

## A versatile St. John's

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> was Pentecost, as many of us will know. The 11 a.m. service, led by David Cameron, our frequent and very welcome visiting priest from Blairgowrie, lived up to the renewal, and the 'wind bloweth where it listeth' message of the day. We don't often have balloons in the Chancel, but that was where one landed, to prove the point that we have no control of what the wind will do, and he showed us how bubbly things can become if wind is blown into a glass of water via a straw, which overflowed into the pulpit. The message being that life with the spirit is lively, not static.

Luckily perhaps the choir weren't in the line of fire of said balloon, as they were placed in the front pew in order to be close to George Simpson, who was accompanying the hymns on his accordion. Neil was away, and George stood, or sat, in for him, with an instrument that probably was more used to 'The Deil's awa' with the excise man' than 'Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee'. He led us so well. The congregation is extremely grateful to him for coming to do this for us. It was a very interesting change for us all. A Pentecost we won't forget in a hurry.

*The piece below, sent from another magazine, speaks for itself. In view of the several acts of violence perpetrated in this country during the last months, it seemed a timely reflection.*

### THE WAR TO END ALL WARS?

Once there was a war. It was a war like there had never been before. Everybody in the world became involved and every warrior in the world fought. They fought for many years, until they could no longer remember the real reason why they were fighting.

It was bloody. So many people died, they died in battle, they died from hunger, they died from cold, they even died by mistake, they all died for no good reason. And, finally, all the warriors had died except two men. And these two men were exhausted, drained of energy right down to their bones and, as they faced one another, they recognised this. So they agreed to rest for a day and to start again at dawn the next day.

The unbuckled their great leather belts, laid down their swords and dropped down on the ground, where they stood. They lay amidst all their dead friends, dead allies and dead enemies in the field, and rested their aching bones and wounded bodies.

At first, they sat in silence together and then they started to talk; they spoke of their families, their wives and children, their fathers and mothers, their sisters and brothers, their pets. And then they spoke of their homes and the villages where they lived, and their friends and neighbours. And they spoke of their own lives, of their work, of their hopes and dreams, And they spoke all through the night. It had been a long time since they had spoken like this.

Then, at dawn, the two men rose. They buckled up their great leather belts and picked up their swords. They stood and faced other, they looked each other in the eye. Then.....they turned around and walked off in opposite directions to the homes they had come from.

For they had learnt that you cannot fight, or hate, or envy or fear anyone, once you know their story!

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*The Vestry minute - book of 1847 – 66 contains not only the hand-written minutes of every meeting for most of the period, during which the members were referred to as The Managers of St. John's Episcopal Church, but also the full, accounts, quarter by quarter.*

## MUSIC MATTERS

The church had been consecrated in 1922. An organ was acquired in 1942. In May 1854 the Vestry agreed with the Lady Organists (sic) that £50 should be set aside to cover payments to the choir and organ expenses'. In 1856 the Rector, the Revd. W.G. Shaw persuaded the members, by letter to the Vestry, that the newly-published Hymns Ancient and Modern should be introduced. At the same meeting, they agreed unanimously that the salary of the choirmaster, Mr. William Donald, be increased to £15, on condition that he shall provide a competent Treble singer for the Choir'. Payments to the choir seem to have amounted to some £12 per half –year, shared by seven or eight singers. The Rector's salary was £25 per quarter.

*Under the heading 'Miscellaneous' in the account I note:*

*Paid refreshments to men decorating church for Easter*

*4s. 6d.*

*Paid Thomas Mur accounts for coals*

*£2.8s. 4 1/2d.*

*Paid Poor Rates to November*

*133s. 1/2d.*

The present organ was installed by Conacher when the new St. John's was built in 1881. In 1943, Mr. Forster (of happy memory) applied for an increase in his salary as organist, The Vestry was not prepared to award the increase. But the Secretary at the time, Col. L.E. Hill, who was also Treasurer was instructed to send Mr Forster a bonus of £10 in addition to the basic salary of £90 'together with a letter expressing their appreciation of his services and suggesting that in future he should play his long Voluntary before the service and not after. In 1947 the Vestry again refused to increase the salary, but agreed to increase the annual bonus to £30. Mr Forster is affectionately remembered by former choir-members and is the dedicatee of the modern window in the Lady Chapel.

## OTHER RANDOM JOTTINGS

P. Dearne, mentioned in the earlier account of event at St. Margaret's Lunanhead, was a Church Army Officer –in early years St. Margaret's was staffed by the Church Army, who had a house in the village for their accommodation. Mr. Dearne was later ordained priest, and a St. John's visitors Book from the 1960s has the entry.

Revd. P. Dearne. The vicarage. Southmuir, Co. Durham. (Thanks to Rhona Moffat, who put me on to this follow-up? Peter Dreane was a family friend)

Madeline Kingston

We still have a visible remembrance of Mr Forster, in the window in the Lady Chapel, His daughter gifted the funds for this, dedicated to her father and mother, and agreed the theme of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a very lovely commemoration, with all sorts of animals and birds depicted in the most imaginative way. It was designed by Septimus Waugh, of York. If anyone is ever in the church in the early afternoon, they would see it is at its beautiful best.

Another more accessible reminder of past organists of St. John's, is the setting of the 1982 liturgy, which is used almost every Sunday morning, and composed by Richard Evans. It is lovely to have a weekly reminder of his time here.

## Façade

St. John's has often been the venue for concerts, recitals and choral works, but to host a performance of Façade really is a first.

It is called an 'Entertainment' and it certainly is. It may be that there is some other work so named, but if so, it must be rare.

It is an hour long recitation to music – it can hardly be called what we understand as poetry, but it is a rhythmic imaginative play on words and ideas. It is well worth reading, even if one is rather perplexed and baffled by it all. It was written in the 1920s by the very eccentric poet, Edith Sitwell, who befriended the rather younger William Walton, and they collaborated to produce this 'Entertainment'. It can't really be said that the words are set to music, but rather that the words are spoken alongside the music. And given both the words and the music of this piece, that is not an easy exercise.

In fact it must be incredibly difficult to perform. Both for the speakers, reading at the same pace as the musicians, with a script that does not obviously make sense, and making themselves clearly heard above the music, and for the musicians who must bear this in mind, while being true to the musical score, with its variations in sound. And of course for the conductor, who has to hold the whole thing together.

Geoffrey Bridge had this difficult role – perhaps that was fair, as the whole idea of the Entertainment was his brainchild. It was a brave adventure, and most appreciated. He had brought together a four strong musical group from all over Scotland, who were all very eager to perform the piece and clearly were enjoying it all. The speakers were Ian Young, – looking very exotic in Middle Eastern garb, including a very stylish red hat. He spoke from the pulpit. The following day he was in the pulpit again, dressed in a more Western style, and able to speak in his own time. Fay Slingsby spoke from the lectern, adorned very exotically in the sort of flowing robe that Edith Sitwell might well have worn herself, with a very stylish feather in her hair. They were both marvellous. They spoke with exactly the right expression and tempo, and brought it all to life. -

Below is a snippet of one of the pieces, called A Scottish Rhapsody

Do not take a bath in the Jordan, Gordon.  
On the holy Sabbath, on the peaceful day  
Said the huntsman playing on his old bagpipe  
Boring to death the pheasant and the snipe  
Boring the ptarmigan and grouse for fun  
Boring them worse than a nine-bore gun.....

Or .....When Beelzebub called for his syllabub in the hotel in Hell, where Prosperine first fell  
Blue as the gendarmerie in the waves of the sea (rocking and shocking the barmaid)

It has inspired me to read the poem, just to have my mind blown a bit.

It was a first for St. John's, a real think 'outside the box' and wonderfully performed.  
Many thanks and congratulations to all concerned.

A total non sequitur.....

Not quite Edith Sitwell, but it just shows we must be careful what you wish for?

## **ROTAS**

### **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 5<sup>TH</sup>**

*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*

### **SUNDAY JULY 16TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 25: 19 – 34, Romans 8: 1 – 11, Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

**Reader** Hilary Bridge

WEDNESDAY JULY 19TH

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

**SUNDAY JULY 23RD**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 28: 10 – 19a, Romans 8: 12 – 25, Matthew 13: 24 – 30 , 36 - 43

**Reader** Eryl Rowlands

WEDNESDAY JULY 26TH

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

**SUNDAY JULY 30TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 29: 15 – 28, Romans 8: 26 – 39, Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 - 52

**Reader** Madeline Kingston

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2ND

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

**SUNDAY AUGUST 6TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 32: 22 – 31, Romans 9: 1 – 5, Matthew 14: 13 - 21

**Reader** Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9TH

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

**SUNDAY AUGUST 13TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 – 28, Romans 10: 5 – 15, Matthew 14: 22 - 33

**Reader** Eleanor Rowlands

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16TH

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

**SUNDAY AUGUST 20TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Genesis 45: 1 – 15, Romans 11: 1 – 2a, 29 – 32, Matthew 15 (10 – 20)21 - 28

**Reader** Fay slingsby

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23RD

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

## **SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10, Romans 12: 1 – 8. Matthew 16: 13 - 20

Reader Michael Hill

## **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30TH**

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

## **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Exodus 3: 1 – 15, Romans 12: 9 – 21, Matthew 16: 21 - 28

**Reader** Lee winks

## **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH**

*10a.m. Said Eucharist*

## **SEPTEMBER 10TH**

*11a.m. Sung Eucharist*

Exodus 12: 1 – 14, Romans 13: 8 – 14, Matthew 18: 15 - 20

**Reader** Hilary Bridge

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>** St John's Church 11am Service  
*Blessing of Wall Hanging & Celebration & Display of Sewing Group Quilts. See below*

**Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>** Bingo at The Royal British Legion Hall, 7 for 7.30pm  
Raffle prizes will be welcomed by Colvina 01307 493097.

**Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup>** "Glorious 12<sup>th</sup>" Barn Feast;  
Nether Finlarg, 5pm Reception for 6pm Tickets £12 See Below

## **July 9<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Quilters' work and two 2017 nongenarians**

This group was the inspiration of Ingrid Jaeckel, who had been involved with a similar church group in Berlin which brought the ladies of the church together in a closer social context. In the past five or more years, Ingrid has taught us to hand sew a hexagon quilt design, which grew into a beautiful double bed quilt which Norma McCafferty received as a farewell gift. The next project was a quilt Nora Craig had started very many years before which she gifted to the group to complete, a beautiful "Night Garden" design. You may remember this as a fundraiser a couple of years ago. Then we moved onto making knee quilts for the older members of our congregation. These were machine made, and led to a great variety of designs, inspired by Ingrid. At present the total of recipients stands at 13 knee quilts. Now

the group has made a larger quilt to be hung in the church. Ian Young was delighted to be asked if he would bless the quilt, and this will happen at the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

There will be a small celebration, not only for the hanging of the quilt but also to celebrate two well-loved members of our congregation becoming nonagenarians! We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Maggie Crouch.

### **“Glorious 12<sup>th</sup> Barn Feast”**

As last year, this year’s Summer event on **August 12<sup>th</sup>** is to be a very informal affair. Taking advantage of the shelter of John’s fantastic Barn at Nether Finlarg whilst, hopefully, also being able to spend some time in his lovely garden. We aim to gather for a drinks reception at around 5pm and at approximately 6pm will be serving hot Roast Pork and Turkey (donations of Salads and Puds will be welcomed as usual). As last year we will have table seating arranged in the barn, heated by a glowing fire, and will be serenaded by our very own accordionist, George Simpson. There will be the usual Raffle and we will be very grateful of your donations of Raffle Prizes!

Tickets at £12 will be available soon. Please contact Fay (818787) or John (820250) for tickets and donation offers

## **TUESDAY CLUB – 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

### **A.G.M REPORT**

In a change to the norm, twenty-four members attended The Tuesday Club AGM held this year in Montrose on the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 1400hrs at the home of Mr. Joe Wishart.

Matters arising:

Membership fee: agreement that this remains at £10 per annum and for visitors £2 per visit.  
Disbursements: as a ‘not for profit’ organization we are happy to support charities. If a speaker does not charge expenses they are offered a donation for the charity of their choice though not all take up this offer. During the 2016 / 17 session £185 has been gifted to a number of charities including: Street Pastors, Hedgehog Preservation, St. Drostan’s, Glenesk, Young Farmers – Argentina, Cogri-Nyumbani Trust – HIV orphans Kenya, Mountain Rescue and a £50 payment for the Carnoustie Traditionals band on Disabled night. By buying tickets, providing supper and raffle prizes, members of The Tuesday Club helped raise £501 for The Disabled Club.

Sunshine Bags: £300 has been collected and divided equally between the Forfar Airways Self-managed COPD Support Group, the Chest Heart and Stroke Group and St John’s Golden Group thereby helping to support transport and entertainment costs.

Club Officials: This remains unchanged

Evelyn Balfour, President and Secretary,  
Liz Barnett, Treasurer. Carol Douglas and Pat Green, committee.

A.O.C.B.:

The Tuesday Club is a group of like-minded people who meet once a month and enjoy the variety of topics presented by the guest speakers. Membership is open to all (not restricted

to the congregation of St John's) so if you know someone who would like to join us please offer an invitation; they will be made very welcome.

The drivers – David, Evelyn, John, Linda, Michael, and Richard – were thanked for providing transport and the meeting closed.

The 'formalities' now dispensed with, everyone enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea provided by Joe, either in the indoor comfort of his house or relaxing in albeit slightly blustery conditions in the garden in glorious sunshine. Ann Hamilton gave the Vote of Thanks after which the very happy members made their way home, looking forward to the 2017 / 18 session.

### **The Golden Group**

Through the Eagle the Golden Group would like to express its gratitude to the Tuesday club for their generous donation. This will go towards the cost of entertainment and travelling costs and is much appreciated,

The Golden Group is a joint venture with St. Mary's Kirriemuir, and its aim is to give fun and fellowship.

### **The FACT Annual General Meeting was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

There was a presentation of the progress made with the 'Free to Live' Project in Pune, India. You will recall that over the past two years all fund raising (Salvation Army Carol Concert in December, the Lent Lunches, Retiring Collections by Forfar churches, Etc.) has been for Seema's house, part of the Free to Live Charity. The Revd. Karen Fenwick, FACT Chairperson for 2016/17 handed over a cheque for £2,676.87. there has been a remarkable change in the lives of these children, rescued from an uncertain future as they are the offspring of women trapped in the sex trade and this transformation has been helped considerably by the generosity and commitment of us in Forfar, so on their behalf FACT wish to thank each and every one of you.

The meeting proceeded with the appointments for the upcoming year. Major James McLuskey (Salvation Army) assumed the Chair, Vice Chairperson is to be the Revd. Maggie Hunt (St. Margaret's, Forfar). Bill Reid, (Secretary) and Sheila Crichton (Treasurer) both of St. Margaret's Forfar, agreed to serve a further year.

There followed a presentation on behalf of the 'Inspiration Orchestra'. The designated FACT Charity for 2017/2018. The orchestra is led by the musician Ian Whyte. While it is based in Perth it is linked to 'Music for All' which serves a



large part of Scotland. The 'Inspiration Orchestra' is made up of severely disabled adults who find enormous pleasure in producing music. The first opportunity many will have to see the 'Inspiration Orchestra in action will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June in Lawson Memorial church. We will keep you updated on news of this amazing project.

As a postscript to this year's Lent lunches a grand total of £1,343.35 was raised – thank you once again to all St. John's folk who helped with 'our' Lent lunch.

Maggie Crouch and Margaret Cousins – FACT Representatives

*A reminder that the next magazine will be in September – meanwhile best wishes for a good summer, and hopefully lovely weather to enjoy it in.*