

**ST MARGARET'S
NEW GALLOWAY**

APRIL 2021



NUMBER 431

Charity No: SCO12084

SERVICES FOR EASTER & APRIL

Palm Sunday	28 th March	10.30am	Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	1 st April	6pm	via Zoom
Good Friday	2 nd April	12.00pm	Gospel & Prayer
Easter Sunday	4 th April	10.30am	Eucharist
2 nd Sunday of Easter	11 th April	10.30am	Eucharist
3 rd Sunday of Easter	18 th April	10.30am	Eucharist
4 th Sunday of Easter	25 th April	10.30am	Eucharist

CHURCH OFFICERS AND VESTRY

Priest in Charge	Canon B. Gilbert	Tel. 420665
Secretary	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
Treasurer	Mrs C. Agnew	Tel. 430212
Eucharistic Asst.	Mrs J. Dowswell	Tel. 420372
Lay Representative	Mrs N. Wise	Tel. 430218
Ladies Guild Pres.	Mrs C. Rankin	Tel. 420259
Property Convenor	Mrs J. Marsden	Tel. 420419
	Mr N. Wise	Tel: 430218

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

EASTER COLLECTION

As we have been unable to hold any Lent Lunches this year, when we normally raise funds for a number of charities, the Vestry has decided that this year's Easter Collection should be used to support the Bishop's Lent Appeal. His chosen charity is Aberlour - Scotland's Children's Charity (www.aberlour.org.uk). Their vision is

'that every child in Scotland has the chance to flourish. With your help, we will reach more children and their families earlier, before damage is done, before families reach crisis point, before it's too late.'

So if you would like to make a donation to Aberlour, please could you leave it on the table at the back of the church, or post it to me. Please mark your envelope EASTER so that it can be kept separate from people's regular giving to St. Margaret's.

Thank you very much.

Cathy Agnew
Treasurer

UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY

We were delighted that the opening up of churches allows us to return to communal Sunday worship at St Margaret's from Palm Sunday onwards. Barry Gilbert is kindly leading our worship during Holy Week and on Easter Day itself, and we are very grateful for this. For the following Sundays in April, Barry's son Rob Gilbert and David de Verney will also be celebrating the Eucharist with us.

News from Greyfriars Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Gatehouse is that Stephen Hazlett's heart operation was a success and he is now on the quite long road to recovery. Please remember him in your prayers.

PRIEST IN CHARGE

Easter Then and Now

By 'then' I only mean this time last year. There were many confusions as we went stumbling into the restriction of normal liberties and the establishment of safe practice, while around the globe there was the struggle to understand the range and nature of this strange and deadly threat. Easter was suddenly a private observance, as were all religious festivals. We were all on high alert, learning to recognise everyone else by their eyes, and some lapsing into that alarming jerk backwards. Estimates of 'two metres' vary widely. We were all on a steep learning curve. But humanity, as ever, prevailed. There were suddenly new kindnesses being shown, eyes smiled, the young served the old, and we learned to surmount the limitations, just to make life a little more palatable. Here, we have been so fortunate. At the same time we have been ever conscious of the exhaustion and the loss of life in our large population centres and their hospitals. The loss of singing in church and the loss of the chalice must rank lowly by any sort of comparison, but, in a sort of symptomatic way, have been keenly felt by many. And there is a curiously spectator element in televised worship. We have become weary, while perhaps feeling we have no right to feel that way in comparison to those on the 'front line'. A bit like the sleeping disciples in Gethsemane, while the drama unfolded elsewhere. Easter 'now' feels like tentatively starting over again. We have seen much kindness, reflecting something of the kindness of God in giving his only Son. In coping with the real and imagined tensions of the past year, we also need now to be kind to ourselves and recoup our core of spiritual energy. This has all been familiar territory for Christians, real experience with its joys and sorrows, and Holy Week and Easter have both. I wish you all the blessings of Easter.

Barry

EASTER SERVICES

Unless the situation changes, the Church will be open for Communal Worship from 28th March, Palm Sunday, as detailed above. The Maundy Thursday service on 1st April will be via Zoom and a link to join this will be sent to everyone on the communicant list. If you know of anyone who may wish to join, who is not a Church member please ask them to email Christine so that they can receive the invitation link.

The previous arrangements for protecting everyone from Coronavirus remain in place. Therefore please remember that face coverings must be worn, to use the hand sanitizer on entry and exit from the Church, and to maintain a 2 metre distance from anyone not in your household. We are still required to keep contact details of those attending Church for three weeks. Thank you for your co-operation.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Crosses will be available on a plate at the back of the Church please help yourself to these on entry, along with a pew sheet and the liturgy for the day.

EASTER FLOWERS

A new flower rota will be in place shortly now that we are able to open the Church again. However, it is asked if all flower arrangers who will be attending the Easter Sunday service could bring a ready prepared display with them to decorate the Church on this occasion.

LADIES GUILD

Things are looking more hopeful that we may be able to resume some fund raising events later in the year. I also hope we may be able to meet to plan for this eventuality even if it's outdoors!

REPORT FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Galloway Regional Council met virtually last month for our usual quarterly meeting. This time we were joined by Bishop Kevin and Dean Reuben on their 'tour' of Galloway. Hopefully next time they visit it will be in person!

We had a particularly interesting discussion about the use of new technology in worship. All Saints Lockerbie and St John's Moffat have really got to grips with all that is available and now have two online services a week, using film material from the local area as well as readers and intercessions from different members of their congregations and retired clergy in the area. One unexpected benefit has been that former members of the church who have moved away are now able to join in online. Another point raised concerned those who do not normally attend a church service and who might feel intimidated at the thought of coming into a strange building where they are not sure what to do. An online service shines a light on what happens inside without the newcomer feeling that everyone is staring at them. And as well as online services, the Dean has been recording services on DVD to send to the housebound. From the clergy point of view, both the Bishop and the Dean commented on how their preaching styles have to change for a recorded service because there is not the same immediacy – for instance the Bishop preached his Palm Sunday sermon to an empty cathedral in the first week of March. Lots of different options out there, some of which take a bit of getting used to, but it is all food for thought and we came away feeling that we must all be a bit more open to some of these new ideas.

At the end of the meeting, Dean Reuben closed with a prayer from **Thomas Merton** which seemed particularly apt at the moment and so I repeat it here.

PRAYER

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Nicolette Wise

Lay Representative

ST MARGARET'S WEBSITE

Our website is proving useful as another source of information about our worship – particularly with Covid rules changing all the time. Any changes to our services will be posted on the website, as well as news from the Diocese and in our own Newsletter. The website can be accessed at:

<https://stmargaretsnewgalloway.org>

POETRY CORNER

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE

After explaining the commandment to honour your mother and father, a Sunday School Teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered ‘Thou shall not kill’

Two boys walking home from Church after hearing a strong preaching of the devil. One said to the other ‘What do you think of all this Satan stuff?’ The other boy replied ‘Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It’s probably just your dad’

More Actual Church announcements

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and Community.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing ‘Break Forth into Joy’

The Reverend Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

The music for today’s service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

Barbara remains in the hospital as she needs a blood transfusion. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack’s sermons.

APRIL READINGS

4th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34-43

Cathy Agnew

Psalm 118. 14-24

1 Corinthians 15. 1-11

Christine Rankin

John 20. 1-18

11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4. 32-35

Rosalind Hall

Psalm 133

1 John 1. 1-22

Nicolette Wise

John 20. 19-end

18th April 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3. 12-19

Clive Brayshaw

Psalm 4

1 John 3. 1-7

Nicholas Wise

Luke 24. 36b-48

25th April 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4. 5-12

Christine Rankin

Psalm 23

1 John 3. 16-end

Cathy Agnew

John 10. 11-18

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.