

JUNE 2017

Reflections on our Blessings

When I was unwell over Easter, I was reflecting and praying for our church, and its people, in what I call “our period in the Wilderness.”

People who know me know I try to be an optimist, and from my reflections I have decided once again there is a “silver lining” in our situation.

Namely, the wealth of visiting preachers we are blessed with. All come with their own style of delivery, but “boy!” do they have something to say, and DO we listen.

Yet again on Sunday you could sense people *listening* to what the Rev. Canon Ian Young was telling us. Do you hear *the quality of silence* so many Sundays when we listen to our visiting clergy. Do you remember how you caught your breath when the Rev. Jim Thomson suggested we had an M.O.T. of different aspects of our faith.

Months ago Rev. Joe Morrow challenged us to compose a hymn reflecting our congregation of St John’s, which he said he’d sing! I did try and think of ideas and rhymes, but I have enough trouble with prose.

I feel we have gone through a period of hurting and having a general lack of confidence as a congregation, but I do think I feel a “wind of change” these Sundays. More people stay and talk to each other, and possibly a renewed sense of wellbeing is starting to be felt again in our congregation, which we had lost. Many of the sermons talk of our taking the Christian message out to others. I think we have been in a period of uncertainty and unhappiness, when we have been welcoming to visitors, but not confident within ourselves, let alone ready to take the Good News of our risen Lord out of St John’s.

Let us all pray for each other, and especially our representatives on the Vestry. It is they we have charged with the responsibility of resolving this “time in the Wilderness.”

I cannot conclude without giving our thankful gratitude to +Bishop Ted Luscombe who has become known as “our own in-house Bishop.” He has been a constant source of inspiration, and when he gives us our Blessing, we feel Blessed.

Maggie Crouch.

FROM THE ARCHIVES (2)

A large hard-back Minute Book contains the record of all Vestry Meetings between August 1941 and July 1968.

On 1st August 1941 the Bishop was present with the Vestry for the first official meeting to consider the appointment of a Rector to replace the late Canon Alexander Copland. It was the second year of the war: apologies for absence were noted from three Lieutenant-Colonels, viz: A.D. Greenhill-Gardyne, U.E.C. Carnegie of Lour and Ivan Guthrie of Guthrie. Colonel Hill was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; others present were Captain W.G. Don, Dr J.E. Cable and Messrs John Whyte and J.F. Brodie.

Capt. Don was asked to take the chair. Three names of clergy, respectively from Carnoustie, Monifieth and Fraserburgh, "all of whom were anxious to come to Forfar", were brought forward. The Bishop added two further names.

At each subsequent meeting the question of the appointment was progressed. Meanwhile, other matters demanded attention and decision.

- 1 On 17th August a letter from Mrs Copland was read. She had taken a furnished house in Forfar and asked the Vestry for help with temporary storage of her furniture. On 24th August the Secretary was instructed to inform her that Messrs Don Bros & Buist would store the furniture and that the Parsonage (sic) should be vacated by 15th September.
- 2 On 4th September, the Vestry agreed to let the Small Hall to Angus Education Authority, provided that the Authority undertake necessary black-out arrangements.

By this date, a number of applications had come in response to adverts in the Church Times and Scottish Guardian. One applicant would take services on Sunday 7th September.

- 3 The Secretary was encouraged to continue with the task of sorting out "valueless papers" to be disposed of as waste paper for the war effort. A retired RAF chaplain was appointed as Locum for three weeks, to take three services each Sunday, two weekday celebrations of Holy Communion and any necessary sick-visiting etc. He would be paid £15.
- 4 On 15th September, the Vestry met at the Parsonage and listed necessary work in house and garden. It was further decided that the house should be wired for electricity.
- 5 On 2nd October "it was resolved to have the railings in front of the church removed and disposed of for scrap to provide Munitions of War."

On 8th October, the decision about the new Rector was agreed.

The Rev. P.D. Broun had emerged as favourite. Two members reported on their informal enquiries. Capt. Don had been assured by a friend that there would be "no problem about the audibility of Mr Broun". Mr Whyte was able to report that Mr Broun "had been a general favourite in Inverness and was definitely not high church". The post was offered and accepted, and Mr Broun was instituted in St. John's on 3rd January 1942.

ROTAS

SUNDAY JUNE 4TH PENTECOST

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Acts 2: 1 – 21, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b- 13. John 20: 19 - 23

Reader Fay Slingsby

2 p.m. St. Margaret's Lunanhead

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY JUNE 11TH TRINITY SUNDAY

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a, 2 Corinthians 13: 11 – 13, Matthew 28: 16 - 20

Reader Madeline Kingston

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14TH

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY JUNE 18TH

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Genesis 18: 1 – 15, Romans 5: 1 – 8, Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

Reader Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21ST

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY JUNE 25TH

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Genesis 21: 8 – 21, Romans 6: 1b – 11, Matthew 10: 24 - 39

Reader Eryl Rowlands

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28TH

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY JULY 2ND

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Genesis 22: 1 – 14, Romans 6: 12 – 23, Matthew 10: 40 - 42

Reader Michael Hill

WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY JULY 9TH

11 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Psalm 45: 11 – 18, Romans 7: 15 – 25a, Matthew 11: 16 -19, 25 - 30

Reader Lee Winks

WEDNESDAY JULY 12TH

10 15 a.m. Said Eucharist

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday June 16th Barbecue at St. Drostan's, Tarfside, with the Revd. Jane Nelson, who spoke to the Tuesday Club earlier this season on her experiences in Alaska. Anyone interested in going should contact Evelyn Balfour 01307 818 648

Saturday June 17th Lunchtime Recital **1 p.m. (see below)**

Wednesday June 28th Pitlochry Outing (See below)

Tuesday August 8th Bingo at The Royal British Legion Hall,
7 for 7.30pm

Saturday August 12th 'Glorious Twelfth' Barn Feast Nether Finlarg

PITLOCHRY OUTING: Matinee 2 p.m. Wednesday June 28th 2017

Absurd Person Singular by Alan Ayckbourne

A hilarious, wickedly observant comic masterpiece about ladder climbing (social and otherwise) and power: Absurd Person Singular is one of the greatest plays of the last fifty years, by one of Britain's – and PFT's – most popular playwrights.'

Just a reminder about the timing -

The coach will leave Letham at 10 30 a.m.; stop in Academy Street, Forfar at approx. 10.45 a.m. (Please be there at least 15 minutes in advance at your stop)and will then proceed 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 2 p.m.

Below is the article to be published in the press about Façade

Not to be missed!!

Walton's Façade - An Entertainment

A rare opportunity to hear the strange and fantastical poems of Dame Edith Sitwell's Façade with wonderful music by Sir William Walton. The performances will take place in **St John's Forfar on Saturday June 17th at 1.00pm** and **Brechin Cathedral on Sunday June 18th at 3.00pm**. Geoffrey Bridge will direct a group of professional musicians and the poems will be declaimed by Thomas Ian Young and Fay Slingsby

The work was surrounded by controversy after its first public performance given in 1923 with Edith Sitwell declaiming the poetry and the composer conducting the ensemble. The poems were declaimed using a megaphone projecting through a decorative screen!

The press at the time was almost undivided in its condemnation of the piece. Almost a century later we are so familiar with the tunes and the sound of the music that we may be surprised by the initial reactions.

Here are some of the choicest comments:

"Drivel That They Paid to Hear". The Daily Express loathed the work, but admitted that it was naggingly memorable. The Manchester Guardian wrote of "relentless cacophony". The Observer condemned the verses and dismissed Walton's music as "harmless". In The Illustrated London News, Edward J. Dent was much more appreciative: "The audience was at first inclined to treat the whole thing as an absurd joke, but there is always a surprisingly serious element in Miss Sitwell's poetry and Mr Walton's music ... which soon induced the audience to listen with breathless attention" In The Sunday Times, Ernest Newman said of Walton, "as a musical joker he is a jewel of the first water". Among the audience were Evelyn Waugh, Virginia Woolf and Noël Coward. The last was so outraged by the avant-garde nature of Sitwell's verses and the staging that he marched out ostentatiously during the performance. The players did not like the work: the clarinettist asked the composer, "Mr Walton, has a clarinet player ever done you an injury?" Nevertheless, the work soon became accepted, and within a decade Walton's music was used for the popular Façade ballet, choreographed by Frederick Ashton. Later, Walton devised and orchestrated two Façade Suites from the score that are nowadays hugely popular concert items.

In our performances the reciters are Thomas Ian Young and Fay Cholerton who will be using more up to date amplification equipment!

Biographies

Fay Cholerton (who we in St. John's know as Fay Slingsby) was born in Derbyshire in 1950, Fay attended The Arts Educational Trust School, Tring, Herts, and subsequently their London School. Whilst there she was amongst

pupils picked to take part in the Christmas production of *The Nutcracker Suite* with the Festival Ballet at the Festival Hall. In 1967 she joined the Swan Theatre Repertory Company in Worcester as an Assistant Stage Manager. She spent a very happy year there learning many aspects of the theatre including Stage Management, Wardrobe Design, Understudying and appeared as Ada in *Hobson's Choice*. Next came a spell with a touring acting company, based in the Argyll Theatre, Birkenhead (which was actually derelict!). Several tours as actress / driver of a 15cwt van containing the sets, costumes, props and other cast members; putting on shows in primary schools; and took her all over England from Durham to Reading (where she and a colleague spent a night in the jail!....Owing to a lack of conventional accommodation).

In 1969 she headed for London where she was based for two years. Whilst 'resting' she took a job in a boutique near the Tower of London and here they were very flexible about her work schedule. During this period she worked on a première production of a musical called *Silk* at the Derby Playhouse and did a small amount of television work. Hearing that David Wood was staging the London première of *The Owl and the Pussycat* for Christmas 1970 she contacted him, having worked with him when he first staged it at the Swan in Worcester. She assisted on the stage management side, in particular with the costume making ,and understudied some of the roles.

After her marriage to Patrick Slingsby in 1971 she gave up the theatre but always maintained that the late hours and life in the 'front of house' of an hotel for over 30 years, constantly in the public eye, was just like being on the stage all the time!

Thomas Ian Young was born, brought up and educated in Perth.

After studying music he taught in Fife, Banffshire and Aberdeenshire and then returned to university studying for the ministry. From 1984 to 2007 he worked and ministered in the Middle East where he was Archdeacon in Cyprus and the Gulf. While there he also conducted several choirs and theatre groups performing music from Bach to Bernstein and Gilbert and Sullivan to Hollywood musicals.

On returning to Scotland in 2007 he taught expressive arts in Perth and Kinross. Ian also directed three choirs for the National Youth Choir of Scotland including the Junior Corps of the National Boys Choir. "My passion is choral music. I was fortunate to gain much knowledge from Laszlo Heltay in London, Judith Clurman at the Juilliard School of Music in New York and from working with Christopher Bell.

To be one of the speakers in *Façade* is fulfilling a lifetime's ambition!

The Ensemble

Flute/piccolo	Susie Wills
Clarinet/Bass clarinet	Marie Downes
Alto saxophone	Bob Thomson
Trumpet	Paul Brill
Cello	Jeremy Fletcher
Percussion	Chris Overton
Director	Geoffrey Bridge

TUESDAY CLUB - 14TH MARCH 2017

"FORFAR - SOME LOST NAMES AND PLACES"

Being 'Fyfie' born and having spent too many years 'awa fae hame', what a treat it was for me to hear 'aboot auld Farfar'. A treat too I am sure for the Forfarian members of the Tuesday Club as we stravaiged down memory lane and an equal pleasure for the newer residents of our town and surrounding areas learning about what was and now is. Our guide for the evening 'ower the cassie bools' was none other than Forfar's own life time resident and well known founder member of the Forfar and District Historical Society Mr Alex. Whyte. Alex was the first President of the Society and responded again to the call after 25 years and also for the 50th anniversary season (Alex says he is not willing to take up the reigns for the 75th anniversary!). Author of several books Alex has concentrated on the history of Forfar plus explored some aspects of The Great War.

Through his years of observation and research, Alex has not only recorded but challenged place name changes, particularly noting when a name has been 'inappropriately used'..... and so our journey began.... From Albert Street and It's 'temple' (one of a number of cast iron urinals gifted by Peter Reid), Ninewells bleaching greens and Henry Michies coos who found the grass 'greener' than that of the lochside, brought both smiles and sadness for the days long gone. Jail Road (a name still in use by the locals) site of the Polish Parade in 1941 when General Sikorski, in the company of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth took the salute. This was also where the children of the 'Spootie School' paraded in support of Wings for Victory. Watt Street, Lappiedub, Malakoff Close, Stoney Wynd and Gushet; names now consigned to history, Playfield associated with the tales of the Forfar witches has also gone. Welsh Barnes became New Club and then there was 'the road to ruin!'

Gallowshade Road built in the 1950's suggests being in the shadow of the gallows. Not so, the recognised spot is half-a-mile away. In the 1850's, records show Branderha' / Branderhaugh / Brander(s)hall was on the north side of Prior Road. The 'new style' Branderha' described as, '*an unimposing harled 'biggin' dominating the East Port, hijacked this old name*', [Forfar its Streets and its Places – author A. B. Whyte 2001] Just two examples of Alex's thwarted attempts to maintain the true Forfar names in the correct part of town.

As the evening progressed many places were spoken of - Gallahull, Paddock Myre, Laird's Buildings and Providence Row are just a few conjuring up their own meanings in the readers' mind and nowadays that is where they must remain because we have reached the '*end ee spoot*' an' wi canna tarrie nae mair. As everyone knows time does not stand still but these lost names, as Alex rightly described, meant something and are a great loss to our local heritage. I am sure I am not alone in acknowledging Alex's sentiments that place names should be given by the people who have a 'feel for the place and the community' based on knowledge of its history.

With an offer of a return visit for part two, the talk was concluded and as ever Evelyn gave the vote of thanks for what had been a fantastic experience retracing many a step down Forfar streets. The meeting closed after the tasty refreshments and time for a 'blether'.

Thanks to all involved.
Robbie

Linda

The Breath of God Within us.

When we speak about the Holy Spirit, we speak about the breath of God breathing in us. The Greek word for 'spirit' is pneuma which means 'breath.' We are seldom aware of our breathing. It is so essential for life that we only think about it when something is wrong with it.

"The Spirit of God is like our breath. God's spirit is more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. We might not often be aware of it but without it we cannot live the 'spiritual life.'

It is the Holy Spirit who prays in us, who offers us the gifts of love, forgiveness, kindness, goodness gentleness, peace and joy. It is the Holy Spirit who offers us the life that death cannot destroy. Let us always pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit, come.'

Henri Nouwen from 'Bread for the Journey.'

A suitable thought for Pentecost, which falls on this Sunday

Hilary Bridge. CTNLO.

Pause for Thought

This magazine will be in your hands just before the General Election on June 8th - so it is perhaps timely to report snippets of a conversation at the back of St. John's after the 11 a.m. service on a past Sunday - wondering who Jesus might vote for were he to have a polling card; moving on to whether we might vote for Him, and his manifesto, were he to be standing. Just, as someone put it, something to chew on.

And a post script plea from the editor.

I really would be extremely grateful if contributors could send me their articles, if at all possible, by the second to last Sunday in the month. I am aware that there are events which come close to that time, in which case, of course, that can't happen. But it does sometimes occur that the last weekend of the month is a busy one for me. It is the putting together of the magazine that takes the time. Perhaps people do not realise this. Nor that that task cannot be done until I have all the information. I try to make sure that the magazine is ready for the beginning of the month, but am really almost totally dependent on other people to make that possible.