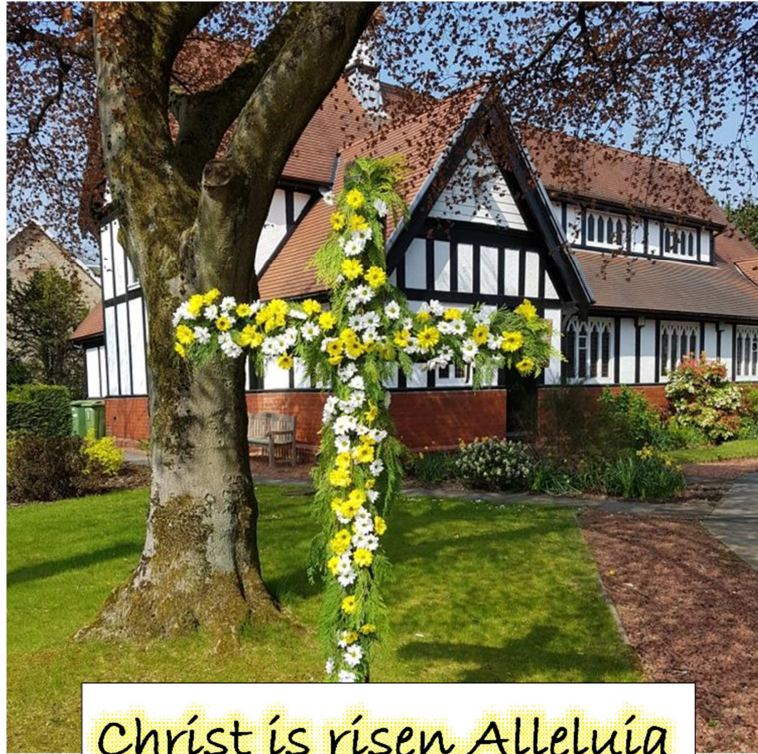


April 2024 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road Bearsden



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The cover picture: The bare wooden cross is decorated by the congregation in the church during communion, then carried to the garden where it is in full view of passersby.

April 2024

Dear All,

HE IS RISEN!

As I look around our churches today it sometimes seems that many have forgotten that Easter is THE central event in the life of the Church. There is nothing more important to a Christian than the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Without these historical events, the Christian faith is worthless. As the Apostle Paul tells us,

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)

But, such is not the case. The events that happened that first Easter continue to be the power, hope, and peace of the Christian's life, and foolishness to everyone else.

The events of that first Easter were so life-changing and significant to the disciples in the early Church that they made Sunday the first day of the new week, a reminder for all time that each and every Sunday we are to celebrate the victory that is the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chocolate bunnies, eggs, and decorated baskets all appear in shops because we don't want to deal with what the Resurrection really means. It's far easier to tell ourselves that it means spring, it means renewal, it means new life here on Earth.

But what it really means is this: Jesus died on a cross so that you and I don't have to; God sent His Son to take our place because He loves us. No other reason. God didn't have to do it and nobody forced him to. He did it purely because He loves us, with the same tender love that we see in a parent cradling a child who is hurt.

When you read this Easter Day may be a thing of the past, as it falls on the last day of March this year – the end of a month where we were working through Lent together on our study course, and marking the solemn events of Holy Week in various ways.

But Easter isn't a single day event, it's a lifetime experience. We are not confined to celebrating the resurrection on one day of the year any more than Jesus was confined to the tomb.

I was reminded of a simple verse that should be written upon our hearts as an Easter people whose cry is “Hallelujah!”:

**Blessed are those to whom Easter is not a hunt...
but a find;
not a greeting...
but a proclamation;
not an outward fashion...
but inward grace;
not a day...
but an eternity.**

Hallelujah – He IS risen indeed!

Rev'd David

ABC SONGS OF PRAISE – EASTER SUNDAY

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.

BISHOP KEVIN'S LENT APPEAL 2024

A Reminder

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.

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.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

VESTRY NOTES 11TH MARCH 2024

- **Holy week and Easter services:** In addition to services already publicised there will be:
Good Friday: a joint service with New Kirkpatrick at 2.30 at All Saints.
Easter Sunday: Said Communion at 9.00 taken by Revd. David and Revd. Kevin Francis.
- **Giving/Prayer Day:** Revd. David is planning an Open Church Day on a Saturday morning (probably in May) where there will be an opportunity for giving and praying. Details will be given shortly.
- **Visiting List:** we are studying new safeguarding advice to work out the best way to revive our church visiting programme.
- **Social Events Committee:** the committee is about to be reintroduced. Volunteers will be very welcome.
- **The Memorial Book:** John Harrington has arranged for the memorial Book to be updated.
- **Bishop Kevin:** it was announced at the recent Diocesan Synod that Bishop Kevin will retire at the end of August. A Diocesan service of thanksgiving will be held on 29 June.
- The Vestry was very grateful for the generosity of the initial financial contributions for the magazine.
- The posts of Alternative Lay Representative and Property Convener are still not filled.
- The problems with the heating of the halls are taking some time to resolve. In the meantime the Vestry has agreed to buy four small domestic heaters.
- There is a number of outstanding building problems: the bell cote, the east window of the Church and the garden wall, plus ongoing issues at the Rectory. These will be addressed as soon as possible.
- **Ascension Day:** a regional joint service will be held at St Bride's, Hyndland, on Ascension Day (May 9th) at 7.30pm
- **Weekday services:** a trial of holding a weekday Communion on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am will start in May and will replace the monthly Wednesday service until the Lunch Group recommences in the autumn.
- The next Vestry meeting will be on **Monday, 8 April.**

Brenda Hadcroft

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

There have been several occasions recently when the church has been found to be unlocked (either the main front door or the choir vestry door) when there is nobody present, occasionally with the lights left on.

Could you be sure if you do access the church with a key that you leave it locked after you if there is nobody else there. We have had some items stolen and it will be appreciated that leaving the church unlocked has implications on our insurance.

It is worth noting that the rear door to the choir vestry is often very stiff and hard to open and it may be that you think it is locked when it is just stuck shut.

Ideally we would like to leave the church open more often, but we need to think about security and how we can manage this best if it is to happen.

Could you also take care when switching on the lights. Some of the switches on the panel turn on lights outside the church, which are rarely required during the daytime, and it is these lights that are then forgotten when switching off. There is a guide next to the switches to show which lights are controlled by each switch.

We need to compile an up to date list of those who hold keys to the church and halls. Please could you let the Rector know as soon as possible if you have a key and which one it is as there are different versions.

Many thanks, Vestry

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

A reminder that we are not posting the magazine to those who have said they are happy to collect it in church. It is usually available the last Sunday before the end of the month.

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

WEEKDAY COMMUNIONS

We currently offer a Said Communion service using the traditional language of the 1970 Liturgy on a first Wednesday of the month at 11.30am. This picks up on a custom of having a weekly Wednesday morning service, and over time it has fitted in with the Wednesday Lunch Group, which meets over the autumn/winter months, and been reduced to the one service a month.

Our experience has been that, when the service is held on a day when lunch group meets, some people who are going to the lunch come to church beforehand. The disadvantage of this is that people helping with the lunch cannot come, and several have expressed a wish to do so.

When the service is held on days without a lunch group we usually have no people turning up – on a couple of occasions by chance someone has come in and offered to stay so the service can happen with the priest and one in the congregation.

The Vestry has discussed this matter and has suggested that during the spring and summer, when there is no lunch group, we should try out having a Said Communion on a **TUESDAY morning at 10am**. This will again be on the first Tuesday of each month – so the first will be on **May 7th**.

This will be on a trial basis during the summer. The Wednesdays at 11.30am will resume when the lunch group restarts in September.

Rev David

GREETINGS FROM PRIMUS



At a Provincial Welcome Day held in Edinburgh recently Rev David was delighted to meet the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Revd Mark Strange, who sent good wishes and prayers to the congregation of All Saints.

A Welcome Day is held annually at the General Synod Office for Clergy who have recently been ordained or joined the Scottish

Episcopal Church from elsewhere, and for new Lay Readers.

Those attending were given an overview of the work of the Province, welcomed to the General Synod Office, given a brief overview of the work of each area of the General Synod and met the relevant people to contact when information or advice was needed.

Rev David

All Saints Episcopal Church Jordanhill, 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

A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OFFICE

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church will welcome a new Secretary General when Dr Dee Bird takes up the position this summer. She is the first female Secretary General of the GSO since the position was established in 1983.

The Secretary General is effectively the chief executive officer of the General Synod Office, which supports the General Synod in its work on mission and growth of the Scottish Episcopal Church and governance of key parts of its structures.

Dr Bird said of her new role: “As a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church, I feel honoured and privileged to have been appointed to this post. I’m looking forward to leading the team within the General Synod Office to support the work of the College of Bishops and the Standing Committee.

“While the SEC faces a number of challenges, I’m excited about the opportunities to evolve and grow the Church through collaboration and partnership-working between the Province, the seven Dioceses and local congregations. I’m also looking forward to getting out and about across the Province to meet people and hear their thoughts on how the GSO can best support the mission of the SEC at regional and local levels.”

Dr Bird arrives at the GSO with a wealth of experience as a senior leader in the public, third and tertiary education sectors, working at institutional and national



levels. She has managed multi-disciplinary teams, led change and delivered regional and national projects and programmes.

Originally a native of New Jersey, Dr Bird came to Scotland in 1997, gaining first a Masters and then a PhD in Literature, Theology and the Arts at the University of Glasgow. She also holds a Master of Divinity from what is now Palmer Seminary in Philadelphia. She is an active member of St Mark's Scottish Episcopal Church in Portobello, Edinburgh, where she is Vestry Treasurer.

More details are on the website of the Scottish Episcopal Church <https://www.scotland.anglican.org>

THE RETIREMENT OF BISHOP KEVIN

The Right Rev Kevin Pearson has announced that he will retire as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway on 31 August 2024.

Bishop Kevin became the 15th Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway in July 2020 upon his translation from the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles.

Announcing his retirement to the Glasgow and Galloway Diocesan Synod on Saturday, March 2nd, Bishop Kevin said:

"It has been a joy and a privilege to serve God through the Scottish Episcopal Church. I believe that our S.E.C. has something very special to offer Scotland. Our motto is more relevant today than ever – Evangelical Truth, the search for God through scripture and thought. Apostolic Order – the experience of God through liturgy and worship, making God's presence real. All of which leads to our congregations being able to say together – here we have an experience of the living God. This is our message of hope and promise."

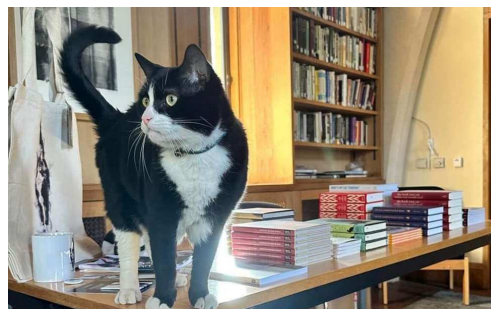
Bishop Kevin previously served as Bishop of Argyll and The Isles from February 2011 and before that was Rector of St

Michael & All Saints Church in Edinburgh and Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Bishop Kevin has spent many years of his ministry involved in the selection and training of clergy in the Scottish Episcopal Church. He created and established the role of Provincial Director of Ordinands. He served as Provincial Director of Ordinands prior to his election as Bishop and was responsible in that role for the Scottish Episcopal Church's discernment and selection processes for candidates for the ordained ministry. He convened the Group responsible for the review of theological training and formation which led to the creation of the Scottish Episcopal Institute. He was appointed as the first Convener of the Council of the Institute (responsible for the training of those entering authorised ministry). Throughout his ministry he served on various boards and committees including the provincial Standing Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

FELINE GOOD

Magnifi-cats were much in evidence at Southwark Cathedral in February when Rev David hosted an annual conference – Stories of Cats - dedicated to our feline furry friends. The cathedral has its very own cat, Hodge, who replaced the previous puss Doorkins in 2020.



Hodge is an extremely rambunctious, adventurous, and friendly cat and can often be seen gatecrashing services and talks as well as having an active social media presence.

Stories of Cats started as an annual event for cat lovers while Doorkins was in residence, and has grown in

popularity especially since the arrival of Hodge, a rescue cat adopted from the Catcuddles Sanctuary, who attend the event every year selling toys and treats as well as receiving donations of cat food.

Rev David attended the first event in 2019 and, after giving some feedback on a sheet and discussing ideas with the organisers, was invited to host it each year!



This year nearly 100 attended the conference, and enjoyed talks by Kimberlie Hamilton, an American author and screenwriter based in Aberdeen; Dr Kathleen Walker-Meikle, an historian and author specialising in the cultural history of animals; cat behaviourist Lucy Hoile; writers and lecturers Judith Robinson and Scott Pack; and “The Cat Vet” Dr Jo Lewis. Hodge also made a number of appearances, much to the delight of those attending!

Planning is already underway for an even larger event at the cathedral next February. Rev David and Kimberlie Hamilton are trying to organise a similar event in Scotland, with a number of speakers interested in attending. If anyone has any suggestions of suitable venues – ideally with a resident cat! – *please let David know.*

SHARING THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Following on from previous joint ventures, folk from St Andrew’s came together with All Saint’s for Lent reflections on the book ‘Rooted in Love’ edited by Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London. In the book there were contributions drawing on the wisdom of all the Area Bishops in the Diocese of London. These included a daily scripture passage, reflection, prayer, and suggestion for action, with David and Andrea sharing in leading the group. Discussions focused on Christ the person, our calling and baptism, on being the body of Christ, becoming more Christ-like and living a Christ-centred life. Plenty of material for discussion!

Our pattern of weekly sessions provided a motivation to read and reflect on the material beforehand which is sometimes difficult when life is busy! Some of the contributions were more inspiring and easier to discuss than others but we never ran out of things to say!

I always find it so helpful, enriching and also at times challenging to hear the views, thoughts, and experiences of others during the discussions rather than just mulling things over on my own at home. Helpful too has been the opportunity to voice some of the deep questions of faith and realise I am not alone. Seeing things in a new way helps to build faith.

In our last session we discussed the challenge of loving our enemies and also what it means to ‘Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me’. We talked

about the importance of prayer in our Christian lives both for us as individuals and as a church.

As well as building relationships between our two churches, this opportunity to share in reflections on faith has made this Lenten journey together a very positive experience for me. Thanks to Andrea and David for leading us and thanks too to the folk of All Saints who made all so welcome at the start of each session with tea and cake!

Helen Paisley

WEDNESDAY LUNCH BONANZA



An amazing collection of raffle prizes was on display at the Wednesday Lunch this week, the last before Easter, including the Star Prize, created and donated by Susan Gray.

This Easter Egg was hidden inside a beautifully embroidered felt cover which will open up when a particular ribbon is pulled.

I was lucky enough to have the winning ticket but will have to wait until Easter Day to reveal the contents. Thank you Susan, I will enjoy it!

Gill Hamblen

WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

We are almost at the end of another year of the Wednesday Lunch Group, and it has certainly been one of the best in its history. Our final meetings before the summer break will be on Wednesday 3rd, 10th and 17th April at 12 noon in the Drymen Hall. Coffee is served from 10.30.

So, if you haven’t had lunch with us yet, please do come! And, if you have, please come again and bring a friend if you can. As always, you will be very welcome.

Andrew and Brenda

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 12-18 MAY

VOLUNTEERS?

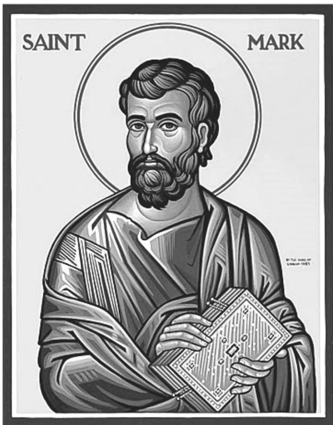
As usual the churches in Bearsden are co-ordinating their Christian Aid week collecting, and I am looking for help! We have decided again to drop leaflets outlining Christian Aid's work and which how to give: basically online or via a just giving page.

So, as in the past, I would be very grateful for some volunteers to drop leaflets during the week, but there is no need to return and collect anything. Consider it as a good reason for some fresh air! If you feel you could help with this please let me know.

During Christian Aid Week I will also be putting actual envelopes in the church pews so that if you would like to donate you can do so via cash/ cheques. Please be sure to complete the Gift Aid part if you are eligible to do so.

Celia

APRIL 25TH FEAST DAY OF ST MARK



Little is known about St Mark and whether he is actually the author of the Gospel is uncertain. It is thought he was asked by the Romans to write down the teachings of St. Peter. He wrote the Gospel in Greek for the Gentiles converting to Christianity. He is also traditionally believed to be the founder of the Church in Alexandria.

The dramatic Passion reading on Palm Sunday was from Mark's Gospel. In that reading is an incident only mentioned in this Gospel, Mark 14:51, 'a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.' It has

been thought that may have been Mark himself- a lovely thought.

As it is the set Gospel for this church year, the Rector will write more about it in next month's magazine.

PATTERN OF PRAYER

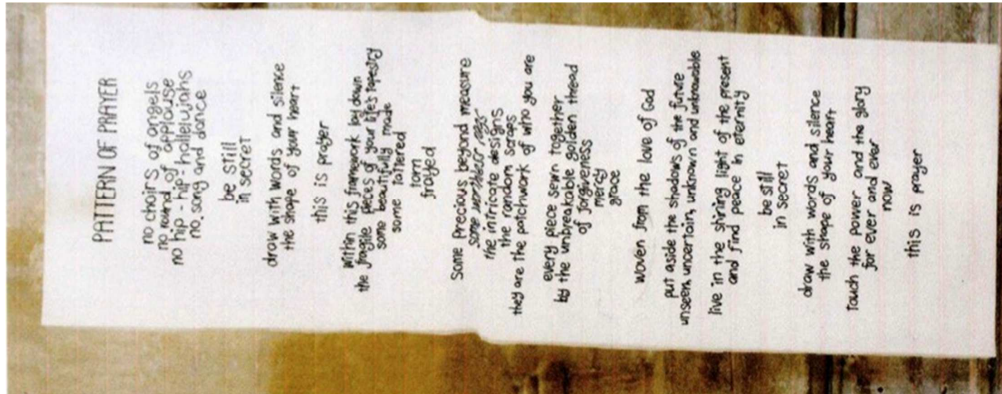
*no choirs of angels
no round of applause
no hip-hallelujahs
no, song and dance
be still in secret
draw with words and silence
the shape of your heart
this is prayer
within this framework lay down
the fragile pieces of your life's tapestry
some beautifully made
some tattered torn frayed
some precious beyond measure
some worthless rags
the intricate designs
the random scraps
they are the patchwork of who you are
every piece sewn together
by the unbreakable golden thread
of forgiveness mercy grace
woven from the love of God
put aside the shadows and unknowable
live in the shining light of the present
and find peace in eternity be still in secret
draw with words and silence
the shape of your heart
touch the power and the glory
for ever and ever
now
this is prayer* *by Paul Field*

Pattern of Prayer- Part of the work commissioned by the Deo Gloria Trust and hung in York Minster. Created by Embroiderer and Textile Artis Jacqui Frost. This piece is from the work described in the book, 'threads through life and faith'.

This book is the second one I have purchased by Jacqui. The title resonates with me. As many of you will know I enjoy embroidery, textiles, threads and all aspects of creativity. I am fortunate that I have been given this interest and, and dare I say, a skill or talent to create many items from the plethora of inspiration that permeates not just my world, but all of the world that surrounds us.

Jacqui's work challenges me, not just with the imagery of her textiles but the thought provoking words and ideas that 'spring to mind'. Jacqui's Christian Faith underpins all her art. The words drawn from the Bible gives depth and feelings to her work. I have chosen this one particular piece as I feel that the words describe thoughts and feelings I have. I trust that you agree and find meaning in them as I have. No Easter Card this year, but I wish everyone 'Happy Easter'!

Susan Gray



'A Journey Through Holy Week' by Christine Keen



WEDNESDAY LUNCH FLOWER DAY

On March 6th we enjoyed a very tasty lunch, home made soup, filled rolls and delicious "cake of the day". Then tables were cleared ready to create our Mothering Sunday flower arrangements, skills we picked up in December.



Like Busy Bees, we (ladies & gentlemen) chose flowers, greenery and

decorations supplied by Sheena and Susan. This resulted in wonderful table arrangements.

The sale of Easter Cards did exceptionally well with all proceeds going to Church funds.

There were smiles all round when Doreen, surprised and delighted, won a beautiful basket of flowers from Sheena.

Many thanks go to those whose hard work made it a joyful afternoon.

Janet Shields.





EASTER CARDS

Many thanks to everyone who supported the sale of Easter Cards. Over £100 was raised for church funds .. well done!

Sheena

And many thanks to Sheena who spend many hours making the cards while convalescing after an operation.



William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

Lines Written in Early Spring

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

Wordsworth wrote this beautiful poem in 1798 towards the end of the French Revolution. It poses a profound moral question, deeply resonant for his age and for ours too. In it he imagines himself sitting in a garden hearing the birds sing with the flowers and trees spontaneously rejoicing in their own lives. For him nature is the spirit which joins all the creatures of the earth in a shared sense of happiness, and to this it has linked our human souls.

But, Wordsworth is in the kind of mood in which pleasant thoughts recall sad ones, and suddenly in the midst of all this happiness, it brings him pain to think what man has done to man. Man is not working with nature and not behaving

like the world's most innocent animals and plants. He sadly concludes that, if all this joy is truly sent by heaven and part of Nature's divine plan, he (and we) should rightly feel deep sorrow at what indeed man has done to man.

Brenda Hadcroft

A REPORT ON DIOCESAN SYNOD

It was a pleasure to attend my first Diocesan Synod with Rev. David in Kilmarnock on Saturday, 2nd March. As you know, this is basically the AGM for the Diocese and includes business like the election of office holders and General Synod delegates and the approval of the budget, but also discussing matters of particular concern to the Diocese.

Rev. David and I drove down together, leaving quite early to get there on time. As it turned out we arrived earlier than expected (before the hall was set up), so found a parking space easily and went off in search of sustenance (surprisingly hard in Kilmarnock on a Saturday morning!). Anyhow, we successfully located a cuppa and a bacon roll/roll and bacon which we ended up eating at the railway station. There we bumped into Rev. Heller Gonzalez (Rector at St. Augustine's Dumbarton), and walked back to the venue with him. Indeed, whilst Rev. David went off to his "Fresher's meeting" I had time for a coffee with Heller in a local eaterie which had finally opened.

Heller and I finally got to the venue a few minutes before the opening eucharist and mass of chrism, which started at 9.45. This was an emotional service because at the very beginning, visibly moved, Bishop Kevin announced his upcoming retirement (see <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/bishop-kevin-announces-retirement/>). He regretted having to retire when he felt there was still so much work for him to do, but nevertheless charged us to go forward with "Trust, Confidence and Hope". At this service, it was great to be in a full church with everyone singing strongly, and to share such an emotional moment with friends from across the Diocese.

As usual, the formal business of Synod began with introductions and then elections. It was nice to see that our friend Morag O'Neill, lay rep at St. Augustine's Dumbarton, was elected to Diocesan Council. Although there is no longer formal regional representation on Diocesan Council, it is good that at least one person from our North-West region is a member, and able to provide us with in-person reports on council business.

In the other pre-lunch business, Bob Burgon, diocesan treasurer, assured us that the Diocese was still in a healthy financial state, and that, despite his best efforts, our deficit for the last financial year was considerably less than budgeted (£160,800 rather than £456,852). Sadly, though, this was mainly due to the "assets introduced" by the closures of St. Bartholemew's, Gourrock, and the winding up of Drumchapel Mission. As usual, however, he has budgeted once more for a whopping deficit of nearly £0.5million, and this was approved by Synod. There followed a debate about Canons 15 and 16 of the Scottish Episcopal Church. A reminder that the Canons are the laws by which our church is governed, and can only be changed after two "readings" at General Synod. The usual practice is that, after the first reading at General Synod, the proposed changes are passed to Diocesan Synods for comment and debate before being passed back to General Synod for a second reading. This was the case here. These Canons concern the sharing of Scottish Episcopal Churches with other denominations, including the Church of Scotland, and what forms this sharing can take. There was some passionate debate about this, as some were worried about the loss of our distinctive identity. However, it appears that the reality, especially in some rural areas of Scotland, is that we have to share premises with other churches in order to continue to function. Personally, I think it is great that we are moving closer to other denominations, so long as we keep sight of the distinctive identity we have as the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The final item of business before lunch was the formal announcement of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. In another moving moment the representative of Friends of the Holy Land (<https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/bishops-lent-appeal-2024-friends-of-the-holy-land/>) talked about their extremely important work and how this has been seriously affected by the conflict in Palestine. I was particularly interested to hear about the "School of Joy" an ASN School run by the charity near Bethlehem. (<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/school-of-joy>),

I spent the lunchbreak catching up with friends from across the Diocese. After lunch the first item of business was the rather mundane sounding "submission of Synod returns". This is when our Synod Clerk, Rev. Canon Gordon Fyfe, talks about church numbers and what we are returning as the "size" of the Diocese to the Province. Each year since I have attended synod, myself and Dr. Beth Routledge, lay rep from St. Mary's Cathedral, have questioned why these returns are split, totally unnecessarily, according to gender. There has also been a perennial issue since the pandemic of how we take account of people attending services on zoom, as well as why non-Eucharistic services do not seem to count. Thankfully, the Synod Clerk assured us that the College of Bishops and

the Provincial Mission Board will consider these matters at their next meeting. I hope that we can soon make these figures truly reflect the size of our congregations and no longer discriminate based on gender.

The next debate was about proposed revisions to Canons 35 (the Canon concerning physical changes to churches and church grounds) and Canon 65 (on safeguarding). Whilst the latter was an uncontroversial re-write to update and clarify, the latter caused considerable debate due to the proposal that, in future, any changes to church buildings etc. requiring approval from the Diocesan Buildings committee must “adhere to the SEC Net Zero Guidance”. Synod members argued that “adherence” was too strong a word and might result in unnecessary and potentially prohibitively expensive restrictions on what charges could do. Consequently an amendment to the wording was suggested to be considered on the second reading of this change to Canon 35 at the next General Synod.

The next item also, maybe surprisingly, evoked a further lengthy debate. It was about new proposed liturgies for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Usually these are introduced by Rev. Nicholas Taylor, the chair of the Provincial liturgy committee, and waved through with little controversy. However, in this case the Provost, Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth, proposed some changes to the wording of these revised liturgies, largely to make the language more inclusive. Whilst there were some objections to “making up liturgy on the fly” and others, including Rev. Canon David Jasper, complaining that the changes were not theologically appropriate, the motions suggesting further revisions were passed. This allows for further debate at General Synod in June. I think this was the correct result. Whilst we all appreciate the work of the liturgical committee keeping our worship up to date, it is vitally important in this day and age that our language is as inclusive as possible. The length of this debate meant that the presentation by the Diocesan Environmental Group was a bit cut short, but there was still time for them to introduce their new video (which is very good and features our very own Rector as one of the voice-over artists!) and talk to Synod about their suggested pragmatic approach to church environmental matters. Note that I have talked about this before in previous reports.

The last item of note, the Dean’s final “Issues for Synod” slot was a rather curious vote to dissolve three churches to then amalgamate them. The new Heartlands group will unite St. Mary’s, Port Glasgow; St. Fillan’s, Kilmacolm and St. Mary’s, Bridge of Weir into a single charge. This was passed unanimously by synod and represents a major step forward for these charges which have had a troubled time recently.

Before we left, there was time for a very quick catch-up with our former rector, Rev Kirstin Freeman, as we were putting the chairs and tables away (ever the Episcopal Church!). In true Kirstin-style she introduced herself in debates as the “Priest-in-charge of North Lanarkshire,” as she is currently responsible, due to vacancies, for four charges in that region!

Rev. David and I manage to de-brief to some extent on the journey home and we will both be happy to answer any questions you have about the finer details of Synod or this report.

David Simmons

SATURDAY WALK WITH ST. ANDREWS

With the promise of April showers, (in March), and tea in Caulders cafe at the end, Ken and I decided to join the St. Andrews walking group on Saturday March 23rd for a short walk round Mugdock park.

And while we were all very familiar with the walks there, chatting to different people, and working out what film was being shot at Kyber field (we think it might be a film about the Lockerbie disaster) made for a very pleasant afternoon.

Andrea apologised for not having let All Saints know about the walk beforehand, but the year is youngI was suggesting the walk which crosses the Kyber road and cuts through forestry to give good views of the Campsie and Ben Lomond, and was surprised that not many of the group had done it. So we may try that as a joint walk soon - not too far to travel. Watch this space !

Kate Ross



Kate ‘en route’

WELL-KNOWN EASTER HYMNS, BUT THEY HAVE HAD THEIR WORDS JUMBLED UP



1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn
2. lla nveaeh arlsdcee
3. nda acn ti eb
4. eb lstli nda nkwo hatt i ma ogd
5. eb tllsi fro teh erscnepe fo eht rdol
6. earebht no em tabahr fo gdo
7. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot
8. ofmr anehev ouy ocme
9. eh si rdol
10. i ecandd ni eht grnnimo
11. i oknw taht ym rdemreee eilsr
12. amke wya, amek awy
13. onrmnig ahs eonkrb
14. deri no, ider no ni mateysj
15. Kroc fo gsae
16. eth dol rgdeug srcos
17. heter si a negre illh raf awya
18. tnihe eb teh lgoyr
19. eerw ouy heter
20. enwh i rsevuy the dunroswo ocsrs



Try singing them while sorting!

SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

Services will be held both in Church and on Zoom at 10.30am
Andrew Long will provide the log in details on request.
Please remember to mute yourself during the service.

Date Sunday	7 April 2nd Sunday of Easter (White)	14 April 3rd Sunday of Easter (White)	21 April 4th Sunday of Easter (White)	28 April 5th Sunday of Easter (White)
Celebrant	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest
9.00am Service	Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
10.30am Service	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
Stewards	Kate	Pauline	Janet	Andrew
Eucharistic Assistants	Hanan	Louise	Graham	Celia
Readings	Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1 – 2:2; John 20:19-31	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
Reader	Gill	Richard	Janet	Andrew
Intercessor	David Simmons	Louise	Andrew	Celia
After-service Coffee	Mairi Elaine	Brenda Jane	John Joyce	Gioia Janet
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. All of these services use the 1970 liturgy			

The Editor for the May edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to
janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, 21st April 2024.**