry has been considering the best way of distributing the magazine, making sure everybody gets a copy who wants it, that it continues as a method of outreach, and covers costs as best as it can.

The way the magazine was distributed changed during the pandemic but has not reverted to how it was since, and it is a good time to consider how we might offer the publication in the most effective way.

There has been a list in church which has given people who are sent the magazine by post to opt out of this and return to the system whereby copies were collected from church (thus, of course, saving postage). If you have not been able to sign this list, but are happy not to have the magazine posted and either pick it up or read the online version on our church website, please notify Janet Stack or Revd David.

If we don't hear from you we will assume your preference is to receive the magazine by post, which we are very happy to continue to do.

We are not printing a price on the magazine but we would welcome a donation for individual copies or for the 10 copies produced during the year. It is suggested that a donation per copy could be £2 but we are grateful for anything you may be willing to give. Such donations can be sent to us, or placed in the box beneath the prayer board in church. You may prefer to put something in an envelope marked "magazine" and place it on the collection plate on a Sunday.

This is far more an exercise in ensuring that everyone who wants to read our magazine has the chance to do so, that our lists are up to date, and that we are not spending on unnecessary postage. A big thank you to everyone who continues to read and enjoy our magazine loyally – and if you know of anybody else who would like to receive a copy *please let us know*.

Rev David

ALTERNATE LAY REP NEEDED

At the moment we have a vacancy for one of the legally required posts in our church: the alternate lay representative.

We are hugely grateful to David Hamblen who has been serving in this capacity but who relinquished his role at the annual meeting. Unfortunately there were no nominations for someone to replace him.

Currently David Simmons is our Lay Representative, which is an important function within the structure of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The function of the Lay Representative is stated in the canons as, 'to represent the congregation in the Diocesan Synod'. The Lay Representative becomes an *ex officio* member of the vestry of the congregation.

Taking the Canons and the Congregational Constitution together, the formal role of the Lay Representative is:

- to represent the congregation at the Diocesan Synod;
- to serve as a member of the vestry;
- to report to the congregation.

What might these mean in practice? Firstly, and obviously, attend the Diocesan Synod. Secondly, take an active interest in the business of the Diocesan Synod. That will involve a careful reading of the papers produced for Diocesan Synod. Thirdly, consider what the views of the congregation may be on the issues in question. There is a duty for Lay Reps to report to the Annual General Meeting. This takes the form of a written report on the matters of importance which have been handled during the year and there should be an opportunity at the annual meeting for members of the congregation to ask questions or comment on the report.

There are a couple of other aspects of the formal role of the Lay Representative. The obvious point that when a congregation elects its Lay Representative it is not simply electing a representative to attend meetings of Diocesan Synods and similar gatherings. It is electing the person who will have a voice in the choice of the next Bishop for the Diocese.

Although the Lay Rep is elected to represent the congregation, as mentioned already, they are an *ex officio* member of the Vestry. That means that they are a full member of the Vestry and carry the same responsibilities as other members. Vestry members are regarded as ‘charity trustees’ for the purposes of Scottish Charity legislation. It is important, therefore, that the Lay Representative participates fully in all aspects of Vestry business.

The Councils are smaller groupings, and therefore offer greater opportunity to speak and exchange views than might be the case in Diocesan Synod. Regional Councils may also be the place where there is a real opportunity for co-operation with other congregations, or indeed other denominations, in the local mission.

The relevant Canon of the SEC also refers to an **Alternate Lay Rep**, requiring the election annually of an alternate who is “entitled to exercise all the powers of the Lay Representative” in the absence of the Lay Representative from any meeting, and who is also an *ex officio* member of the Vestry.

The Alternate Lay Rep is elected by the congregation each year and accompanies the Lay Rep to Regional Council, a collection of Episcopal churches in our local area (the North West region in our case). They can then be nominated to Diocesan Synod and then from there representatives are sent to the Provincial Synod.

It is a significant role and it is very important that someone fills the position or we are not properly represented and our poor lay rep doesn’t have the formal support expected by the regulations, even though of course he is fully supported and helped by the Rector and Vestry! *If you are interested to know more or think this might be something you could offer yourself for, have a word with David Simmons, David Hamblen or the Rector.*

PROPERTY CONVENOR

The Vestry offers its tremendous thanks and appreciation to John Mackenzie, who has stood down from his role as Property Convenor after splendid service at a very busy time. His work dealing with matters concerning the church, halls and Rectory has been greatly appreciated and his wisdom and hard work has been valued by all.

This means that we are very urgently seeking a new Property Convenor to help with the management of our charge properties.

The management of all our properties is the responsibility of the Vestry, but this duty is normally delegated to a Fabric sub-committee, whose Convenor is responsible for overseeing the activities and reporting to the Vestry. We have not had a proper committee to deal with this before, which does place a burden on the person serving as Property Convenor, and the Vestry feels we need to develop such a group now at the same time as looking for the new Convenor.

The responsibilities of the Property Convenor seem like a long list, but much of it is straightforward and even more so if we can get a Fabric sub-committee to deal with the different aspects and work together to fulfil this important role. The responsibilities are:

- Executing the agreed policy for monitoring all of the Charge properties and refurbishing, where necessary.
- Being aware of Diocesan policy regarding the management, maintenance, acquisition, leasing and disposal of property.
- Ensuring that quinquennial (five-yearly) inspections of all Charge properties are kept up-to-date and liaising with the Diocesan Official or body appointed to monitor Quinquennial inspections on behalf of the Diocese. (This may be the Diocesan Buildings committee).
- Planning and budgeting for programmes of maintenance and submitting such forecasts to the Treasurer for inclusion in the Charge’s budget for the following year.
- Ensuring that energy performance certificates for church property are maintained and renewed as necessary.
- Being aware of the provisions of Canon 35 and ensuring consent is obtained from the Diocesan Buildings Committee for any changes to the church and/or associated buildings.

- Obtaining any necessary planning and/or listed building consents and building warrants from the appropriate authorities as appropriate to any proposed works.
- Ensuring that all repairs and other work, apart from small emergency repairs up to a sum agreed with the Vestry Treasurer, are properly estimated and costed. This should include any professional and planning fees.
- Maintaining the Charge's property register and updating the inventory of furniture and fittings on a regular basis. Inventories should be updated as and when items are acquired or disposed of and a full inventory check should be undertaken every five years. The property register should similarly be kept up to date.
- Reporting annually to the Vestry on the condition of Charge properties, including the internal condition of clergy residences.
- Liaising with the Treasurer regarding sources of finance, preparation and submission of grant or loan applications to the Vestry, Diocesan Buildings Committee or other relevant body e.g. Historic Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, relevant trusts.
- Liaising with the Diocesan architect, where appointed.
- If not personally qualified and appointed to carry out this task, liaising with any other surveyor or architect appointed by the Vestry for work involving Charge property.
- Overseeing such work in conjunction with the people so appointed, and approving all related invoices.
- Ensuring that adequate insurance protection is maintained in respect of all Church property and the liabilities of the Vestry, seeking appropriate advice as necessary.
- Liaising with the Treasurer regarding any insurance claims.
- Being aware of the statutory responsibilities placed upon Charges in relation to buildings and relevant Health and Safety matters.

If you are interested in helping the Vestry and congregation out in this area – either as Property Convenor or as part of a Fabric sub-committee – *do let the Rector know as soon as possible.*

Rev David

VISITING

It has been some time since our formal visiting system operated at All Saints, though many of you have been helpfully and unselfishly keeping an eye on folk who need it and visiting informally to check on those who may need help, support, or company in the long and short term.

In all my time in ordained ministry safeguarding and the protection of the vulnerable in churches has properly become more and more important and many regulations have been introduced, often in response to particular issues. These can seem complicated and occasionally unnecessary, but they are designed to ensure everyone is kept safe at every level.

This can seem like a lot of fuss, especially for those who are often visiting others as friends even if in some regard doing so “on behalf of the church.” However, we always need to be sure we are covering ourselves as a church and charity, and new regulations and advice give us the opportunity to reflect on where we are and how we continue to do what we are doing in the best and most straightforward way.

It is very clear that the visiting scheme that many will be familiar with here has been extremely important and valuable. I have benefitted enormously from the wisdom and help given by Richard Kingslake, who co-ordinated visitors' lists and has been helping to ensure the lists we do have are up to date and that we are where possible in touch with those who need to be. I am particularly grateful that Richard is willing to continue this.

I am keen that we do not lose sight of the more informal visiting system while being aware that there are things for us to consider carefully as we offer any level of pastoral visiting. We are currently looking at the best ways to achieve this building on the work already done, most importantly so we do not lose contact with any who need or wish to stay in touch with us personally and spiritually. One good way to cut through the complicated regulations is to find out what happens elsewhere and I am in touch with other churches in the province who are successfully running visiting programmes to work out some best practice, in addition to advice given by the diocese and province.

I am already visiting some of our local residential homes and have been in touch with many of those who are not able to get to church but who very much feel a part of our congregation. I am always grateful to hear from or about anybody who may value a visit or would like to receive home communion.

As a reminder, following our annual meeting Fiona Hempel was appointed as our new Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) co-ordinator. In the wider Scottish

Episcopal Church, last year John Wyllie was appointed as Head of Safeguarding, and the province is in the process of running safeguarding training for clergy and lay people. More information about safeguarding can be found here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>

Please “watch this space” as I and the Vestry work with you in reviving our valuable visiting scheme, negotiating hurdles, and finding ways to continue to care for all within our congregation, community and fellowship.

Rev David

HOUSE GROUPS

The E Group

The E group has been meeting monthly during the winter at Jean Stirling’s home - a very cosy, comfy venue. After tea and cake and general chat we continue our study with a chapter we have pre-read at home!

The book we are using at the moment is - **Faith in the Making** by Lyndall Bywater. A blind author who has written in a very easy manner. Each chapter is about one of her heroes from the Old Testament.

Last month was Joseph, who was sold into slavery. Next will be Moses. This story caught my imagination as a child so I am looking forward to that. Even now when out walking and see bulrushes I am reminded of Moses.

Elaine Perrett

Monday/Thursday – “Paradise Lost”

During last Autumn when the Group decided to study John Milton’s epic poem Paradise Lost I was one of those who were not particularly enthusiastic. The thought of working through a sizeable proportion of Milton’s work of over 10000 lines of 17th century blank verse did not fill me with delight. However under Graham’s expert and encouraging leadership my fears were allayed.

Milton was blind when over a number of years in the 1660’s he wrote the poem. It is believed to have been dictated to his daughter!

The poem opens with Satan and a group of angels being banished by God from Heaven to Hell as the result of a rebellion. After they were expelled Satan stated “Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven”. Satan and his group then devise a plan to retaliate against God by corrupting Man.

As is told in Genesis God created Adam as the first man on Earth and then from Adam’s rib Eve was created. They were placed in paradise which was known as the Garden of Eden and given the task of caring for the land therein. However God commanded them not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.

Satan disguised himself as a serpent and enticed Eve to sin by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. She then persuaded Adam to do likewise. When they realised what they have both done arguments followed, with each blaming the other. Neither took responsibility for their actions and Paradise was lost. God then expels them from the Garden. (The stage we have reached with our studies!!)

The main themes of the poem are obedience, pride, revenge and free will/predestination.

Milton stated as fact that God gave Man free will to make his/her own decisions but at the same time God knows what will happen. He knows that Man will yield to Satan’s temptations and fall into sin. The Group had a long and lively discussion on this aspect of the poem and at the close there appeared to be no real consensus on the subject.

I believe that all of the Group have enjoyed our studies of the poem. Well done Graham for suggesting it and for the tremendous amount of work you have undertaken in preparation for our sessions.

Philip Thompson

Please see Celia Fisher or Janet Stack if you would like more information about either group. *All are very welcome to attend.*

SALE OF EASTER CARDS



Cards will be on sale after the 10.30am church service in the church hall on **March 10th**. They will also be available at the Wednesday Lunch Group on **Wednesday 6th and 13th** March. Please support this fund raiser for Church funds.



Sheena MacDonald

FAIR TRADE SALE

Sunday 10th March, Mothering Sunday, sees the next sale after the church service. We hope to have the usual stock and I've asked for any Easter themed gifts that they may have. I've also asked for some Easter Eggs, including "Real Easter Eggs" containing the booklet about the meaning of Easter. If you'd like to reserve one, or many (!), £6.95, please sign the sheet at the back of the church, or contact Pauline direct.

Pauline Waugh

ALL SAINTS GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Have you looked at our Garden of Remembrance recently?

If not, you will not have seen the wonderful colours and floral displays shown on the plinths surrounding the plaque.

Since Christmas, Jean and her able assistants have been placing flowers beside the plaque. Jean decided to return to a practice used by the (late) Ruth Paxton, for many years the leader of the Flower Group.

Now flowers from the Altar and fresh flowers are placed in the Garden.



They brighten up what would have been a drab area and reminds us of the importance of remembering the members of our congregation, no longer with us in person, but whose love and spirit is still here.

Thank You Jean and your assistants.

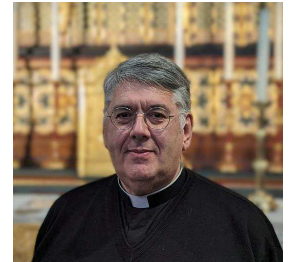
Susan Gray

If you are interested in helping with the church garden, please get in touch with Kate Ross: kateross576@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Appointment of Rev Peter Bradley

Bishop Kevin is pleased to announce the appointment of the **Rev Peter Bradley** as Priest-in-Charge of St Bride's Episcopal Church, Glasgow. His licensing will be at 12noon on Saturday, 9 March in St Bride's Church, 69 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, G12 9UX. Peter comes to the Diocese from the Diocese of London in the Church of England.



Peter says, "For the past three years, I have served in a Central London parish, and I am now greatly looking forward to taking up the post of Priest-in-Charge at St Bride's, Kelvinside. Some years ago, my brother moved from our home in Ireland to the West End of Glasgow. I have always been struck by the many opportunities there for mission, not least amongst young adults and their families, as well as the student community. I am excited to meet and work with the community at St Bride's and indeed the wider diocese as I come to join the Scottish Episcopal Church."

The Diocesan Environmental Group



The launch of **Consider Creation Lent Resource**

"As we take time away from the hustle and bustle of our world to grow closer with God and examine our lives in this season of Lent, we hope the Consider Creation resources will provide structure to ground you on this vital journey with Christ through Creation."

More details can be found on the

Diocesan website <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org>

The printed monthly copies of newsletter **Inspires** of the Scottish Episcopal Church used to be available in church. Now it is available on line from the SEC website or you can request it to be emailed to you.

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/>

STAMPS

Elaine Perrett received this delightful thank you in response to sending stamps collected by members of the congregation

Thank you so much for supporting the **Bone Cancer Research Trust Stamp Appeal**. What a year it's been for stamps, we welcomed lots of new supporters to the team and received hundreds of envelopes from our amazing Stamp Champs. Ahead of our public announcement next week, we're very excited to reveal the Stamp Appeal total for 2023 with you.

Your used stamps raised a truly incredible **£12,903.80** in 2023! Every £ raised from your stamps has gone directly into funding our life-saving work.

We're very excited to share that in 2024 we will be committing over £2 million into primary bone cancer research. We have recently awarded some international funding, which will bring together experts from around the world to transform the treatment of a rare type of primary bone cancer. It is only with the support of wonderful people like you that we can continue this groundbreaking work.

As more people go digital, we need your help now more than ever! Please continue to spread the word about our Stamp Appeal. Can your local Post Office take a display box? Would any schools collect for us? Reach out to your local community and let's get everybody saving their used stamps!

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

(PROFESSOR) GRAHAM CAIE'S OTHER HAT!

I spent quite a few days in December officiating at university graduations. They are always a time of celebrations for the new graduates and their families and the atmosphere is exciting with ceremony, gowns, pomp and circumstance, photographs and indifferent Prosecco afterwards. You probably all have been to these events at your own graduation or that of your children or friends.



I thought I might give a glimpse into what it's like on the officiating side. I 'did' eight graduation ceremonies in November and December and 12 in the summer time. Last year we tried to catch up on postponed ceremonies during Covid and had three a day for two weeks in the summer in addition to the usual ones. So I'm well seasoned in this art. And it certainly is an art!

Luckily post Covid we no longer shake hands with the graduand (the name given to the person about to graduate), as previously some of the hands were a trifle sweaty and I didn't want to shake the hand of the next person with my by-now-wet hand. I had a small towel to wipe my hand discretely when that happened. It was also difficult to know if Moslem girls wanted to shake your hand or not and during times of student protests some refused to shake my hand. I also officiated at the Glasgow School of Art graduations, as I'm a Lay Governor there and, as the degrees are awarded by Glasgow University where I'm Dean of faculties, with me they got two for the price of one! These are held in the Royal Concert Hall and it's rather frightening standing at the front of the stage to cap the students.

This December I was asked by a student to cap her teddy-bear after I'd capped her. She wouldn't move on until I did so, so there's a teddy in Glasgow with a master's degree! Also one large lad gave me a bear hug and lifted me up after I'd capped him and the young woman who followed him looked confused and asked if she too had to hug me! Then there's the height problem. I'm small and sometimes it's difficult to reach the six foot plus students, some of whom very considerably bow to let me cap them, but for others I just give a little jump to reach them. This summer there was a tall student made taller by having a high Mohican hair-do; I didn't want to squash what was probably an expensive hair-do, so I cowardly just hit him across the cheek with my ceremonial cap.

As one might expect there are all kinds of fancy clothing, especially on the GSA students, and the most fascinating are those in national costume, in particular the Chinese girls. It's also great to see international male students wearing kilts, but rather worryingly many girls wear extremely high heels and totter up to the platform; I hold my breath hoping they'll make it all the way up to me; but some don't!

I also capped the graduands of the Scotland Rural College where the platform in the Bute Hall is surrounded in beautiful floral arrangements. One student was so keen to be capped that undeterred he walked right through the flowers to get at me! At GU we still have the ceremony in Latin, with a Latin prayer and degrees conferred in Latin.

When I'm not capping I act as the Clerk of Senate and discretely pass to the Chancellor or Principal small sticks which have the Latin for the specific degree on them. However at the Royal Concert Hall there is no possibility for this system so I have to memorize the Latin which can be complex if the degree is "Product Design in Engineering"! I can privately tell you the answer later! There is a formula: *Te baccalaurem scientiae creamus* or *Te investigationis magistrum creamus* for 'We create you bachelor of science' or 'We create you master of research', etc. And those are the simple ones. We used to say the whole Latin sentence for the first student in a degree programme followed by "Te quoque" 'And you' for the others. Students complained that we were saying 'Quack quack' to them, so we now give everyone the full Latin phrase. I could go on with stories of what happens when there's a fire alarm, a student demonstration, firecrackers put off (this happened this year). There's never a dull moment!

Graham Caie

WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP TALK



The Wednesday Lunch Group was enlivened recently by our speaker, Revd. David. David gave us a fascinating illustrated talk on his life before and after Ordination, and his close association with the Arts. His early years as a newspaper journalist and Chief Arts Writer brought him into contact with many well known actors, instantly recognisable on screen.

In particular a certain Joanna Lumley was an obvious favourite!

His training in Ministry at Chichester must have been a bonus, given the close proximity of a renowned theatre. He informed us that one of his course tutors had presented the students with a familiar passage from As You Like It – The Seven Ages of Man. He told them "this is all you need to know about Pastoral Care" then promptly left the room and was never seen again!

Throughout his varied career David has maintained his passion for the theatre, whether this involved reviewing, performing, or writing plays and pantomimes. Many photos of celebrities and also theatre programmes were on show. He is currently serving as Chaplain to the Garrick Theatre, London and is a member of Theatre Chaplaincy U.K.

Thank you David for a highly entertaining afternoon much enjoyed by all.

Gill Hamblen

TIME PACES-how our perceptions change with age.

Those of us who were present at the Wednesday lunch club, when Rev David spoke of his early life as a journalist with an interest in theatre, really enjoyed his revelations about the interesting people with whom he had met and conversed. I was particularly interested to hear of his conversation with Princess Margaret, which demonstrated how we are really all the same under the skin.

David's talk was based around that well known passage in Shakespeare from As You Like It: the seven ages of man, spoken by the rather melancholic Jaques. This reminded me of a day long ago when I was around ten years old. During a school holiday my Mother drove me with my aunt, my brother and a cousin in her old Rover 12 to the Roman City of Chester. We went to visit the Zoo, which was a first for us and we had a splendid day. My Aunt and Mother both wanted to find a Cafe for tea and so we went into the City. While we were there we visited the beautiful red sandstone Cathedral and I purchased a post card, which sadly I have lost, of a verse that was attached to a clock in the North transept. I must have read it many times and committed it to memory because when I recited it back to Rev David he remembered something of it too, having spent time there. Here it is as I recall it:

When as a Babe I laughed and wept, time crept,
When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked,
When I became a man, time ran,
And later as I older grew, time flew,
Soon, I shall find while traveling on, time gone,
Will Christ have saved my soul by then, Amen

It is not word perfect in recall, so if you wish to read the original history there is a Web site which you can visit which gives details of the author of the verse in the original version and of others who have misquoted it, as have I, although the message is the same, namely we are all progressing from Birth to Death.

Mary Stott

Wednesday Lunches continue until Wednesday 20th March and will restart after Easter week.

Advance Notice: All Saints Episcopal Church Jordanhil, Thursday **April 4th 2pm.**
A illustrated talk "Copts and Early Christian Egypt (300-800 AD)" by Dr Bill Manley, a best selling author and expert on the Ancient Egyptian language.
Further information: Eileen Maitland eileenmaitland@btinternet.com

MARCH

John Updike 1932-2009

The sun is nervous
As a kite
That can't quite keep
Its own string tight.

Some days are fair,
And some are raw.
The timid earth
Decides to thaw.

Pale crocuses
Poke through the ground
Like roses come
To sniff around.

The mud smells happy
On our shoes.
We still wear mittens,
Which we lose.

In this poem the American novelist and poet John Updike focuses his cynical wit on the familiar images of the oncoming spring. Everything we see is personified as scared and nervous, and not a bit in control of what it ought to be doing.

So the sun is up in there in the sky, strangely 'personified' as a kite that can't keep its own string tight. The days, not knowing what to do in the circumstances, settle for both warm and cold, and the earth, scared about what is happening, makes the decision to thaw!

Rather pale crocuses poke through the soil, a bit like roses, to have a look round and check it's really spring.

But we humans are just fine! The mud on our shoes is great - much better than frozen earth, and, of course, we always have our mittens. Unlike nature we are definitely in control, except, as Updike wickedly concludes, we lose them!

Brenda Hadcroft



A PALM SUNDAY HYMN

[Tune: Blaenwern]

Waving palms and singing 'Hosanna',
On the road to Jerusalem,
'He's our saviour, he's the new leader'
They knew He was to rescue them.
'Sing Hosanna to the Messiah,
He will save us!' loudly they cried,
'Sing Hosanna!' little knowing,
Soon He would be crucified.

As our Lord rode calmly onward,
On He went towards His fate,
He knew cheers of adoration
Soon would turn to jeers of hate.
Those who feared His humble power,
Jesus Christ, the poor person's friend,
Priests and scribes were plotting, bribing,
Scheming how His life would end.

Thank you Lord, for giving us Jesus,
Born on earth, its people to save,
Crucifixion, resurrection,
Off'ring life beyond the grave.
Help us conquer pride and envy,
Greed and anger, so we see,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Through Your love we are truly free.

Written by Kirsty Steele

THE FRONT COVER PICTURE

Pieta by Mikhail Vrubel in St Cyril's church, Kyiv

As well as the terrible situation in the Holy Land, the war in Ukraine drags on unrelentingly. Prof. John Riches wrote an article for this magazine in April 2022, just two months after the major Russian invasion of Ukraine, although the offensive had been ongoing since 2014.

John wrote:

'One factor in the present terrifying war in the Ukraine that gets little attention from the press is the role that *the churches play in the lives and national aspirations of the peoples*. This, much like the question of the political relations between Ukraine and Russia, is a matter of extreme complexity, closely linked to the long, constantly changing of the political power relations of that area'

A potted church history:

In 1686, Peter the Great annexed Ukraine to Russia. Previously Kiev and Russia were administratively separated. At that point, *the Orthodox Church in Ukraine was transferred*, by the Ecumenical Patriarch *to the jurisdiction of Moscow*.

So when the painting on the front cover was created in 1884 in **St Cyril's church Kyiv**, the Russian and Ukrainian church were under the same jurisdiction of Moscow. The artist, **Mikhail Vrubel** came to St. Cyril's Church from St. Petersburg and made several magnificent paintings.

On 27 May 2022, following a church-wide council in Kyiv, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church announced its full independence and autonomy from the Moscow Patriarchate. This decision was in protest at the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, and particularly in response to Patriarch Kirill's support for Putin and the invasion. Other Eastern Orthodox churches have condemned the action of Kirill. A sad situation in countries where faith and nationality are strongly linked, and faith is of such great significance for so many.

We wish all our readers a very happy Easter



SERVICES IN MARCH

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	3 March Lent 3 (Purple)	10 March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday (Purple)	17 March Lent 5 (Purple)	24 March Palm Sunday (Red)	28 March Maundy Thursday (White)	31 March Easter Sunday (White)
Celebrant	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
9.00am Service	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)			Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)
10.30am Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist		Sung Eucharist
2.30pm Service						
7.30pm Service					Sung Eucharist	
Stewards	Brenda	Joyce	David	Tracey		Celia
Eucharistic Assistants	Hanan	Louise	Graham	Celia		Jenny
Readings	Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2: 13-22	1 Samuel 1:20-28; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Luke 2:33-35	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33	(Mark 11:1-11) Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1 – 15:47	Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Isaiah 25:6-9; Acts 10:34-43; Mark 16:1-8
Reader	Andrew Long	David Hamblen	Bryan Stack	Sheena MacDonald		Gillian Kingslake
Intercessor	Louise Benson	Andrew Long	Celia Fisher	David Hamblen		Sheena MacDonald
After- service Coffee	Joyce John	Janet Gioia	Pauline Anne	Gillian Fiona		Sheena Kate
Other events	There will be an 11.30am Said Eucharist on the 1st Wednesday of the month using the 1970 liturgy. There will be a Holy Week Compline at 7.00pm on Monday, March 25th Good Friday 2.30pm The Way of the Cross: Prayers and Meditation					

The Editor for the April edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, 24th March 2024**.