

April 2018

Rector Elect's Introduction

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the next Rector of St John's. To a great extent I feel that I am returning home as I was brought up 27 miles away in Errol, a familiar signpost on the A90 even if you have never visited the car boot sale at the aerodrome!

I'm married to Gordon with two step children, Lynda and Ross and three beautiful (of course) granddaughters, Ava, Lucienne and Ariadne. We are all keen sailors and there is another member of the family to introduce - Tantina II. This is our boat on whom we have sailed as a family since Lynda and Ross were very young. We have yet to establish where she will be after moving to Forfar.



When I'm not working, or sailing if time allows, I love to be in the garden. The Rectory garden seems just the right size and there is plenty there for me to be able to express my creative side! During the winter evenings I also attempt to be a good attender at a couple of choirs, so hopefully once I settle in there will be an opportunity to sing locally.

Until last autumn, as well as working as a curate, I was the head of public health in Argyll and Bute. I have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my NHS career, but the time came to focus full-time on ministry. Since leaving the NHS, as well as continuing with my curacy, I started working two days per week for the Diocese of Argyll & The Isles as the Mission Enabler. This has been a great experience working with many other congregations on their mission plans and in some cases simply building their confidence to embark on mission activities.

My theological training has been with the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC) and the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI). (Whilst I was in training the former morphed into the latter.) SEI's training has part-time and full-time students with both lay reader candidates and ordinands studying and learning together, teaching being provided through weekly seminars, a series of residential weekends and an annual summer school. I had already embarked on a theology degree with the University of Aberdeen and completed my academic studies with them as well attending the TISEC/SEI residential weekends and summer school.

I do hope that the date of my Institution has been announced by the time you are reading this. Whatever that date is, Gordon and I look forward to meeting you all and starting to make our lives amongst you.

With every blessing,

Elaine

ROTAS

Sunday April 1st Easter Sunday

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Special readers and readings

Wednesday April 4th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday April 8th Second Sunday of Easter

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Acts 4: 32 – 35, 1 John 1: 1 -2: 2, John 20: 19 - 31

Reader Fay Slingsby

Wednesday April 11th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday April 15th Third Sunday of Easter

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Acts 3: 12 – 19, 1 John 3: 1 – 7, Luke 24: 36b - 48

Reader Nora Craig

Wednesday April 18th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday April 22nd Fourth after Easter

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Acts 4: 5 – 12, 1 John 3: 16 – 24, John 10: 11 - 18

Reader Richard Finch

Wednesday April 25th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday April 29th Fifth after Easter

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Acts 8: 26 – 40, 1 John 22: 24 – 30, John 15: 1 - 8

Reader Eleanor Rowlands

Wednesday May 2ndst

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday May 6th Sixth after Easter

Acats 10: 44 – 48, 1 John 5: 1 – 6, John 15: 9 - 17

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Reader Douglas Burt

Wednesday May 9th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Thursday May 10th Ascension Day

Sunday May 13th Seventh after Easter

Acts 1: 15 – 17, 21 – 26, 1 John 5: 9 – 13, John 17: 6 - 19

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Reader Madeline Kingston

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Palm Sunday in St. John’s

Just before this issue went to print, we had a very moving Palm Sunday service in St. John’s, led and compiled by the Venerable Ian Young. We are so very grateful for his ability to bring the events of that day to life in the totally different surroundings, totally different atmosphere and mindset of us now two millennia away from the first Holy Week. The script was taken directly from a modern edition of the Bible, those very familiar words – those of Jesus said by Eryl Rowlands, the gospel - writer Mark by Ian himself, the crowd by the congregation as a whole, and St. Peter, Pilate. Judas and others by individual members of the congregation. There was a pause at one point, when Neil played the lovely Bach Chorale, ‘O Sacred Head so wounded’. Earlier, Fay had read the delightful poem ‘The Donkey’ by G.K.Chesterton. We cannot possibly know what it can have been like, but Ian and the various ‘speakers’ gave us an inkling of how we might have felt and reacted had we been present. Or anyway gave us great pause for thought. A great thank you to them all.

Christian Aid Week 13th – 19th May

Please return the enclosed Christian Aid envelope to the church by the end of May. There will be a street collection in the town during the week, so if anyone could spare an hour or two during that time, on East High Street, West High Street or Castle Street, could they get in touch with Pat Green on 01307 463 787, she would be very grateful.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday April 8th Annual Daffodil Walk in aid of Marie Curie and St. John's. Gathering at Reswallie House at 2 p.m.

Friday April 20th Annual Quiz Night with Hot Supper in St. John's Halls, Green Street 7pm Reception Tickets £10

Saturday May 19th Coffee Morning 10 – 12 in Church Hall. Usual stalls. Further details in May Eagle.

Wednesday June 20th Annual Pitlochry Outing 2pm
The Rise & Fall of Little Voice' by Jim Cartwright

ANNUAL DAFFODIL WALK: Sunday April 8th

Donations for St John's and Marie Curie

We have again been invited to join in this very special Annual event which has now become a 'Daffodil Walk' in Memory of Helen & David Lloyd-Jones – in place of the 'Snowdrop Walk', which Helen & David hosted for many years. The walk will commence from Reswallie House; gathering at 2pm, setting off between 2.15 & 2.30 and will culminate in tea/coffee & scones & cakes back at the House (donations of scones & cakes will be appreciated; please contact Fay). All are welcome including dogs on leads. Final details and timings will be confirmed nearer the time. There are graded walks: from the full circuit to the half circuit to one not much further than the grounds of the house – or just come along for the tea and 'fellowship'!

QUIZ NIGHT Friday April 20th

Tickets at £10 are now available for the Quiz Night. The format will be similar to past years and teams can comprise of 4 to 8 persons. Do not worry if you are on your own or just a pair – teams can be put together on the night. There will be a glass of wine / soft drink on arrival at 7pm (thereafter available by Suggested Donation) and Raffle tickets will be on sale. The Quiz will commence at 7.30pm. Hot supper will be served during the Interval.

There will be a prize for the team with the **most** marks and the ‘*prized wooden-spoon*’ for the team with the **least** marks!

Please reserve your space by phoning Fay – 01307 818787 / 07831708996 or Douglas – 07841457716 Donations of Raffle Prizes will be appreciated

PITLOCHRY OUTING: Matinée 2pm Wednesday June 20th 2018

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice by Jim Cartwright

“It’s like at the races when you have found yourself a little nag that no one’s noticed but you know you’re onto a certainty and you’re feeling, this is it! She is the one.”

The choice of a Matinée performance seems to be *extremely* popular! I ended up having to book extra seats and increase the size of the coach reserved! We have over 50 tickets sold, mainly to members of the congregation & friends, and I am pleased to be able to report to Roger that they have nearly all been paid for. Thank you all very much indeed for ‘*coughing up*’ so to speak! I am now *fairly* confident that we will not need to ask for any extra money on the day.....The format and timings will be the same as last year. The coach will **leave Letham at 10.30am** (so please be in the square by 10am); then **Academy Street, Forfar** at approx **10.45am** and will then proceed, via **Meigle**, to Pitlochry where we will have plenty of time to enjoy picnics or use the restaurant facilities and enjoy the surroundings before the performance starts at 2pm.

Fay Slingsby

Tuesday Club

10th April:

Crime Writing Chris Longmuir

8th May:

To be arranged

Visit to Oberammergau in July 2020

An advance notice of a trip to the 2020 Passion Play

The East and Old Church are organising a trip to Oberammergau in July 2020 to see the Passion Play and also for some sightseeing. The dates in July are not set yet but we do know we will be flying Friday to Friday from Edinburgh to Munich, two days in Oberammergau, a day in Salzburg and a day somewhere else! The Cost is expected to be between £1500/£1600 per person with McCabe travel.

We are talking names of those who might be interested in coming along and there will be a meeting late spring/early summer to talk about it more. McCabe Travel say places have started to fill up already. Depending on the total number going we will be linked up with other people when we arrive in Munich so it is not an East and Old trip.

Contact Barbara Ann Sweetin on 01307 482 228 or 07988 938 476

Changes in Church practice in irreverent song

A kind reader sent in a copy of the poem below, which may ring bells with us all..... Many readers may know of an English folk song called 'The Vicar of Bray' which is a skit on the frequent changes in the style of worship following the Reformation – any priest who wanted to keep his job had to change his views almost every two minutes according to the fashion of the time – this is a modern version of the original song which refers to changes in England about 350 years ago, but the SEC has not escaped entirely from this mania for change and is styled on the various prayer book colours of liturgy books, which many of us will probably recognise. The original song is thought to have been modelled on a Vicar of Bray in Berkshire called Thomas Fuller, who managed to remain in post through the reigns of Henry VIII, who broke away from Rome, but stayed almost Catholic in practice, Edward VI, extreme Protestant, Mary, back to Catholic again, and Elizabeth, Church of England. A later version had to contend with Cromwell's extreme Puritanism, Charles the Second's High Church of England, James the Second's Catholicism, William and Mary back to Presbyterian, and Queen Anne Church of England. Maybe he has an equivalent now, but at least if a present priest uses the wrong liturgy by mistake, he doesn't face being burnt at the stake.

The text of both is below – if anyone is interested, I have the music to the song.....

The 20th Century Vicar of Bray

**When Books of Common Prayer were rife,
A Tudor tongue no harm meant
A loyal Cranmer's man was I
And so I got preferment.**

**And when they gave us Series 1.
Communion rites amended,
I loyally gave it a run
And said, 'Why, this is splendid'**
Chorus

***For this is law, that I'll maintain
Until my dying day, Sir
Whatever Series comes to reign
I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sir.***

**The next bombshell was Series 2
With all its innovations,
And loyally, I made it do,
Despite its limitations.
I gladly said 'Thy will be done
On earth' instead of in it.
And promptly turned down Series 1,
So eager to begin it.***Chorus*

**Now Series 3 has on us burst
With all its verbal changes.
And loyal 'Presidents' will thirst
To sample all its ranges.
Gone are the words like 'thee' and 'thou'
We greet our God as 'You' Sir,
And if you would be with it now
You'll drop the Series 2, Sir** *Chorus*

**In '77 comes Series 4,
Oh, please do not be vexed, Sir,
And verbal juggling galore
Is what we can expect .Sir.
Perhaps by then we'll all be taught
To call the Lord 'Old chappie'
And having, thus reduced to nought
A reverence, we'll be happy.** *Chorus*

Please forgive the spiel above _ I once taught history and old habits die hard.

The Original

In good King Charles's golden days
When loyalty no harm meant
A zealous High Church man was I
And so I got preferment.
Unto my flock I daily preached
Kings are by God appointed
And cursed was he who dare resist
Or touch the Lord's Anointed

*For this is law I will maintain
Until my dying day, sir
that whatsoever King may reign
I will be the Vicar of Bray, sir.*

When Royal James possess the crown
And popery grew in fashion
The Penal law I shouted down,
And read the Declaration
The Church of Rome I found would fit
Full well my constitution
And I had been a Jesuit
But for the Revolution

When William our Deliverer came
To heal the Nation's grievance
I turned the Cat in Pan again
And swore to him allegiance
Old principles I did revoke
Set Conscience at a distance
Passive obedience is a joke,
A jest was Non-resistance

The Illustrious House of Hanover,
And Protestant succession
To these I lustily will swear
Whilst they can keep possession:
for in my Faith and Loyalty.
I never once will falter,
But George my lawful king shall be,
Except the times do alter

MY CHURCH

I do not see my Church in rules and regulations
But I see my Church in the Glory of Creation
I see my Church in God's devotion
In the towering mountains and in the restless ocean.
Church does not have to be made of stone and clay
I see my Church in a beautiful garden on a summer's
Day and when I look up in to the Milky Way.
I find my Church in the valleys and the hills
And when I see the golden daffodils.
Yes. I find my church in all creation
God's power beyond imagination.

Written by Arthur Magee, West Sussex.

Magee is a familiar name to the congregation of St. John's. I wonder if Arthur is any relation of Hugh, or indeed his brother poet, the author of High Flight below. It is such a beautiful poem – I can't resist printing it for a second time....

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of- wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence, Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept height with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew –
And while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

A reader has sent this contribution – it seems particularly appropriate and comforting at this Resurrection time

What is on the other side of death?

A doctor was visiting a very ill man, who was also his next door neighbour. As he finally got up to go, the man said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; from the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door his young spaniel sprang into the room and leapt on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

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Next month I am to be away at the end of April, so will have to have the Eagle with the printer at latest by 22nd April. So I would be grateful for any contributions to be with me by the 15th if at all possible. I hope this isn't an inconvenience.