

MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS

Autumn has certainly arrived with a vengeance and it will soon be time to switch on the heating both at home and in the church. I recently had a very unexpected and pleasant surprise when the oil delivery man came to the church and left a note saying "tank full – no top up". Hence a zero bill for that month. The system of monthly topping up seems to be working well and should mean that we never run out.

Our Wednesday service is continuing to be popular and those who attend enjoy having the chance to socialise over a 'cuppy' after the service. Many who attend are unable to worship on a Sunday so this ongoing eucharistic service is very important.

It is interesting to note that despite our current problems the attendance at both the Wednesday and Sunday services remains constant and this I feel is due to the commitment of our members and the excellent clergy that agree to come and lead our worship and without whom we would not be as strong. A pat on the back to ourselves and a huge vote of thanks to our visiting clergy.

Roger Cousins

In the last Eagle Roger Cousins very kindly mentioned the work done by the editor. It is true that it would be difficult to produce a magazine without one, but much more crucial to the production is the expertise of the printer. Betty Lovegrove from whom I inherited the mantle of editor had found City Press in Brechin and for at least 15 years they have, month after month, produced it, and always so very well. I cannot imagine that it would be possible to have another firm of printers who are so reliable, so flexible, so prepared to get it done on time, almost regardless of when the draft falls into their laps. Not only that, they do such a good job. They fix any computing difficulties that I have baulked at; they must read it, possibly not in its entirety, but enough to stop the publication of the April 2008? Edition appearing in error in August 2008? They have picked up on misprints from time to time, and they are always ready to accommodate the timing asked for, if they possibly can.

It is a small business, and they are clearly extremely busy, at which I am not the least surprised. We are lucky to have them, and grateful to Betty for finding them. This is an opportunity to thank Andrew and Jeff, not just for producing the Eagle, which I suppose is their job, but for making the whole business for me, as editor, a pleasure.

Dorothy Bruce-Gardyne

Reminder of Salvation Army collection – first Sunday in the month

Possibly this reminder is unnecessary, but on the grounds of judging other people by one's own standards, I realise that I keep forgetting that there is a collection of foodstuffs, cleaning materials etc., which we send from St. John's to the Salvation Army in Forfar, for distribution to people who are struggling to provide themselves with such essentials. There is a box under the table in the back of the church for contributions, and these are collected after the first Sunday in the month. We know that the Salvation Army is very grateful for these, and so it will be good if we can keep them coming.

Angus Members' Centre of the National Trust for Scotland Summer Concert

Once again the Angus Members' Centre is indebted to St John's Episcopal Church, Forfar for allowing us to have the use of their Church building to host the Annual Summer Concert. In previous years a new venue was found for each concert, but given the acoustics within the Church, notwithstanding the venue itself, a return visit was too good an opportunity to miss.

This year's concert saw the return of the talented Southesk Strings who under the baton, or perhaps 'bow' of Gordon Penman delighted the audience with their varied selection of classics, popular and Scottish melodies. Both Gordon and Heather Crabb further enticed everyone with their duets on violin and flute and also with solo items on their respective instruments. As ever each piece was accompanied by the accomplished Isobel Luke.

At the interval everyone was offered a last chance to purchase raffle tickets and all partakers enjoyed a delicious buffet and choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks provided by the committee and willing volunteers.

Throughout the evening Chairman Charles Alexander, who had assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies, reluctantly drew the evening to a close. He congratulated all involved in the organisation of the concert particularly the performers, and offered special thanks to Carol Douglas for her help and support, then last but certainly not least, the audience themselves.

In conclusion Gordon and his fellow artistes played the notes of the tune believed to be composed in the 1600's, '*Goodnight and joy be with you all*'. A perfect conclusion to what had been a most enjoyable evening.

**Linda Robbie
Secretary to AMC of the NTS**

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY COFFEES

Over the course of this financial year, a total of £959 has been given to the treasurer. This is the total amount of loose change collected in the donation jar at Coffee-time each Wednesday and Sunday - £630 donated on Wednesdays and £320 on Sundays - phenomenal total altogether! I would like to say a big THANK YOU on behalf of St. John's to all those who contribute.

Thanks must also go to all the tea ladies, and occasionally gentlemen, who serve from the trolley each week and do the washing-up. The Wednesday morning tea parties are extremely successful and special thanks go to Wilma and Ray for being the regular dishwashers! Come along and join us sometime and enjoy the friendship and sample the home-baking. Mmmmmmmmh!

As I have intimated before £959 is a marvellous total, but fund-raising is NOT THE AIM OF THE GAME, How nice to be able to have a chat with friends, make some new friends, catch up on church news, have some retail therapy at the Sales Table, check out the notice board for forthcoming events etc. and, of course, most importantly, extend a warm welcome to any visitors to St. John's. These visitors just may, in time, become members.

Carol Douglas

That is a fantastic total. We, the congregation, must bear in mind that not only do the 'Tea persons' give their time to serve and wash up, they between them donate the coffee, tea and biscuits, which over the course of 52 Sundays and 52 Wednesdays, must amount to a good Tesco trolley load, if not more.

No doubt there are some notices in the Choir Vestry relating to the kettles and crockery etc.....

What about this one found in a church Hall?

'Will ladies responsible for making tea kindly empty teapots and kettles and then stand upside down in the sink. ' *Could be an interesting logistical feat in the St. John's facilities.*

Notice of some of the decisions of this year's General Synod

Information received by Richard Finch about the General Synod may be of particular interest to congregations. Full details can be seen on the provincial website.

1. Changes made by the Synod to the Church's canon on marriage have already been widely publicised. Diocesan bishops are in touch with clergy who wish to seek nomination to solemnise marriages between persons of the same sex, regarding the procedures for obtaining authorization from the Registrar for Scotland.

2. Climate change and Fossil Fuel investment.

The Synod passed the following motion:-

- a) Calls on all members, congregations and Dioceses to develop approaches consistent with a low carbon economy;
- b) Encourages the Church in society and Investment Committees to work with and as part of the Church Investors Group as a means of informing and setting the Scottish Episcopal Church's policy on investment in an era of climate change and helping small investors to implement such policies;
- c) Seeks to follow the example of other churches by restricting its direct investments in companies deriving over 10% of their revenues from the extraction of thermal coal or tar sands;
- d) Asks for an annual meeting of the Scottish Episcopal Church's Investment Managers, currently Baillie Gifford, at which the means of agreeing any limits to investments in companies with a poor environmental profile and encouraging the use of targets and processes suggested by the Church Investors Group might be discussed;
- e) Seeks to put in place a mechanism, which would allow the policy of the Church Investors Group on voting at company meetings, to be put into effect;
- f) Encourages the Scottish Episcopal Church Pension Fund Trustees for follow similar approaches.

3. Alternate Lay Representatives

The Synod accepted a second (and final) reading of a change to Canon 63.3. The effect of that change is that, unless the congregational constitution specifically provides otherwise, the Alternate Lay Representative, is now also an ex officio member of the vestry (the lay Representative is already such an ex officio member)

ROTAS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 17: 1 - 7, Philippians 2: 1 – 13, Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Reader Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY OCTOBER 8TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 20: 1 – 4, 7 – 9, 12 – 20, Philippians 3: 4b – 14, Matthew 21: 33 - 46

Reader Fay Slingsby

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 32: 1 – 14, Philippians 4: 1 – 9, Matthew 22: 1 - 14

Reader Lee Winks

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 33: 12 – 23, 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10, Matthew 22: 15 - 22

Reader Eleanor Rowlands

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12, 1 Thessalonians 2: 1 – 8, Matthew 22: 34 - 46

Reader Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Joshua 3: 7 – 17, 1 Thessalonians 2: 9 – 13, Matthew 23: 1 - 12

Reader Michael Hill

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12TH REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Joshua 24: 1 – 3a, 14 – 25, 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18, Matthew 25: 1 – 13

N.B. These readings may be subject to alteration

Reader Madeline Kingston

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Judges 4: 1 – 7, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11, Matthew 25: 14- 30

Reader Eryl Rowlands

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22ND

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24, Ephesians 1: 15 – 23, Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Reader Nora Craig

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD ADVENT SUNDAY

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9, 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9, Mark 13: 24 - 37

Reader Fay Slingsby

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday November 5th AGM After 11am service

Richard Finch, as acting secretary, would be grateful to receive any reports from Church organisations at least two weeks before the meeting.

He informs the congregation that there are no vestry vacancies this year.

Friday November 24th Supper with Guest Speaker

Green Street Halls, 7pm Reception, Tickets £14

Speaker: Doctor the Venerable T. Ian Young

'Voices around the World' Ian will give us an insight into his life with music.

Tuesday Club

The first meeting of the 2017/2018 season begins on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30pm in the Green Street Halls.

The guest speaker is the Rev. Denise Herbert who will be speaking on the children of Eastern Cape, South Africa.

If you would like more information on the group, please contact any of the following:

EVELYN BALFOUR Tel No. 01307 818648

CAROL DOUGLAS Tel No. 01307 464610

When searching among my 'bits and bobs' file for something to fill up this month's magazine, I came across the helpful message below:-
It appears to have been photo-copied, as it is printed rather crookedly on a sheet of A4, with a picture of what looks like a half a cash box at the bottom. And the whole thing is shaded as though the copier has gone a bit wrong. It purports to be message from God for everyone, who obviously knows what we all fuss about..... It also looks as though His photo-copier is not in the first flush of youth.

'GOOD MORNING

**I AM GOD AND TODAY I WILL BE HANDLING ALL YOUR PROBLEMS.
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT I DO NOT NEED YOUR HELP.
IF LIFE HAPPENS TO DELIVER A SITUATION THAT YOU CANNOT
HANDLE, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE IT. KINDLY PLACE IT IN THE
'SOMETHING FOR GOD TO DO' BOX.**

**ALL SITUATIONS WILL BE HANDLED IN MY TIME, NOT YOURS; ONCE
THE MATTER IS PLACED IN MY BOX DO NOT HOLD ON TO IT,
WORRYING ABOUT IT, INSTEAD FOCUS ON ALL THE WONDERFUL
THINGS THAT ARE PRESENT IN YOUR LIFE NOW.**

**IF IT IS A SITUATION YOU THINK YOU ARE CAPABLE OF HANDLING
PLEASE CONSULT ME FIRST TO MAKE SURE IT IS THE PROPER
SOLUTION. REMEMBER I NEITHER SLUMBER, NOR SLEEP, SO THERE
IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO LOSE ANY.**

REST IN PEACE AND REMEMBER, I AM ONLY A PRAYER AWAY'.