

ST MARGARET'S NEW GALLOWAY

MARCH 2021



NUMBER 430

Charity No: SCO12084

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

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BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

Barry Gilbert our Priest-in-Charge, is the point of contact for baptisms, marriages or funerals. Telephone 01644 420665 or email: barry_gilbert@talk21.com

FROM THE TREASURER - GIVING

Thank you to all those who have sent cheques in lieu of your usual giving during this challenging time. Please continue to do so if you can. If you would prefer to donate by standing order the Church bank details are below.

Bank Clydesdale Bank

Account Name St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Account Number 70077006

Sort Code 82-66-33

Please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Cathy Agnew if you would like to discuss any aspect of this.

UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY

As this Newsletter goes to press we are still not sure when we will be allowed to open for communal worship - we're hoping and praying this will include Good Friday and Easter Day but have yet to have this confirmed. As soon as we've heard one way or the other we will let everyone know, and any updates will also be posted on our website, <https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org>

Barry Gilbert kindly held an evening service via Zoom on Ash Wednesday which was lovely. As he said himself, not quite like the real thing but having the technology to have a two-dimensional version is a bonus. Barry has offered to do another 'virtual' evening prayer for us before Easter, hopefully sometime week commencing 22nd March. Again, we will let you all know and post details on the website. We are so grateful for Barry's weekly reflections as well.

Philip and Frances Culver, who have always joined us for worship at St Margaret's when they're visiting here from Wales, have decided to sell his aunt's house in Dalry. On clearing out the house they came across two delightful framed watercolours of St Margaret's done by Jo McNaught in 1996 and 1997 and they have kindly given them to us. We look forward to finding a suitable place to display them.

Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben are 'visiting' Galloway in the second week of March and have a full programme of Zoom meetings with Vestries, the Regional Council and all the retired clergy. We will update you on this in the April Newsletter.

Lastly, many of you know Stephen Hazlett, Rector for Greyfriars Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Gatehouse. He is not very well at the moment and is having a spell in hospital - please could you all remember him in your prayers.

We trust you are all keeping safe and well, and we look forward to seeing some of you in person - hopefully sooner rather than later!

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Lenten Hopes and Fears

A strange title maybe, but it strikes me that we are approaching Easter this year with a whole mixture of hope and fear. In our wake we have the memory of being unable to gather for the Easter Eucharist last year, together with the accumulated knowledge of a year without precedent in our lifetime. We have seen heroism and sacrifice, social and economic damage, people in denial and people behaving negligently and stupidly. My predominant hope after all this is for young people. They have been wonderful, caring and helping, sensitive to one another, down to earth and pragmatic. While being suppressed they have in many ways thrived and continued to develop, despite the educational deficit they are having to bear. We have all learned things about ourselves and each other; it has been a time of testing, even if the Glenkens has been spared the plight of large towns and cities. We certainly hope that the tier system in Scotland will succeed, as well as throughout the British Isles and beyond. I hope too that the strengths we have found and the weaknesses we have discovered in ourselves will serve us well in times to come. This has all been very much a Lenten experience, if not one of our choosing. Here is spiritual significance, for our Lord in the wilderness faced his testing in the same flesh and blood as ours. Meanwhile, I hope that you will find some feeling of renewal and refreshment to bring you to Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter. I feel that the sight of every opening crocus, every catkin and every drumming woodpecker is imbued with enhanced significance this year. We do, of course, hope too that we shall be able to gather this Easter, with whatever limitations, and inside or outside. With my very best wishes to you all for the coming weeks of Lent, and kind regards.

Barry

LADIES GUILD

We cannot meet 'face to face' just yet. However, with the rollout of the vaccine and lifting of restrictions, it is hoped that we will be able to get together before too long and make some plans for fund raising events to take place later in the year.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 5th March 2021

This year the service has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu, a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. The theme of the service is "Build on a Strong Foundation"

Unfortunately, due to the current Coronavirus restrictions we are not able to meet in our Churches here in Scotland but Joan Walker, our local organiser has some service booklets. If anyone would like a copy please contact her on 01644 420747 or Christine Rankin 01644420259 or dalgowantraining@aol.com

There is also to be an easy access Zoom service at 2pm on 5th March with both internet and telephone links. This is being hosted by Augustine United Church in Edinburgh with participants from across Scotland and the Scottish Committee invite you to join them.

Details of the zoom service will be on the WDP website www.wdpscotland.org.uk or their Facebook page. The Zoom link is Webinar ID 895 9398 3883 Passcode 901656 For those without internet access, phone 0131 4601196 where you will be asked for the above webinar ID and Passcode.

The service will then be posted on the wdp scotland website and Facebook page for later access.

FROM THE DIOCESE

Message from Bishop Kevin

Lent – The Season of Hope and Opportunity

Dear Friends,

Hope is much more than mere optimism: that is the lesson of faith and that is why Lent is the Season of Opportunity.

Optimism, that feeling, view of life, that everything will work out well and that things can only get better and we have a right to expect everything to go well. That view of life offers a fraudulent certainty. Lent presents us with the God given opportunity to recognise true Christian Hope, which is different from optimism.

Hope, true Christian Hope, is based on the vision that we want to be with God who is already with us in the love we experience; but that love gives us a vision of peace, fulfilment, security that we experience here and now but also teaches us to trust in God. That trust is the essence of faith – the vision. In other words, we live in what by tradition we call, ‘the Hope of Heaven’.

It was the late Lord Jonathon Sacks, who made the distinction between Optimism and Hope. Lord Sacks, as Chief Rabbi, said that the history of European Jewish community in the twentieth century meant that they could not be optimistic, but they lived in Hope. Without that Hope in God, their community could not have continued. Their experience taught them that things do not always just turn out well, but that God is faithful to his people and Hope in God and in God’s faithfulness leads us into a new reality.

That is the Hope that makes Lent the season of opportunity. That is the Hope that in Lent 2021 gives to each one of us the opportunity to embrace our own new reality. In tiny, trivial ways, giving up biscuits for instance. Amidst all that we have been denied, had to give up in these past months, during Lent, as we reach for the biscuit tin, reflect on the many people who have found themselves at food banks for the first time in their lives.

Take that thought and that reflection into bible reading, prayer, and Zoom worship. Listen, read, the scriptures assigned for these weeks of Lent. Notice the optimism of the disciples from the mount of Transfiguration to the glory of Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday they felt, they knew, they were on the winning side, but that soon proved to be false optimism.

The desolation of Holy Week and the tomb, but God's faithfulness, Jesus, with us in the desolation, there is Hope. Hope of the glory of light and life on Easter Day. The new reality that God is with us but the excitement that we can be with God, God who is love.

Hope lives. The scriptures teach us that, as our communities reflect on the need for food banks, a more just and equitable society must be our hope of the new reality. The Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah, the prophets, that justice, peace, security are God's yearning for us all.

During Lent, there are many opportunities online, in books, in conversations with those leading our congregations, for us all to reflect on scripture in prayer. Seize the opportunity to embrace the new reality, the journey to and with God, offered this Lent. To bring to ourselves, to share with others, the Easter new reality of Hope that is eternal.

I wish you all a happy and Holy Lent

+ Kevin

Glasgow and Galloway bishop@glasgow.anglican.org

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021

Bishop Kevin has chosen Aberlour as the subject of our Lent Appeal this year. Aberlour supports children, young people and families to give them the best chance to flourish, and has been doing so for over 140 years. The origins of the Charity have a fascinating history and explain the strong link with the Scottish Episcopal Church (see the history section on their website, which also tells you much more about the charity:

www.aberlour.org).

Normally, we would have had a presentation at Synod to explain the charity's background; however, this will not be possible in 2021. As an

alternative – open to many more than simply those who attend Synod – Aberlour have offered a live Zoom presentation (lasting approximately 30-40 minutes, including time for questions) to anyone across the diocese who is keen to learn more. If you would be interested in such an event, please email John Mitchell at diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org (preferred method) or call me on 07798 662711. Please state your preferences (if you have any) to attend a session on a weekday (daytime or evening) or a Saturday. If demand is sufficient, but split across time preferences, we will organise two events.

QUIET DAY

Saturday 13th March, 2021

The United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway Prayer and Spirituality Team are holding a quiet morning on zoom in preparation for Easter. The event is called Taken & Given, a dialogue between Covid 19 and the Crucifixion. The programme is as follows

Programme:

10.00 – 10.20am: Welcome and Opening Worship

10.20 – 11.00am: Taken – the pain and loss

11.00 – 11.30am: Break (includes a quiet time/video)

11.30 – 12.10pm: Given – receiving when hope is in short supply

12.10 – 12.30pm: Closing worship

To register or learn more please email Revd. Les Ireland on:
Les949@btinternet.com

Books of the Bible Anagram Quiz Answers

ANAGRAM	ANSWER
1. No Looms	Solomon
2. Evil Is Cut	Leviticus
3. As Mule	Samuel
4. See Sign	Genesis
5. Hem Watt	Matthew
6. Use Dox	Exodus
7. On Mars	Romans
8. Nailed	Daniel
9. Nominal Taste	Lamentations
10. Last Again	Galatians
11. Haze Phina	Zephaniah
12. A Sheep Sin	Ephesians
13. Moody Tenure	Deuteronomy
14. Hob Aida	Obadiah
15. I Jeer Ham	Jeremiah
16. Hemp Lion	Philemon
17. A Shoe	Hosea
18. Be Shrew	Hebrews
19. Human	Nahum
20. Social Sons	Colossians

POETRY CORNER

Lent

by *Christina Georgina Rossetti*

It is good to be last not first,
Pending the present distress;
It is good to hunger and thirst,
So it be for righteousness.
It is good to spend and be spent,
It is good to watch and to pray:
Life and Death make a goodly Lent
So it leads us to Easter Day

SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE

A man bought his wife a world map, gave her a dart and said, throw this and wherever it lands – that’s where I’m taking you when this pandemic ends.

It turns out they will be spending two weeks behind the fridge.

A primary school teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what she was drawing.

The girl replied “I’m drawing God”

The teacher paused and said “But no one knows what God looks like”

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied “They will in a minute”

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good end; and to have the two as close as possible. --*George Burns*

A Sunday School teacher asked the children just before dismissing them to go into Church, “And why is it necessary to be quiet in Church?”

Annie replied, “Because people are sleeping”

MARCH READINGS

7th March, 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20: 1 - 17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25
John 2: 13 -22

14th March, 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21: 4 - 9
Psalm 107: 1 – 3, 17 - 22
Ephesians 2: 1 - 10
John 3: 14 - 21

21st March, 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34
Psalm 45
Hebrews 10: 4 - 10
Luke 1: 26 - 38

28th March, Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a
Psalm 31: 9 - 16
Philippians 2: 5 - 11
Mark 14: 1 – end of 15

PRAYER FOCUS

- Sunday Pray for Bishop Kevin, the Clergy of the Diocese, Lay Readers and Vestry Committees.
- Monday Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire churches and congregations around the world through prayers and worship.
- Tuesday Pray for all those who suffer and are persecuted for their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Wednesday Pray for all of those who suffer severe hardship, for those who face famine and thirst around the world and those suffering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic
- Thursday Pray for the world-wide Anglican Communion and Church leaders of all Denominations.
- Friday Pray for Her Majesty the Queen and her family and for all who serve under her.
- Saturday Pray for the work of missionary societies and aid agencies in the troubled parts of the world.