

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Life at St John's continues on its journey through our current raft of trials and tribulations. It is a time when we need to adhere to that line from a well known hymn "God is working his purpose out" - and far be it for me to second guess the Almighty!

By reading the reports of the various activities in this month's magazine you will see just how busy the summer has been for St John's. We are lucky to have so many dedicated members of the church who are willing to organise, help, or attend these events. We are also lucky to have a magazine that comes out 10 times a year and our thanks go to Dorothy for continuing as Editor. But the life of an editor is not an easy one especially if articles are not forthcoming so please remember to offer Dorothy an announcement of a forthcoming event, a description of an event that has taken place, an amusing tale, a poem, an opinion etc etc. It all helps to make the magazine interesting and informative especially for those who read it but may not be regular attendees and for those unconnected with the church.

Geoffrey Bridge has tendered his resignation as Vestry Secretary and he and his wife, Hilary, have decided to leave St John's. I would like to express my thanks to them for all the work they both did for us and wish them well for the future. With the departure of Geoffrey the vestry were without a Secretary and Richard Finch was approached to see if he would be willing to take up the reins again. Fortunately for us he agreed and is already beavering away on our behalf.

A while ago we suffered from an act of vandalism when some of the small panes of glass in the front windows were broken. These have now been repaired by a local glazier - in time to save us from the autumn winds!

A number of members of the congregation have reported on the disgraceful state of the Rectory garden and the fact that it was receiving adverse comment from neighbours and the community. Having cleared with the Dean that there would be no infringement of privacy the garden was tackled and I am pleased to say is now in a much more acceptable state. Our grateful thanks to Richard for his hard work in this effort. And our continuing thanks must go to those members of the congregation who work behind the scenes silently and diligently and are truly the cement that holds the fabric of our beautiful church together.

In closing I ask that you make a note in your diary that this year our Annual General Meeting will be held after the morning service on 5th November (no jokes please about "a sparkling performance" or "going off with a bang"!). This is the time and place for any member of the congregation to air their opinions – good or bad – and your presence serves as an encouragement to the vestry and activity leaders. Before that we have Harvest Festival to look forward to and an opportunity to thank God for his many blessings.

Roger Cousins

Sunday July 9th

Last month the magazine opened with all the doings on Pentecost June 4th – so the next month clearly felt it must not be outdone and designated July 9th as the Sunday when it would be 'all go'.

It happened to be Sea Sunday; Ian Young preached on a nautical theme, and Neil played us out with a delightful rendering of the Sailors Hornpipe. But we also had two good excuses for a glass of Prosecco and accompanying canapes after the service. The first was the dedication of the lovely quilt that the Sewing Group have been working on for some time, and they have gifted the finished product to hang in the side aisle. The image of it below gives a good idea of its quality, but only a big stretch of imagination can give an idea of all the work that went into it. It is, though, the enormous tip of an iceberg, in that the group have given 13 such quilts (smaller of course) as knee coverings to people who are rather chair-bound at home, and they are not only useful, but very decorative. The whole procedure is the brain child of Ingrid Jaeckel, who had organised such a group at her home church in Berlin, and we in St. John's are terribly lucky that she should have brought her expertise to us.

The second excuse for the glass of Prosecco, was to celebrate two special 90th birthdays. Lavender Maitland, who was to celebrate hers two days later, and Charlie Bruce-Gardyne, whose birthday was earlier in the year, in February. It was a great pleasure to everyone to raise a glass to these two very long-standing and valued members of St. John's.

An excellent start to the summer....



The Grace of Diversity

This was the theme chosen for this year's Diocesan Gathering, held in St Nanina's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May. We welcomed John Bell from the Iona Community as our guest speaker and leader of the day's events. All present enjoyed an engaging celebration of diversity which was at the same time thought-provoking, hugely enjoyable and above all great fun! From our opening session when we reflected on God's favourite colour (John tells us it's tartan!) and attempted to name the twelve disciples, right up to the informal closing Eucharist, we celebrated our diversity together in a multitude of different ways. Even our lunch was celebrated as a giant 'bring and share' meal rather than sitting as individuals each with our own pack of sandwiches.

Smaller workshops led by John and his colleague, Jo Love, provided an opportunity to learn new music and join in creative activities. Various congregational and diocesan groups also organised workshops and display stands to introduce different prayer activities, recognising the many different forms prayer can take.

A team of youngsters from around the diocese worked together to provide a 'Taste of the Gathering' on video and took photographs which can be shared with those who were unable to join us on the day. It was great to see them taking on the responsibility of this role and interviewing a selection of participants.

Comments on the day included:

"Fabulous day!"

"Grace-filled and transforming"

"Plenty of food for thought"

"A demonstration that spirituality needn't lose its depth when it's fun"

"A wonderful celebration of our strength in diversity"



ROTAS

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

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SEPTEMBER 10TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

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

Reader Eleanor Rowlands

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 14: 19 – 21, Romans 14: 1 – 12, Matthew 18: 21 - 35

Reader Eryl Rowlands

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH HARVEST FESTIVAL

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 11, 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 15, Luke 17: 11 - 19

Reader Madeline Kingston

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH

10. 15a.m. Said Eucharist

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday November 5th AGM after the 11 a.m. service

Friday November 24th Annual Dinner with Speaker.
The Revd. Ian Young will talk about his travels in the Middle East
and Sri Lanka

THE TUESDAY CLUB

“What is the Tuesday Club?” one may ask.

The Tuesday club is simply a social group. The once-a-month meetings which take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from October to May, in the Green Street Halls, consist of concerts, demonstrations, slide shows and talks by speakers on various topics. Not all club members belong to St John's church. Some come from other churches in the area, while others in the group are not affiliated to any church.

BUT ALL ARE WELCOME!

Outreach in the community is one of the aims of the club. The club supports the Forfar Disabled Club which also meets in the Church hall. The club also participates in fund-raising for various charities, a different one being chosen each year.

Cost of membership is £10 per year, and visitors pay £2 per visit.

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

BINGO EVENING - 8th AUGUST

Eyes down! The magnificent total of £657 was raised from the hard work of Colvina McBay and her bingo evening.

During the preceding months Colvina had amassed a treasure trove of items for the raffle, tombola, hamper and prizes and these all went to new homes among the many avid bingo players at the Royal British Legion hall.

At half time refreshments prepared by Pat and Fay Slingsby and Judy Hill were served and enjoyed by all. Then it was back to 'Downing Street' (10), 'legs eleven' (11), 'key of the door' (21), 'two fat ladies' (88) and 'as far as we go' (90) for the second half.

Thank you Colvina and all the good folk of St John's who helped make the evening such a success.

Margaret Cousins

The Golden Group Tea Party August 11th

Great thanks go to the organising committee of the Golden Group Tea Party, held in the church Hall for just over 40 people, including the very welcome guests from St. Mary's Kirriemuir.

There must have been a lot of sandwich making – they were delicious, and so delicate, and, most importantly, very plentiful, accompanied by fattening tray bakes and cakes. A really lovely tea. We then were entertained by two ladies, Norma and Marjorie, friends who had been performing together for a long time. The repertoire was mainly well-known Scottish songs, and we were encouraged to join in. We were a bit shy about that – as is almost always the case, particularly if tea has been the main beverage.... They were followed by a great rendering of the well-known piece of Albert and the Lion, a wonderful example of down-to-earth black humour, which David Green performed in his authentic Yorkshire accent. Many thanks to them all. A great way to end the afternoon.

Everyone appreciated the efforts so all those who organised it, prepared it, washed it up, and generally gave all those present such enjoyment.

Margaret cousins thanked everyone involved.

BARNFEST 2017

A small but happy band of pilgrims made their way to Nether Finlarg on Saturday, the Glorious Twelfth, for St. John's Barnfest.

It was inevitable that we should be greeted with a heavy shower of rain, but that did nothing to diminish the warm welcome that we received from John Rymer to his home. It was good to see a couple of visiting clergy (I don't count Ian Young or myself as 'visiting') - Bob Harley from St. Mary's Kirriemuir, and Clive Clapson from St. Salvador's Dundee, We have been glad to see a small group from St. Salvador's at each of our summer parties each year.

After an hour or so of convivial conversation and refreshment, we went across to the barn – a splendid setting for such an occasion. We were met with a single long table all set out with cutlery and glasses. Then came what can only be described as a Festal Meal. Roast turkey and roast pork with vegetables, cooked I am told, by John himself. Puddings followed and then biscuits and cheese. We had the pleasure of an accordion accompaniment from George Simpson which was appreciatively received.

Our thanks go to Pat and Fay Slingsby and Judy, and to everyone who helped to make the evening a success. St. John's finances benefited by almost £350 as a result.

Oh, and the rain had stopped when we emerged from the barn well-fed and well-entertained.

+Edward Luscombe

.....

While the Diocese is in the process of finding and appointing a new Bishop, might this contribution from a child in answer to the question below be helpful?

What does a Bishop do?

One child wrote, 'Moves diagonally across the board'.

(Not terribly easy processing down the aisle with mitre and crook?)

As I am to be away during the last week of September, it is very likely that the October magazine will not be ready until October 8th – the second Sunday of the month.