

June 2026 Magazine



All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church

Drymen Road, Bearsden



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

<i>The cover picture: For the beauty of the earth...</i>
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Dear All,

MURDEROUS MIDSUMMER

Midsummer can be murder for clergy! When I was at churches in England there were often lots of weddings and baptisms to be done, which we sadly don't have so much here, and wherever I have been there's usually a packed diary of social events of one kind or another.

I always like to balance the church activities and spiritual reading with my favourite crime novels, and I have recently enjoyed devouring some new whodunits in print, as well as watching some international crime dramas on the TV. It is a great disappointment to me that I am a little too far away to indulge in much-loved Murder Weekends, which have kept me entertained for over 40 years in various locations around the country.

We love a good mystery. Whether it's *Grace*, *Vera*, *Father Brown*, or a classic Agatha Christie, there's something deeply satisfying about watching clues fall into place. A whodunit begins in confusion—something has gone wrong, the truth is hidden, and we're invited to follow the trail until the final reveal.

And in a surprising way, the Bible works with the same pattern. From Genesis onward, humanity keeps asking the great questions: *Who is God? What is God doing? How will God set things right?* The story unfolds like a divine mystery, with hints and clues scattered through the prophets, the psalms, the covenants.

But unlike a detective story, the Bible isn't about us solving the mystery. It's about God revealing it. But we always need to know the right questions to ask for the truth to be revealed.

Amateur sleuthing involves asking lots of questions. In a lot of my Scripture reading recently I have been struck by how often people ask questions of God. Look at Job, baffled by why he seemed to be plagued by misfortune, and asking God question after question – and much of the time finding God asking him questions in return. Yet his experience drew him closer to God.

The writers of the Psalms throw out questions in times of despair and lack of understanding and while there are sometimes replies, there are equally times when a response is slower in coming, leaving the questioners to work things out for themselves. When Jesus is asked questions he very often throws a question back.

I remember being told from a very early age that the Bible contains answers to ALL of life's questions. Perhaps we need to become better Bible sleuths. I fear too many people don't think the Bible is relevant to 21st Century life.

Everyone needs to explore the pages of the Bible themselves rather than just sitting and listening to what others are saying. Many are searching for answers to life's most puzzling questions and the answers are all there.

We need to be good Bible detectives because the answers aren't always obvious (though some indeed are), and there can be no doubt of the benefits of arming ourselves with the right word at the right moment.

Paul writes in Colossians that the gospel is *"the mystery hidden for ages... now revealed to his saints."* The great twist—the moment when the detective gathers everyone in the drawing room—is the moment Christ steps into the world. In Jesus, the clues suddenly make sense. The character we thought we knew turns out to be far more than we imagined. The loose ends tie together. The truth stands in front of us.

In a detective story, the mystery ends when the case is closed. In the gospel, the mystery deepens into a relationship. God doesn't just reveal the truth; God invites us into it. We're not spectators watching the detective work. We're participants in a story still unfolding—one where resurrection, forgiveness, and hope keep surprising us.

So the next time you settle down with a good mystery, remember this: The greatest reveal of all is not "whodunit," but who God is— and the astonishing truth that this God knows us, seeks us, and calls us by name.

Revd David

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Many thanks to everyone who delivered leaflets and/ or donated during Christian Aid week. Our church pew collection raised £320 and I know some of the congregation contributed to the Bearsden Churches Just Giving page. As I write this, the page remains open at a total of £4014, already more than last year, which is wonderful.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to plod the streets yet again. Thankfully it was at least dry!

Celia

THE STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY

Saturday 28th April 2.30pm

We arrived at the Drymen Hall shortly after 2.30pm to find hardly any space left at the tables!

However chairs were squeezed in and we were served an amazing tea by glamorous waitresses as you can see from the photos.

Scones and cakes filled with strawberries along with fresh British strawberries and cream were enjoyed by many regular All Saints folk and their families, along with friends from other churches including several old friends from St Andrew's. It was a joyous occasion.



As one long term member of the congregation commented 'Just like old times'! By the time Rev Kevin and Sharon arrived spare places had to be laid on the serving table.

The table top sale was a treasure trove. The raffle prizes were superb judging by the happy faces of recipients.

Congratulations to Louise, Celia, Janet Shields and Pauline Burns, with Ellen and Lou on a delightful party.

The final sum raised was well over £900. Very many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success.

Janet Stack



THE MAY OUTING WITH ST. ANDREW'S



I was aware of, but had never explored an interesting pocket of land between the Clyde, the Forth and Clyde canal, and lying under the Erskine Bridge. The Saltings nature reserve was the venue for the walk organised by St. Andrew's, so I took the chance to visit it.

Most of the group arrived in Old Kilpatrick by train, and met up with us at a suitably Scottish totem pole, topped by a thistle, at the park entrance. There are several routes through the trees, but we took the path along the edge of the Clyde, which gave us lovely views down river, and the shoreline with shallow pools and marshes. Home to interesting newts, frogs, and wading birds. The water is a mixture of fresh and salt due to the tidal effects.



The path led to Bowling basin, where a very efficient cafe provided us with tea and cakes for 18 of us!

There was choice to return by train from Bowling, or walk back to Old Kilpatrick along the canal path. This completed a very enjoyable, accessible, and do-able walk for all who came.

Kate Ross

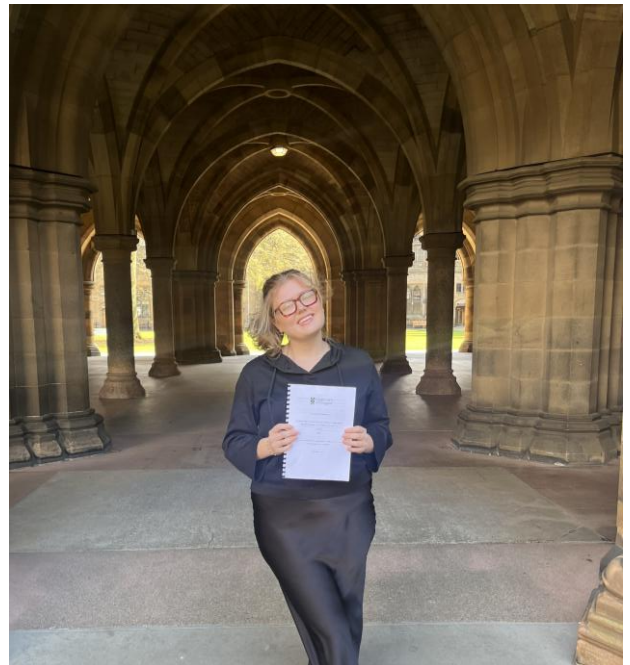
CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLEN

Well after four years of studying I have finally submitted my dissertation!

As Jean would say, “my dissertation is off to the printers.”

Thank you to everyone for their kind wishes and words of encouragement during the process, they have certainly been appreciated.

Ellen



GOOD NEWS – TARTAN WEEK IN NEW YORK

Our 16 year old grandson Murray Perrett was a member of The High School of Glasgow’s pipe band that played in New York during Tartan Week. It was a flying visit in more ways than one. Murray’s parents, Guy and Lesley who live in the former rectory in Roman Road, were among some of the parents of band members flying to New York too, but separately. The Band flew into Newark and parents to JFK.

(If passing the rectory previously you would have heard lots of robust playing and practising of piping).

It was a most wonderful experience playing and parading on Saturday 11th April having flown from Edinburgh on 9th. What an occasion for all! The crowds watching were ecstatic to see these young Scots playing the pipes so beautifully in their smart kilts. Guy kept us entertained here with photos and videos.

As I said a flying visit; all flew home on separate flights overnight Sunday and Monday, exhausted but so happy it was such a success. It was another lift for our family this year.



Elaine Perrett

BEGINNINGS ...

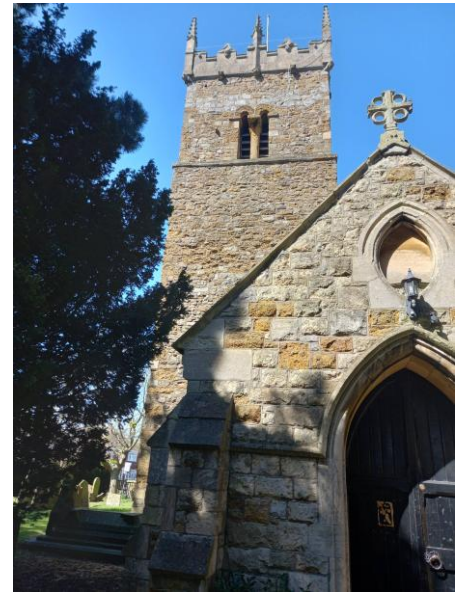
Time past and time future

What might have been and what has been

Point to one end, which is always present.

No apologies are ever needed for quoting from TS Eliot - this from *Burnt Norton*, the first of his 'Four Quartets'. Beginnings and, if not endings, then here we are in the "always present" ...

A few weeks ago Sharon and I made a short visit to Cleethorpes, my home town, and we were able to visit the church where I was baptised: Old Clee Parish Church, as it is always locally known. It pre-dates the Conquest, with a Saxon tower dated to around 1050.



The Norman church was dedicated to The Holy Trinity and St Mary the Virgin by Bishop Hugh of Lincoln in 1192.

I'm afraid I carried little sense of its history with me during my childhood. It wasn't the family church and my only visits were the yearly Founders' Day and Armistice Day services - my school being just a few minutes' walk away. We were made to suffer the march to church no matter the weather! Not surprising then that my memories were of a dark and gloomy

place. Well, perhaps it was then, but not now. Now it is a bright and affirmative place of prayer!

The door was locked but happily one of the church wardens was tending the grounds and was delighted to let us spend time in the church. And quite wonderfully the original Norman stone font remains. It is still used and it was here, in this church and in this font, that I was baptised.



Revd David always encourages us to remember our baptismal anniversary and to give thanks for those who brought us into the life of faith lived in Christ. And so I do. This then was for me a special and sacred moment. Beginnings ...

Revd Kevin

INTRODUCING 'EVANGELICAL AND INCLUSIVE A FUTURE AND A HOPE'

Those who attended our Lent course might be interested to know of a new book edited by David Runcorn, who wrote *Dust & Glory*, which we studied and appreciated over the six weeks of Lent on Tuesday afternoons.

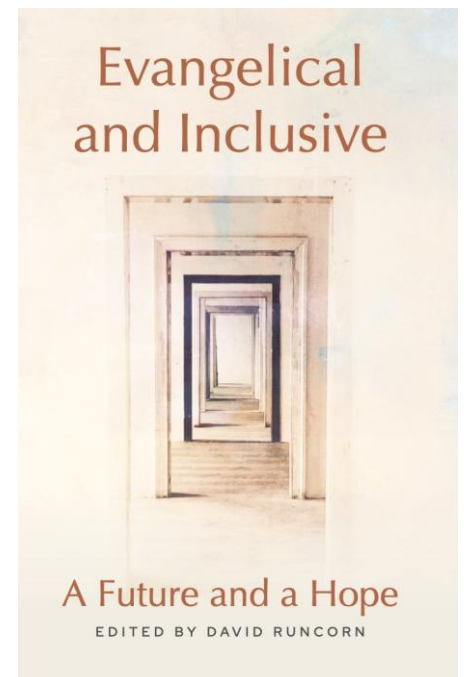
David Runcorn writes: *Evangelical and Inclusive* is a collection of reflections and

stories about the evangelical wing of today's church. It has grown remarkably over the last 50 years. In the Church of England, for example, it significantly influences all aspects of its life and leadership. There are good gifts in all this. However, over the same period, the oversight of its extensive organizations, networks and resources has increasingly fallen under the leadership of the more conservative wing of this tradition. It means that in the current debates the most public voices from the evangelical world have been strongly conservative ones. This gives a misleading impression of what has always been a diverse and evolving tradition.

The book sets today's debates within the bigger picture of evangelical history and development. The contributors call themselves evangelical *and* inclusive because they seek the full inclusion of LGBT+ people and their relationships in the life of the church. Inclusive Evangelicals (IE) believe the present conflicts over this issue reveal the need for a deeper renewal of evangelical belief and identity.

To that end the book offers fresh approaches to the understanding and interpreting of the scriptures, offers pastoral, doctrinal and theological reflections, and includes moving personal and community stories of faith. It is written for Christians within the evangelical world who want to understand their own historic tradition better. We have written for those seeking to engage further with the theological and biblical basis for inclusive faith. It is offered in respect and friendship to evangelicals who, though disagreeing to varying degrees, are open to continuing the conversation. It is offered to those in the wider church who wish to understand better this creative, often perplexingly intransigent, yet life-giving tradition.

It is offered in faith - for a future and a hope.



Revd. David

HAPPY 90TH TO JEAN



We celebrated Jean's 90th birthday during coffee after the service on May 10th. The photo on the cake shows Jean in her award winning costume at a recent Christmas Lunch Group party. Jean was also the recipient of a delicious carrot cake made by Susan Harrington for home consumption.



Jean sent this message of thanks via an email from Jackie Walls:

To all my friends at All Saints
Thank you for all your cards and best wishes on my birthday. Special thanks to Janet for the lovely cake. Thanks also to Susan Harrington for the carrot cake which I thoroughly enjoyed and thanks to John Harrington for taking the photos.

God Bless you all, Jean Kerr

All Saints' link with Jean goes back at least 40 years! There was a small but lively Episcopal presence at Invercanny Drumchapel, originally linked with Holy Cross, Knightswood which, until it closed, became linked with All Saints Jordanhill. All Saints was asked to provide support for the Mission church in the 1980s and several of us 'young Mum's' helped with Jean and others in Drumchapel to set up a Mother and Toddler Group, I think about 1986, at Invercanny.

Friendship with Jean continued over all the years during which she worked tirelessly for the Drumchapel church which became formally linked with All Saints and St Andrew's until a few years ago. It was finally closed by Bishop Kevin (Pearson). Since then Jean has been a stalwart member of All Saints and especially of the Lunch Group.

Jackie Walls, who was a member of the church there for many years, remembers that her first daughter was a year old at the start of the Mother and Toddler Group. Jackie writes that her family keep her very busy now with 6 grandchildren from ages 23 down to 1 year old.

Janet Stack

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LAY REPRESENTATIVE

Once again, just a few things to share with you this week. As I mentioned last month our new Dean is **Rev Canon Matthew Little**, Rector of St Mary's, Hamilton and St Andrew's, Uddingston, who many of you will remember as the Bishop's chaplain who "ran the show" at Rev. David's installation. Matthew was installed at a special evensong at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 10th May.

In other Diocesan news it was a surprise for me to hear that our Diocesan administrator, Mrs. Kim Schmulian, has resigned with immediate effect. Kim has been elected to the Scottish Parliament as an MSP. Bishop Nick and the Diocesan Council are prayerfully considering how best to move forward following this development.

As for **North-West Regional Council (NWRC)**, as you know we welcomed the combined congregations to a celebration of Ascension Day at our church on the evening of Thursday, 14th May. This was a joyful occasion with an augmented choir and some delicious refreshments afterwards, as well as a thought-provoking sermon from Rev. David. Thank you so much to all the people involved in making this service such a success. You can enjoy the service again on Youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCjYLfDa6ak>.

Finally, a reminder about the summer concert of Cathures Chamber Choir (in which I sing) which will be on **Tuesday, 16th June, 7.30pm** at **Kelvinside Hillhead Church** in the West End. The theme of our summer concert will be "The Seasons" and include works by Haydn, Gibbons, Arcadelt, Erb and MacDowell, among others.

David Simmons

A RAINBOW PRAYER

I have always been fascinated by rainbows. One of my favourite songs as a child was “Sing a Rainbow”, sung by Cilla Black. I later learned at school about the refraction of light and remember answering a question about rainbow formation during my physics exams at university. Since that time I have undertaken research about both the appearance of, and emotional reaction to, colour, lectured students about colour vision and even given a talk entitled “Why are Rainbows Beautiful?” Rainbows are also featured in the bible, of course, most significantly in Genesis 9:13, as a symbol of God’s promise never again to unleash a devastating flood “to destroy all life”.

Bearing that in mind, a curious thing happened when I was attending the Prayer and Giving event on Saturday, 16th May. I found myself thinking about Bishop Nick’s “Visio Divina” article in the latest “Together” newsletter ([https://mcusercontent.com/a6294fb9ae9589525fce5b985/files/e7e0dda8-5c32-9527-4c16-a4dcb5bdf7ca/Visio Divina for Ascension.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/a6294fb9ae9589525fce5b985/files/e7e0dda8-5c32-9527-4c16-a4dcb5bdf7ca/Visio_Divina_for_Ascension.pdf)), whilst also looking at our beautifully restored stained glass window over the altar. Sarah Mullally’s words from the Novena prayer booklet “God With Us” were also in my head, and this prayer came to me, which I shared with you during my intercessions at Pentecost:

Red is the colour of Anger. We are sorry for all the times when we have lost our temper, or failed to listen. We are sorry when we have been selfish and refused reasonable requests because they went against our own desires.

Orange is the colour of Truth. Help us to speak the truth wherever we are, even if this means that we endanger ourselves, or get into trouble, or feel embarrassed.

Yellow is the colour of Joy. Let us always be thankful for the joyful times. Help us always to be present when joyful things happen. Help us to bring joy to others.

Green is the colour of Envy. We are sorry for when we have been jealous of others, for being resentful of the success of other people, for thinking that the green grass will be greener elsewhere. Help us to be thankful for what we have.

Blue is the colour of Peace .. of inner stillness. Help us to be calm in stressful situations. Help us to find that inner peace which only You can give. Help us to spread Your message of peace throughout the world.

Indigo is the colour of Love. Help us to love You more. Help us to love our neighbours, as You have taught us. Help us to spread the message of Your love throughout the world.

Violet is the colour of Mourning. We pray for all those that are sad because of the loved ones they have lost. Help us to help them remember fondly, but also move forward despite their sadness, knowing of our love and support for them.

[Here we close our eyes]

Black is the absence of light and the colour of Death. Help us to believe Your message that death is not the end.

[Here we open our eyes]

The colours of the rainbow coalesce to make **white**: the colour of Hope. May the whiteness of Your hope blast away the darkness and show us the way, the truth and the life.

Amen

One other thing that struck me as that you can adapt the Rainbow Prayer by making the colours serve for different things (e.g. green for the world, blue for the sea, red for blood) or for specific people in your life. Do let me know if it has been useful for you.

David Simmons



I couldn't resist adding this photo to David's prayer.

Seen from the East bank of Loch Lomond

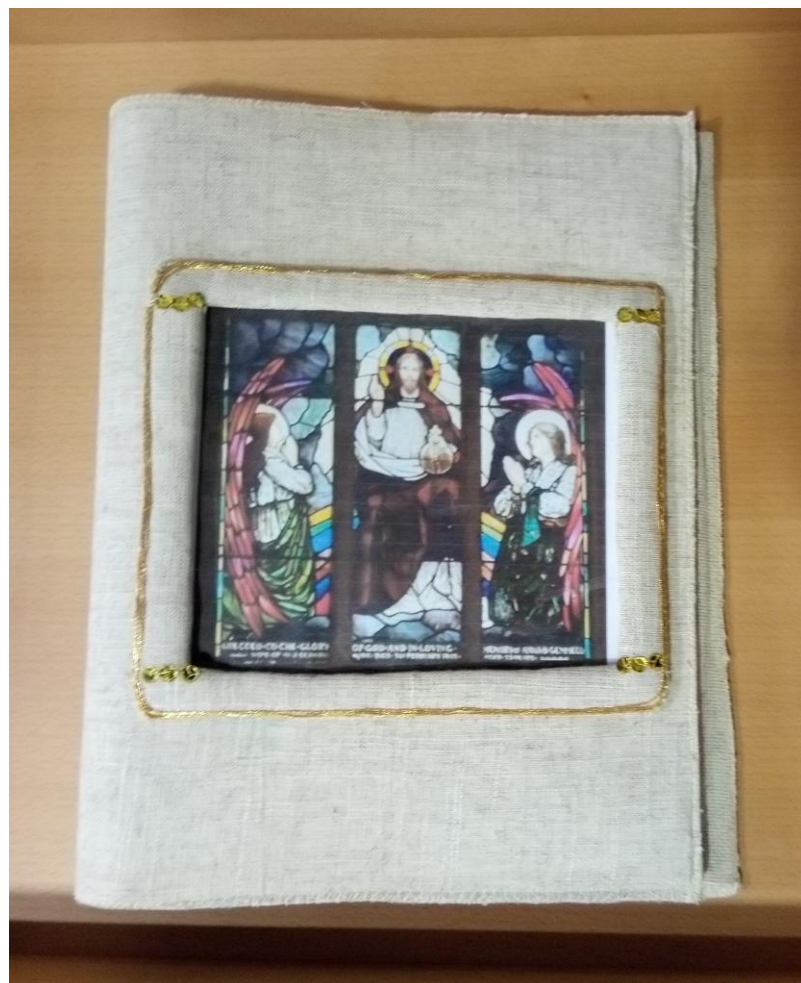
Janet (see also p17)

THE MEMORIAL DESK



These photos show the magnificent drawer expertly made by John Harrington to house the Book of Donors to the repaired Stained Glass Window.

The book, seen below, has been most beautifully decorated by Susan Gray



A VISIT TO KERALA



The Tea plantations continue for several miles

Ann and I visited Kerala, on the southernmost tip of India earlier this year. It is locally called “God’s Own Country” and we could easily see why. It has beautiful, rolling mountains where many Scots created tea and rubber plantations and there is none of the pollution and crowding of the large Indian cities.

It prides itself in being extremely tolerant of all religions and there are many churches dotted all over the country. Just over half the population is Hindu, 27% Muslim and 18% Christian. It is known for its high level of religious harmony. In the largest city, Kochi, there is a beautiful building, the Mattancherry Palace, a gift by the Portuguese to the Rajas (kings) of the area in 1568, as they had welcomed the traders, including Vasco de Gama.

In its grounds is a square clock tower with dials on all sides: one faces the adjacent synagogue and this clock face has a Hebrew inscription, one faces a nearby Christian church with a Latin inscription and one faces a Hindu temple with an inscription in Malayalam, the language of Kerala.

This religious tolerance continues today.



The Hebrew inscription on the clock tower

According to tradition, St. Thomas the Apostle arrived in a Roman trading vessel in Kerala, India, in 52 AD to spread Christianity. He established the "Ezharappallikal" (Seven and a Half Churches) in Kerala before moving to the east coast, where he was martyred in 72 AD in Mylapore, Chennai. His tomb is said to be in the present St Thomas Basilica Cathedral in Chennai, the province to the east of Kerala. He is regarded as the **patron saint of India** among its Christian adherents, and the Feast of Saint Thomas on July 3 is celebrated as Indian Christians' Day. Today there are over 1800 churches in Kerala.



We also visited a number of Hindu temples, the biggest being Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai. This enormous structure, dating back to 12th century, covers 14 acres and has four towers 170 feet high. When we visited there were around 2000 worshippers, many pilgrims from afar.

An enormous, painted and decorated elephant paraded round the thousand pillared central hall.

Graham Caie

VESTRY NOTES

13 April 2026

- Tracey gave her annual Finance Report. The Vestry thanked her for all her hard work.
- The Bishop has appointed Revd. David to be Chaplain to the Diocesan Mothers' Union. The Vestry congratulated him on the appointment.
- The Bishop has announced that Dean Reuben will be demitting office on 10 May. A donation has been sent to the diocese for its collection in appreciation of Reuben's work. Information about the new Dean will be given in due course.
- Work is in progress to make a housing for the Record of Contributors to the Stained Glass Window which will be kept at the back of the Church.
- The Quinquennial Report is now due on the church and the Rectory. We are awaiting a start date on the repairs to the bellcote.

- The fire exit signs in the Church are being reviewed.
- Some of the worksheets in the small hall and the entrance to the halls put up by the Sunday School are damaged and will be replaced in the hope that this may encourage users to ask about our work with families.
- We are hosting the annual North West Region Ascension Day Eucharist on 14 May at 7.30. There will be refreshments after the service.

BML

VESTRY NOTES

11May 2026

- The Vestry was barely Quorate due to the absence of several members affected by a sudden illness, fortunately short lived and not serious. As a result David Hamblen had to fill in as a temporary Secretary in the absence of Brenda and Dolina.
- **Matters Arising** from the previous meeting,
- It was noted that the work by John Harrington to instal an extra drawer to the Table housing the Book of Remembrance was now complete. The Vestry congratulated and thanked John for the quality of his joinery work which provided such a beautiful matching home for the Book recording the Stained Glas Window donors.
- Mission Support – further discussion on the financing of Mission Support was deferred to the June Meeting because of the small number members present.
- **Treasurer's Report**
- Tracey reported receipts from the Strawberry Tea event were £932 and the Bishop's Lent Appeal £184 to date. A sum of £800 had been paid for repairs to Rectory roof.
- **Property Report** was given by Robert Johnstone, the Convener.
- Church Front Doors – He had a quote for the cost of replacing these doors, which had been identified by the Police after the 'Break in' as a security risk and this estimate was accepted. The Fire Door at the front of the Church was correctly labelled, but the sign above the door in the Choir Vestry should be removed.
- **Quinquennial Report** was due this year and he suggested a suitable Surveyor, used by the Diocese, to provide the Report on the Church, Halls and Rectory. The estimated cost was approved and the work would be completed in one day in June.

- **Rectors Items.**

- Ascension Day Eucharist Service. This had been organised in All Saints by the NWRC and was appreciated by those who came from other churches, who were also provided with refreshments after the Service. However, numbers were low and the future timing and format of the Service will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Wednesday morning Said Eucharist. It was noted that the numbers attending the preliminary Morning Prayer and staying for refreshments after Communion had diminished and the need for their continuation would be discussed with the Congregation.
- Service Streaming. Concerns had been raised that too much audible conversation was being recorded and transmitted prior to the Sunday Services on Facebook and communicants could be identified at the Altar rail. The difficulties from the use of a digital phone to record the Service were recognised and efforts would be made to minimise the problem.

David Hamblen

We are very sad at the news that Maureen Roach, daughter of Kenneth our previous Rector and June, died in hospital in Aberdeen during May.

Her funeral service will be held at St Ninians, Pollockshields on Wednesday 3 June at 3pm.



A double rainbow seen early one morning from our bedroom window.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

We started the Wednesday morning practice of a prayer time followed by Said Communion a couple of years ago at the request of members of the congregation who wanted a specific separate time of prayer each week. This came after some time of having one Communion a month just prior to and linked to Wednesday Lunch Group. This request also led to the annual Prayer and Giving Day, now in its third year.

The timings for the midweek services seemed wrong so we changed them to the current **10am Morning Prayer and 10.30am Communion** and we found that linking the prayer group to a more formal Morning Prayer helped those who were anxious about praying aloud. At the request of those present for one or both services we introduced refreshments afterwards.

For some time now few if any have come to Morning Prayer, which has often seen Kevin or/and I attending alone or together with nobody else present. There is mixed attendance at Communion but no-one stays for refreshments.

The Vestry would be interested to know what members of the congregation feel about Wednesdays. We feel the Wednesday Communion should stay as it is, and the 10.30am time seems best when considering those who attend or help at lunch group when it's on, and doesn't eat into the day too much when it isn't. There are few churches that don't have a midweek Communion for those unable to make it on a Sunday or who like an extra quieter service. However, it seems silly to run a prayer group or Morning Prayer if nobody wants to attend!

Should we just hold a weekly Wednesday morning Communion? Would members of the congregation like to do their own prayer group, either in church or in a house group setting? Please do let me know your thoughts.

Revd David

During his sermon at Pentecost, Rev. David suggested a different image for the Holy Spirit: not the familiar peaceful dove, but the more dynamic symbol of a wild goose.



SERVICES IN JUNE

Our 10.30am services will be held both in Church and on Facebook.
It is also possible to watch services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel afterwards

Date Sunday	7 June Pentecost 2 <i>Trinity 1</i> (Green)	14 June Pentecost 3 <i>Trinity 2</i> (Green)	21 June Pentecost 4 <i>Trinity 3</i> (Green)	28 June Pentecost 5 <i>Trinity 4</i> (Green)
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	Tracey	Celia	Kate	Pauline
Eucharistic Assistants	Ailsa	Louise	Celia	Graham
Readings	Hosea 5.15-6.6; Romans 4.13-25; Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26	Exodus 19.2-8a; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35- 10.23	Jeremiah 20.7-13; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24- 39	Jeremiah 28.5-9; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40- 42
Reader	Graham Caie	David Simmons	Mary Stott	David Hamblen
Intercessor	Mary Stott	Celia Fisher	David Hamblen	David Simmons
After-service Coffee	Daphne Mairi	Janet Daphne	Dolina Brenda	Joyce John
Other events	- A 9.00am Said Eucharist is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, using the 1970 liturgy. - There is a 10.30am Said Eucharist on Wednesday mornings			

The Editor for the July/August edition will be Janet Stack.
Please send articles to janet.stack@btinternet.com by **Sunday, 21st June, 2026.**

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