

# *April 2026 Magazine*



*All Saints Scottish  
Episcopal Church*

*Drymen Road, Bearsden*



Rector: Revd. David Guest  
Phone  
Email

67 Stockiemuir Avenue, Bearsden G61 3JJ  
0141 942 3291  
[dguest@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:dguest@glasgow.anglican.org)

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

Web Site: <http://bearsden.church.scot>  
Facebook: AllSaints\_Bearsden Instagram: allsaints\_bearsden  
Twitter/X: AllSaints\_Bearsden (@AS\_Bearsden)  
Bluesky: @allsaintsbearsden.bsky.social  
All Saints is a registered charity in Scotland SC005552

**All Saints Episcopal Church, 71 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 3QT**

*Please do not contact the Rector in connection with hall bookings – the contact details for Celia, who deals with this, are above.*

Cover Picture: Matthew 28:1-6

“He is not here: for he has been raised, as he said.”

April 2026

Dear All,

## **BAD NEWS – GOOD NEWS**

At Easter, when we are reminded of how God rewrote the rules of the universe, and when all of heaven laughs and rejoices, there is some rather bad news for those celebrating. Contrary to what you might have been led to believe elsewhere, Easter isn't about cuddly bunnies with baskets, or bluebirds, or new-born chickens, or lambs looking adoringly at floral crosses, or even about Easter eggs.

Some will already be thinking, ah yes, that's right. Because we know that Easter is all about new birth and new life. Well, no Easter actually isn't ABOUT that either – we only think that when we get Easter and spring mixed up and think they're interchangeable.

In fact Easter is about a group of grieving women, who went to a tomb expecting to find death, then running with terror out of a cemetery because they found nothing. It's about something happening that must change forever what we think about death. It's about Jesus saying, "I did tell you all this would happen – weren't you listening?"

And it's summed up in the words of St Paul to the Corinthians, "*Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" That's it. That's the message. We struggle for an explanation and it's all summed up in one verse.

We get the wrong end of the stick if we think Good Friday was just a sad day, that the death of Jesus on the cross was the end of one chapter and the resurrection the start of a new one. What Jesus accomplished on the cross started it all, his death tore up the pages and forced a rewrite of the chapter headed "What happens after death".

To me that is the amazing promise that has been kept. It is hope fulfilled. Easter isn't a time for thinking, "there might be something better to come..." it's the proof that there is and we don't actually need to worry. We have all been made alive. We are all alive with him.

We mustn't be ashamed to proclaim, "Jesus is the resurrection and the life" – not as a promise of what might be, but as a solid fact, an assurance of what is.

Easter was not a happy-ever-after ending pasted onto the otherwise frightening and depressing ending of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was put into a tomb - wrapped,

signed, sealed, and delivered. But when people looked into the tomb, everything was unwrapped. Nothing was as expected. Nothing was as it should be. From that moment on, nobody could even count on death as the end. I love those words spoken by the young poet, actress and TV presenter Ellen Wilkie just before she died, "Death is a comma, not a full stop."

Easter is not about renewal, new beginnings, the perseverance of the human spirit, or crocuses in the springtime. It's about the staggering, amazing, marvellous, breath-taking fact that, "*Christ has been raised from the dead... as all die in Adam so will all be made alive in Christ.*"

Bishop Colin Buchanan once said, "The Jesus Christ to whom Christians respond is not the dead (though appealing) person of the past, but the living Lord of the present."

Hallelujah! How true. May each one of us discover that truth afresh this Easter.

Rev'd David

## **DIOCESAN SYNOD 2026**

As usual at this time of year, I embarked on my annual pilgrimage to the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock, for the annual Diocesan Synod which, this year, took place on Saturday, 7th March. It was a beautiful sunny day as I got up to be on the train at 7.45 am (a bit early for me!), but it was an enjoyable journey through the picturesque Ayrshire countryside. Most years my friends from across the Diocese accumulate on the train, but this year the only person I bumped into on the way was one of our prison chaplains: a young priest who works at HMP Barlinnie. I had the chance to hear about her fascinating work as we walked from the railway station to the Howard Centre, opposite the church of Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock. After a quick cuppa, bumping into both our former and current Rectors, the priest-in-charge of St. Mary's, Gatehouse-of-Fleet (who I have got to know through our frequent visits to the Duncans) and our old friend Prof. Canon John Riches, we began the Synod with a Eucharist.

These services are always joyful because it is unusual to have a church full of Episcopalians who sing at the tops of their voices! Unfortunately, the organ had blown a fuse, so we had to manage with a piano, but it was lovely to sing the MacMillan St. Anne Mass again: rather appropriate, when in Ayrshire, to sing music written by somebody from born in the same county! Bishop Nick delivered his first ever "charge" to the Diocese: a foretaste of things to come. He promised to be brief so that he didn't repeat himself later in the Synod but gave us an

interesting take on the parable of the Prodigal Son. Bishop Nick told us that, whilst he had grappled with his interpretation of this parable in the past, sometimes feeling like one son and sometimes like the other, he now realises we have to be like the father in the parable: prepared to welcome EVERYONE, saint or sinner. Another feature of this service was that we were offered the chance to be anointed with oil. Whilst this was voluntary, I think that everyone there decided to receive it. I was anointed by the Rev. Canon Dr. Elizabeth Breakey, the Diocese's recently appointed Rural Dean, and an old friend from previous Synods.

After the usual procedural stuff, Bishop Nick began the main business with a presentation of his vision for the Diocese (more on this in a separate article), which was followed by a table discussion about how best to attract children and families to our churches. Our table, which included the new Canon Missioner, Rev. Canon Dawn Matthew, delivered some sobering news about the low number of children and families enjoying our services just now, but we noted down plenty ideas for the Diocesan office staff to collate. Following that there was a presentation by the Diocesan Treasurer about our finances. These are still remarkably healthy as, once again, the Diocese's attempts to run at a large deficit were curtailed by unexpected income from sales of Diocesan property and slightly less outgoings than expected. This year, however, the Diocese is budgeting for a whopping deficit of about £0.5 million, but this is in line with Bishop Nick's ideas about growing the Diocese by investing in it. There were some shorter items before lunch: a moving presentation by a representative of the Daisy Project (this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal), a brief presentation about plans for the Mother's Union's 150th Anniversary, and John Riches urging us to buy Fairtrade Tea for our churches (I duly bought two boxes which we will be enjoying at lunch group and after services over the next few Sundays). One nice thing about the MU's anniversary is they are hoping to gather all the banners from different charges for the big anniversary service in the summer at St. Mary's Cathedral, so ours will be amongst them too, I am sure.

Our delicious lunch was catered by the familiar face of Christine Hughes, the retired Diocesan manager and Bishop's PA. The afternoon's business began with the "submission of Synod returns". This is the annual report on Diocesan numbers. Whilst obviously not as high as they were years ago the numbers do seem to have stabilised a bit this year, which is encouraging. We then heard from the Diocesan Environmental Group: focusing on good news stories about the installation of Solar Panels at St. Mary's for All (the annex of St. Mary's, Hamilton) and the use of an innovative heating system at St. Augustine's Dumbarton. The afternoon continued with a fascinating presentation from two representatives of

*The Village*. This is a new social group for young people in their 20s and 30s “who want to belong to an intentional, spiritual community. The Village is a fully inclusive, LGBT-affirming space for people of all faiths and none, supported by the Diocese.” The representatives spoke movingly about why they set the group up and how it has flourished since starting last October, with satellite groups forming elsewhere already.

There were two more substantial items of business. First, “Matters from General Synod” which focused on a new liturgy for marriage blessings. This has so far been experimental but is now proposed to be formally added to the SEC liturgy and will receive its second reading at this year’s General Synod. The final item was a fascinating presentation about the Legacy of Slavery project, which is being run by Rev. Willie Shaw, the new priest-in-charge at St. Mark’s, East Kilbride. Willie spoke about how many of the churches in the SEC were built using money that had its origins in the slave trade and that there were still some monuments in our churches to people who had benefited from it, at least indirectly through their family fortunes. Willie’s aim is to document this relationship as part of a Masters degree he is undertaking and receiving full support from the Synod. It was a sobering ending to the day!

After the Bishop delivered his blessing to us, being reminded to confirm the Acts of Synod by banging his crook, we were asked to clear the hall of the tables and chairs. Nobody gets to spend very long in the SEC without learning how to put away a trestle table but imagine my surprise when I found Bishop Nick helping me! As he did so he wished me to pass on his best wishes to all at All Saints, Bearsden. It struck me how refreshing it is to have a Bishop prepared to “muck in” in this way. I think the future of our Diocese is bright!

David Simmons

### **Bishop Nick’s Vision for the Diocese, and what *WE* are going to do about it**

As mentioned in my report on this year’s Diocesan Synod, the Bishop’s charge this year was an extended one. Bishop Nick was elected last year very much because of his vision of how to help us change and grow. Since being installed he has travelled and listened to voices across the Diocese but has now set out his stall for how we should do this, following on from consultations with the Clergy conference, Bishop’s Core Group and Diocesan Council. Bishop Nick argues that we should become “The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway: **Becoming a Church for Everyone**” and argues that the main mechanism for achieving this will be engaging in something called “Natural Church Development”. To be honest, I

needed a little bit of help from Google to supplement my notes, but here is a brief outline of what this is:

**Natural Church Development (NCD)**, developed by Christian Schwarz, identifies eight essential, interrelated quality characteristics for healthy, growing churches. These areas focus on quality rather than just numerical growth.

The eight essential areas are:

- **Empowering Leadership:** Leaders focus on empowering, mentoring, and motivating others for ministry rather than just doing the work themselves.
- **Gift-Oriented Ministry:** Helping church members identify and use their specific spiritual gifts in ministry, rather than just filling slots.
- **Passionate Spirituality:** Faith is practised with commitment, passion, and enthusiasm, rather than out of routine or obligation.
- **Functional Structures:** Church structures (methods, meetings, organization) are designed to support ministry and foster growth, rather than hindering it.
- **Inspiring Worship Service:** Worship services are an encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring experience, where the presence of God is felt.
- **Holistic Small Groups:** Small groups go beyond Bible study to provide practical, life-applicable support and community.
- **Need-Oriented Evangelism:** Evangelism efforts focus on meeting the felt needs of people in the community, rather than just relying on generic programs (note that **Bishop Nick called this “outreach” rather than “evangelism”**)
- **Loving Relationships:** The church fosters a warm, loving, and encouraging atmosphere, often characterized by laughter and genuine care.

### **Core NCD Principle: The Minimum Factor**

NCD uses a barrel analogy, where each stave represents one of these eight areas. A church's growth is limited by its lowest ("minimum") factor, meaning efforts should focus on strengthening the weakest area rather than over-investing in areas of strength.

The way churches are expected to engage with this process is that we “sign up” to it and then, with the support of the new Canon Missioner, find a way for as many church members as possible to fill in a multiple-choice questionnaire. This questionnaire is a bit like a Myers-Briggs personality questionnaire that many of

you will have filled out for professional reasons in the past but is more about the personality of the church than the individual. The data from this questionnaire are analysed and the “weakest” of the eight areas mentioned above is identified. The church is then encouraged to focus on this area for 12 months, then re-assess at the end of that period to identify the next area of focus.

Whilst our church is not expected to sign up to this process unless we want to, it is expected that it will be a condition of receiving significant financial help from the Diocese in the future, so, at the last vestry meeting on Monday, 9th March, we agreed to proceed. Rev. David is currently exploring how best to do this and will report back at the next vestry meeting. So ... watch this space!

Personally, I think this is a really positive move which will help us identify, in an evidence-based way, where we should focus our efforts to become a healthier church. Perhaps it appeals to me as a psychologist but bear in mind that this process has been successful across the world and helped Bishop Nick to grow his previous church in Manchester which was very much thriving when he left.

David Simmons

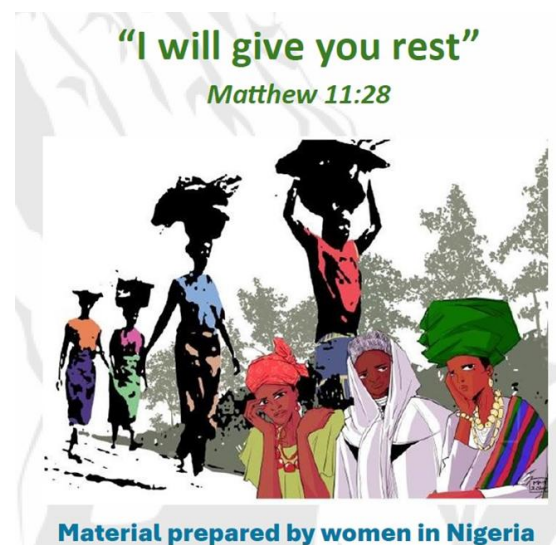
## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

### **March 2026 at All Saints**

This year All Saints hosted the World Day of Prayer with a service focused on Nigeria. The theme was “I Will Give You Rest: Come” and drew inspiration from Matthew 11:28. “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

There were about 30 or so of us and we were led by Rev David using materials provided by the World Day of Prayer Committee but tweaked and shortened by us. Interspersed with prayers and hymns (thank you Susan Harrington) we heard stories from 3 Nigerian women which highlighted specific burdens they were suffering under: Systemic Oppression, Religious Persecution, and Poverty and Despair.

The deep faith and resilience of these women was humbling. Here are three quotations from them.



“With faith and community, we find the strength to carry on, learning to lay our burdens at Jesus' feet”. (Beatrice - Systemic Oppression)

“This is how we find rest in God—not by harbouring hatred but by letting Christ’s love flow through us, even in persecution. It’s a daily choice, a daily surrender. In making this choice, we find that our burdens become light, and in God, we find our rest.” (Jato – Religious Persecution)

"We keep moving, believing that one day the storm will pass. This is my testimony: even in our struggles, we see evidence of God's faithfulness; we may be burdened, but we are not broken; we continue to work, hope, and pray for the Nigeria we know is possible.” (Blessing – Poverty and Despair)

The motto of World Day of Prayer is Informed Prayer, and Prayerful Action, reminding us that our prayers should lead us to action for the transformation of the world. This seems to be especially pertinent in today’s troubled times and the religious persecution occurring in northern Nigeria in particular.

We followed the service with refreshments in the hall which continued far longer than we’d anticipated attesting to the quality of cakes,(thank you cake makers) and chat! Thanks also to Pauline Burns for the lovely table decorations with their African theme. Our visitors from other churches said how much they’d enjoyed the morning so a final thank you to everyone who came and/or helped.

Celia and Penny

## **SOME BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH AND PEOPLE** written in **AD 731** by the Venerable Bede of Jarrow. My copy is a Penguin Classic translation of 1955 which has been reprinted many times. I purchased mine in 1978.

Bede spent his life as a monk at Jarrow under Abbot Ceolfrid. He lived before the Viking invasions when Britain was populated by Celtic tribes, Mercians and Saxons.

I would also recommend **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SCOTLAND** by Frederick Goldie, who was Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway from 1974. I have the second edition of 1976. I came to Glasgow in 1974 and was curious as to how the Episcopal Church of Scotland differed from the Church of England. I attended St Mary's Cathedral when I first arrived as we lived in Westerton and later I attended St.Andrew's, Milngavie after our move to Blanefield. I moved to All Saints in the 1990s after our move to Bearsden.

Mary Stott

# BEDE'S STORY

Most of the information available about Bede's life is derived from a brief note appended to his book, recommended by Mary, *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, composed circa 731. Details about his family are unknown, but Bede was born around the year 673 near the monastery at Wearmouth. At the age of seven, he was entrusted to the monastery for his education, a common practice for children in that era. Later, Bede relocated to the newly established monastery at Jarrow under the guidance of Abbot Ceolfrith, where he would remain for the rest of his life as a monk.

Bede rarely left the confines of his monastery, devoting himself wholly to scholarship. Wearmouth-Jarrow was recognised as a distinguished centre of learning, boasting one of the finest libraries in Europe. Bede was regarded as its most eminent scholar. Throughout his life, he produced or translated about forty books, including commentaries, hymns and poetry. These works covered a wide range of subjects, such as religion, science, history, astronomy, mathematics and language.



In Durham Cathedral

Bede's final days reflected the dedication with which he had lived. Even as illness overtook him, he continued his work, determined to complete a translation of the Gospel of John. He dictated to a scribe until the task was finished. On the evening of 26th May 735, Bede distributed his few possessions among his fellow monks, then, after delivering the last line of his translation, sang praises to God and passed away. Initially he was buried at Jarrow Monastery, but later his bones were laid to rest in Durham Cathedral.

## Bede's Legacy

Bede's reputation was well established before his death, and the monks at Wearmouth-Jarrow soon found themselves inundated with requests for copies of his writings. Many of his works on language and mathematics served as standard educational texts for centuries, and his contributions to science provided the groundwork for modern studies in the field.

The advent of printing in the 1450s allowed Bede's books to reach a broader audience. His writings on the early history of the Church and England continue to

be regarded as among the most reliable and esteemed sources. Bede remains a figure of significant importance in the North East, the region where he lived and worked.

In **1899**, Bede was formally canonised, becoming a saint. He was also declared a 'Doctor of the Church', a distinction reserved for saints who have made substantial contributions to church teachings. With only thirty-seven individuals holding this title, Bede is unique as the sole English recipient.

(Ed: *Thanks to Mary for sparking an interest in the Venerable Bede*)

## **TEA AND GRIT : BICYCLE JOURNEY ALONG THE SILK ROAD**

by Helen Watson (2026)

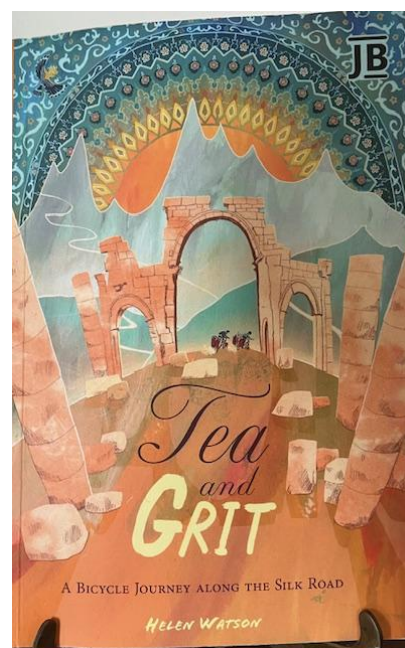
This is the story of Helen Watson (nee Senn) who, with her husband Ed, cycled from Glasgow to China along the Silk Road for fifteen months in 2009 to 2010, mainly camping here and there on the route.

Helen is my friend Victoria's daughter. When her parents were in Glasgow I heard that the young couple had enjoyed an exotic cycling journey, but I didn't know that the travel was such an adventurous and hard one. I just take my hat off for their courage!

With hindsight, however, they were very lucky to get through into



Lunch with a Tajik family. In Central Asia tea was always offered with bread and something sweet, in this case white mulberries and wrapped sweets, which were one of the few items on sale in the small shops we passed



through into

Syria and Iran safely, before the wars. The book tells their vivid encounters of lives of ordinary people in those troublesome countries. I recommend this timely book. I found it very interesting to gain insight into the life of the middle East and beyond through this young western couple's eyes.

Kaoru Stewart

*Since Kaoru and Iain moved to Dundee a few years ago, they have remained 'country members' of All Saints.*

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 – 16 MAY**

I would be very grateful for anyone who can help with a leaflet drop for Christian Aid week to *either mail me or phone me*. My contact details are on the inside cover of the magazine.

Although the amount the Bearsden group raises has fallen year on year, the money is at least something rather than nothing. The total raised between July 2024 and February 2025 was £4657.40 whereas the total raised between July 2025 and February 2026 was £2365.01. Rather depressing.

There will be envelopes in the pews for those who would like to give that way rather than online.

Thanks in advance for offers of help either from the “old timers” or anyone else who would like to up their step count!

Celia

### **RECEIVING THE BREAD AND WINE AT COMMUNION**

Charges have been reminded by the Diocese and Province of the strict regulations concerning the receiving of the bread and wine at Holy Communion services.

Advice issued in 2022 has been reiterated and we respectfully ask that members of the congregation remind themselves of these and act accordingly.

In the original advice sent to all Vestries and clergy it says, “Vestries cannot decide how the chalice is to be received. Vestries need to make clear at every service that people can receive the bread, or the bread and wine. The wine is to be received from the chalice by sipping. Intinction is not permitted as we have directed previously.”

The diocese has pointed out that the dipping of wafers into the wine by individuals in the congregation has never been permitted. During the pandemic one practice in the Church of England was to allow the priest to intinct the wafers and put them directly into the communicant’s hand, but this was not the case in Scotland.

Church advice has always been that this is a matter of health and hygiene for congregations and clergy as intinction is known to spread germs while silver Communion vessels are proven to be safe for use. “Drinking from a silver vessel is extremely safe as germs do not survive contact with the metal for long and the chalice is always wiped.”

If you are reluctant to receive wine by sipping from the chalice it is absolutely in order to receive in one kind (i.e. just the wafer) and then leave the altar rail as receiving only the bread is regarded by the Church as receiving full Communion (for some denominations this is normal).

Eucharistic assistants will pass by any communicants who hold out a wafer to dip into the chalice.

This restated advice has been issued after some dioceses in the Church of England have released similar instructions and have ordered intinction by the clergy to cease as well and it is hoped this will be a helpful reminder to all charges in the SEC. We are reminded that, "The sharing of the common cup is one of the foundation stones of Anglican sacramental practice, dating back to Cranmer's Prayer Book and part of our heritage, and which in normal times should be normal practice."

Revd David

## **SUNSHINE BAGS**

Sunshine Bags have become a fixture in our Church fund raising. This is one of the easiest ways to raise money for the church, as it does not involve any effort at all, beyond popping some money into Sunshine Bag. Nor do you have to wait for the Sunday to shine before you do so. Any happy event over the summer will do the trick.

This is how it works. Sunshine Bags will be available in Church on Easter Sunday. You pick one up, fill it up over the summer and return it on Harvest Sunday. Easy!



Here's hoping we have a bumper harvest.

Ann Caie

## **SERVICE ROTAS**

A huge thank you to everyone who helps out on Sundays as stewards, Eucharistic assistants, readers, intercessors, and with after service refreshments. Your help is hugely appreciated by everyone.

The rotas for these jobs are prepared by various members of the congregation, and in some cases they are done several months in advance. The information is brought together for the services table in the magazine each month, and can be seen not only in hard copy and online versions of the magazines, but also pinned to boards in the sacristy and choir vestry. There will also always be a copy of the

current magazine in the Rector's stall and there should be one at the lectern, though these often go "walkabout!".

Please could you be sure to check if you are on the list for any Sunday. If you know you are not able to fulfil the role on a particular date it would be appreciated if you could swap with someone else and ideally ensure the copies on church boards are altered accordingly.

If you are reading could you check the readings during the week just in case there are any nasty tongue twisters or seemingly unpronounceable words! Could you also make sure that you know *what the readings are that you are due to read*: the lectionary sometimes offers alternatives for a Sunday and the passage the preacher is going to use will be the one on the list – it's difficult if something else is read and the preacher has spent some time preparing a particular text. The lectionary book at the lectern will generally have all the alternatives printed, so it's important to know which has been chosen.

If there are any others who would like to offer to do any of these jobs (the more the merrier!) please don't be shy – you can be given help and advice if you need it.

Revd David

### **Maundy Thursday**

In sulky April a rare warm day,  
whose sunlight softens the winter away,  
hails once more the wakening Earth  
and, blinking, sees the suns re-birth.

But, Thursday's conscience says " Beware,  
tomorrow on the fresh clean air  
will sound a hollow broken bell,  
fractured by despairing yell,  
uttered as a spirit fell,  
God-forsaken, to the depths of hell.  
Friday will recall the pain  
of human yearning torn in twain."

God in heaven, send us light  
to hide this day that's turned to night.  
No sun I know can shine so bright,  
although,  
the Son of God just might.

John MacKenzie  
April 2003

## SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND

Please note that unavoidably Morning Prayer and Holy Communion on the morning of Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, have had to be cancelled.

Our sincere apologies for this, which is caused by absence of clergy. No other services are affected.

Revd David

### *A Reminder...*

## STRAWBERRY TEA AND TABLE TOP SALE

**Saturday April 25th**

The social group are planning a delicious, extremely bad-for-you tea at the end of April. We would like to combine it with a table top sale of items to raise more funds. So, could you start keeping any unwanted/new gifts rather than hand them into a charity shop? Nearer the time we will put a box at the back of the church for you to put them in.

Please pencil the date in your diary as it is always a busy time of year and we would love a really good turnout. Unfortunately, it is the only date all the social committee can make in April and May, and Rev David has told us he will be away. So sorry David!



Pauline, Janet, Louise and Celia

### *Another Reminder...*



## THE DAISY PROJECT

Bishop Nick's chosen charity this year is the DAISY Project.

**DAISY:** Supporting Women and Children to Heal and Thrive.

DAISY is a domestic abuse support and advocacy service that has operated in Glasgow for over 25 years. We are a trusted, community-based organisation with a strong grassroots ethos, working alongside women and children at every stage of their journey away from abuse.

The model is flexible, relational and survivor-led, allowing us to meet people where they are and walk with them for as long as support is needed.

*Boxes are available for you to collect money at home and we'll ask for these to be returned after Easter.*

Find out more in the March magazine and on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/bishops-lent-appeal-2026-the-daisy-project/>

## THE MOTHER'S UNION SERVICE

Members of the Glasgow and Galloway diocesan Mothers' Union attended All Saints on **March 21st** for their annual Lady Day service.

This is always a special service for MU, held on or near March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation to Mary, traditionally known as Lady Day, one of the old "quarter days."



This year the Mothers' Union worldwide celebrates its 150th anniversary. The organisation was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876 in the Church of England parish of Old Alresford, near Winchester, where her husband was Rector. She was inspired to start the movement after the birth of her first grandchild. Remembering her own difficulties when she was first a mother, Mary Sumner wanted to bring mothers of all social classes together to provide support for one another and to be trained in motherhood, something which she saw as a vocation.

The service on March 21st saw members travelling from nearly every branch in the Diocese. It was put together and led by Revd David, himself a Mothers' Union member.

Afterwards members moved to the hall for lunch, which included some home-baked cakes, one of which was left for the enjoyment of the congregation the following day.

The day continued with the MU Spring meeting, when events for the coming year were discussed, including a picnic in Helensburgh in June and an anniversary service of celebration in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday August 8th.

Revd. David

## A Confession...

Choosing a cover for the magazine can take time but usually ideas begin to develop before the deadline. My thoughts for Easter naturally evolve around the Cross and Resurrection, with thoughts of new life in nature along with Spring time giving a hopeful feel – photos of daffodils, our cross covered with flowers in the church garden, Easter eggs etc.

**But** on reading the Rector's letter this month, I realised that I needed to think again. *Panic!*

I searched for something more fitting featuring the empty tomb, especially relating to the Gospel reading from Matthew on Easter Day. Photos of Old Masters paintings were mainly very gloomy and dark. In desperation I asked Artificial Intelligence (AI) to give me a painting of Matthew 28:1-6. After a few revisions that picture is on the front cover.

The process is amazing, so polite, so scarily personal:

'Janet, would you like me to ...' and 'Is there anything else I can do for you'.

And a final message:

'I'm so glad it resonated with you, Janet. That shift—from figure to pure radiance—carries a powerful sense of mystery and reverence. If you'd like, we could explore variations: perhaps a more ethereal mist, a sunrise-like glow, or even a subtle interplay of light and shadow that hints at presence without form. Would you like to build on this theme for a sequence or reflection piece?'

I'd be interested to hear your opinions.

Janet

( At least the crocuses on the March cover were purple for Lent)

## WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

It has been a very successful year for the WLG. Our new streamlined calendar and revised menu seem to have been very much welcomed by our much loved lunchers.

The Lunch Group would not be possible without our loyal supporters who prepare tables, serve the lunch, do the washing up and return the hall to its usual peace. In addition there is a delicious menu of soups and an amazing collection of cakes, biscuits, meringues etc all made by our wonderful cooks who never fail to delight.



As we come to the end of another session we would like to thank all our friends who volunteer to make the Lunch Group the success it has been for so many years.

The final WLG lunch of this year will be **Wednesday 8 April**. As always all are invited and very welcome.

Brenda Long

## **VESTRY MEETING NOTES, 9TH MARCH 2026**

1. Mission Support - Allocation of funds to Mission Support. A quarterly update on progress towards the target will be provided in the next magazine. Mission Support payments will be made towards the end of the year once it is known how much fundraising has been achieved. If the sum of £5,000 is not raised, an appeal will be made to the congregation for additional donations.
2. Property - Water ingress in the church continues to be monitored. Quinquennial inspections are due on both church and Rectory this year. It is hoped work can begin on repair of the bellcote after Easter. We are exploring the possibility of solar panels on the hall. PAT testing will be taking place on electrical items in the church, hall and Rectory.
3. Stained Glass Window Memorial Book – donations given for this fund have been recorded and beautifully produced in a folder by Susan Gray. It was suggested that a special display cabinet or drawer could be purchased and the book be available to look at under the existing memorial book cabinet. The book will be displayed at the back of the church for a short time and then kept safe until a permanent solution is found.
4. Safeguarding - A safeguarding survey has been completed. A Statistical Return is being completed for the diocese.
5. Lay Representative Report – see article by David Simmons on p2.
6. The work of Penny Inglis with respect to Gift Aid was noted with appreciation.
7. Date of next meeting: 13th April 2026

Rev David

Some of you will remember Fraser Gold, who was a lay reader for many years, based at St Andrew's Milngavie. He led services here at All Saints on many delightful occasions. Fraser died on Thursday 19th March, suddenly but peacefully, at home. He will be much missed.

*Happy Easter to all our Readers*



*Embroidered by Susan Gray*

## SERVICES IN APRIL

Services will be held both in Church and on Facebook at 10.30am on Sundays. It is also possible to watch services on our Facebook page and You Tube channel afterwards.

Date	2 April MAUNDY THURSDAY (White)	3 April GOOD FRIDAY	5 April EASTER DAY (White)	12 April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)	19 April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)	26 April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (White)
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev David Guest		Rev David Guest	Rev David Guest	Rev Kevin Francis	Rev Kevin Francis
<b>9.00am Service</b>			Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)		Said Eucharist (1970 Liturgy)	
<b>10.30am Service</b>			Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist	Sung Eucharist
<b>Other services</b>	<b>7.30pm</b> Sung Eucharist with footwashing and stripping of the altar	<b>Noon</b> Church open for private prayer with led prayer on the hour  <b>2.00pm</b> An Hour at the Cross ( <i>shared with New Kilpatrick</i> )				
<b>Stewards</b>	David		Tracey	Janet	Kate	Pauline
<b>Eucharistic Assistants</b>	Graham		Louise	Graham	Graham	Jenny
<b>Readings</b>	Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; John 18:1 – 19:42	Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10	Acts 2:14a, 22-32empty tomb 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20: 19-31	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35	Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10:1-10
<b>Reader</b>	David Hamblen		Graham Caie	David Simmons	Mary Stott	David Hamblen
<b>Intercessor</b>			Celia Fisher	David Hamblen	David Simmons	Louise Benson
<b>After-service Coffee</b>			<b>Kate</b> Susan	<b>Mairi</b> Pauline	<b>Brenda</b> Dolina	<b>Daphne</b> Jane
<b>Other events</b>	<p>*A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy.</p> <p>*There is a 10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings, preceded by Morning Prayer and prayer group at 10.00am (<b>please note: no services on 22nd April</b>).</p>					

The Editor for the May edition will be Janet Stack. Please send articles to [janet.stack@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.stack@btinternet.com) by **Sunday, 19 April 2026**.

*The Rector's usual days off each week are **Thursdays and Fridays**.  
One of these may occasionally change depending on other work demands.*