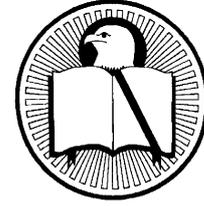


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The Scottish Episcopal Church Parish Magazine of St John the Evangelist Forres

Charity Number SC010346



August 2010

The Eagle

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Eagle. The format of the 'The Eagle' has changed to a new smaller size which makes production easier and more economical.

What a busy Summer it has been!

Well hopefully the Summer isn't over yet but at least some of the busyness has quietened down a bit.

The Burgie Horse Trials closely followed by the Fete meant a hectic start to the Summer. Many volunteers helped out at Burgie and without that help we just could not manage to take part and in the process raise much needed funds. Just a week after Burgie the Church Fete in the Grant park was a great success. Again many willing volunteers with great assistance from Voluntary and Community Groups significantly raised the profile of St John's.

Elizabeth Hampson summed up the Fete - *Well! After all the work and preparation it's over! And what a lovely day Fete Saturday was. I would like to thank personally all the people who contributed plants- in their hundreds - served at the Garden Stall and Plant Creche on the day, and worked behind the scenes - not all of whom are members of our congregation. It was a magnificent effort and we all enjoyed ourselves too!*

Well done everyone and I hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Rector Cliff



OUR STEWARDSHIP

Set out below is an important statement from our Treasurer, Julian Rudd, regarding the financial future of our Church – ST JOHN'S, which we ask you to read and consider prayerfully.

The current Five Year Projection shows that, at the end of the 2013/14 financial year (30 June 2014), our net assets will amount to £20,695. This is a not unsatisfactory outlook, but it does fall short of the £30,000 to 40,000 figure of assets which would provide us with a reasonable level of reserves.

What is of concern is that the picture is clouded by increasing deficits on the main account in each of the years; and these deficits are struck before taking into account the cost of the murals and the cost of expenditures highlighted by the Quinquennial Survey on Hall and Rectory. Obviously, no allowance can be made for completely unforeseeable items.

The overall assumption is that our income - which derives mostly giving - will increase at 1.5% and our expenditure at 3%. It should be noted that both fundraising and hall income are more or less at capacity. In consequence, any increases over 1.5% would have to come from congregational income. As a first objective, can we aim to increase this element (Bankers Orders, Numbered Envelopes, White Envelopes and Plate) by 3% to match the inevitable uplifts in costs?

Please look carefully at the attached Five Year Projection in the centre of this Magazine. It's a precious resource because it enables the church to look ahead and be prepared for the unexpected. I'd welcome your comments on it and our general financial situation. But do please note that there is a strong sensitivity factor in any forecast of the future. If, for instance, our income were to stagnate totally, let alone decline, and if our expenses were to increase by 4% -as opposed to 3% - the situation as at 30 June 2014 would be assets of just over £11,000, little more than half the figure in the first paragraph.

We have been very fortunate recently in receiving some very generous Legacies, which along with Grants received, have helped defray the cost of repairs and renovation, which were essential to maintain the fabric of our

Church. but we had also to dig deep into our reserves.
Now we have restored our Church to its original beauty it becomes essential to match future income and expenditure, so as to balance our books.

We realise times are difficult in financial terms, but we do ask that you consider seriously if you can increase your giving please, through the Stewardship Scheme, and by Gift Aiding, if you are a taxpayer. As Julian states we do not want to continue to live on our reserves and deplete our capital, which we may well need in the future.

With many thanks for your generous support in the past.

Cliff Piper Rector, Derek Bedford Lay Representative , Julian Rudd Treasurer.

Update on Aseko Dinah

After the misfortune of losing two of her letters, we have at last received some news of her. The name of her school in the region of Teso in N.E. Uganda is rather a mouthful. She attends the Uganda Martyrs Vocational Institution. She has good exam. results, and came 2nd out of a class of 10.

This is her letter:- *"I am filled with gratitude to have this opportunity of writing to you. How are you all doing? I send my warmly greetings with all confidence while thanking God for you. May the living God bless you all for the rest of your life for the assistance that you have extended to me.*

I have enjoyed life in my school and learnt quite a lot of things. In the various subjects that I am doing, I am glad to reveal to you that I am good in most subjects except Science and Calculation, which are challenging. I am working very hard so that I can pass in all subjects and also keep on praying to God, because with God everything is possible.

I have always liked how the name of your place sounds, (I presume she means Scotland) and I think it is so amazing, because when I hear stories from people who have ever reached that place, it seems that the place is so interesting and has the physical features that are not here in Africa.

In future I would like to make a career of opening my workshop and teaching people how to make and design different types of fashions with different kinds of material, as I hope to continue my level of education.

Pass my greetings to all the people of the church, and may the mighty God bless you.

Thanks, yours faithfull, Aseko Dinah"

She sounds a bright, confident student and well worth sponsoring. St Johns has allocated £250 this year towards her education. Please get in touch if you would be willing to write a letter to Aseko. Alexander Boag has written the most recent letter from the congregation.

There is more background material in the May newsletter. This is in the file at the back of the church and may be borrowed.

Helen Barrett

MINI-PILGRIMAGE – SATURDAY 21 AUGUST, AT THE ORTON ESTATE, ORTON, NR FOCHABERS

(Promoted by the Diocesan Church and Society Group)

Following the very successful mini-pilgrimages at the beginning of Lent, there have been many requests to run them again, only on separate Saturdays, so that difficult choices don't have to be made – even if distance may be a problem for some!

So the first re-run – well re-walk anyway – will be to the Holy Well of St Mary, on the Orton Estate, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs P Millar.

The theme for the day will be '*Health and Healing in our Communities*'.

It is an easy walk along well made tracks for almost the whole of the way, and is not more than 2½ miles in distance. Some of the walk is along the banks of the River Spey.

Meet at the Conference Centre at Orton at 11am for the Introduction and brief liturgy of commissioning. Bring some lunch to share. After lunch there will be a short address in the context of worship, and the chance to reflect and discuss together. The day will end at 3pm.



NEW WEBSITE FOR St JOHN'S -

<http://stjohnsforres.wordpress.com>

As well as a new format for our Magazine we also have a new website address - please update your browsers with the new address as the old site will soon be disappearing.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Recently we have welcomed into the Church through Baptism.

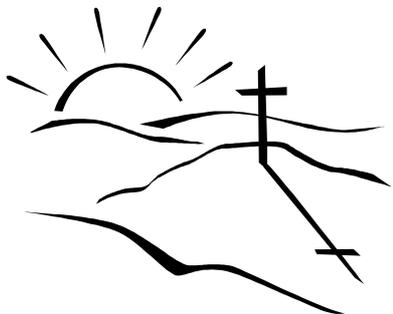
Sarah Manson
Hector Monro
Imogen Symon and
Gabrielle Sutherland



We have celebrated the Wedding of David & Gillian MacKay



Er..., now you come to mention it - p'raps it wasn't the best site for the coconut shy!



TORRIDON YOUTH WEEKEND - Gathering in the Hills

From the evening of Friday 19th to the afternoon of Sunday 21st November 2010. A residential weekend for young people aged 10 to 17 years based at Torridon Youth Hostel. There will be a variety of activities led by Bishop Mark, Clergy and Youth Leaders from the Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness. Transport will be arranged from around the Diocese. Please contact Sue Piper, Diocesan Youth Officer 01309 672856 for more details. Application Forms are available from the Diocesan Website www.moray.anglican.org

When I Say I Am A Christian

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I am saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost; that is why I chose this way."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Someone to be my Guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging I am strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak, and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are all too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches, which is why I cry his name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority; I only know I'm loved.



CHOIR PRACTICE – Please note there will be NO choir practices during August. Choir practices will resume on Sunday 5th September at 9.00 am - new members will be more than welcome to join us!

FEAST of St MARY the VIRGIN - For those of you who enjoy the splendours of High Mass then this is the service for you. +Mark will be presiding at St Margaret's, Aberlour on Sunday 15th August at 7.00pm, Rev Christopher Ketley, the Rector will be preaching. Those who have not visited St Margaret's before may wish to come and see this beautiful church, why not picnic in the grounds before the service

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE – Monday 23rd August at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room.

MORAY BRASS CONCERT - 1st September at St John's, more details to follow.

BIBLE STUDY – will recommence on Thursday 2nd September following the 10.00 am Eucharist. The Group will be starting a study book on Matthew written by Tom Wright.

CONCERT - Moira & Steve Harris 1st October at St John's, more details to follow.

FRANCISTIDE - The Third Order of the Society of St Francis, Scotland meet at St John's on Saturday 2nd October. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 12.00 noon - All Welcome.

VESTRY MEETING - Monday 4th October at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

BISHOPS VISIT - Bishop Mark will be celebrant and preacher at All Saints on 31st October at the 10.00 am Eucharist. The service will be followed by a Parish Lunch in the Church Hall.

| READERS ROTA | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| DATE | READER | OLD TESTAMENT | NEW TESTAMENT | GOSPEL |
| August 8 Trinity 10 | Sheila Biggs | Genesis 15.1-6 | Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16 | Luke 12.32-40 |
| August 15 Trinity 11 | George Latham | Jeremiah 23.23-29 | Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2 | Luke 12.49-56 |
| August 22 Trinity 12 | Barbara Westie | Isaiah 58.9b-14 | Hebrews 12.18-29 | Luke 13.10-17 |
| August 29 Trinity 13 | Helen Barrett | Sirach 10.12-18 <i>or</i> Proverbs 25.6-7 | Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16 | Luke 14.1,7-14 |
| September 5 Trinity 14 | Hugh Mitcalfe | Deuteronomy 30. 15-20 | Philemon 1-21 | Luke 14.25-33 |
| September 12 Trinity 15 | June Airey | Exodus 32.7-14 | 1 Timothy 1. 12-17 | Luke 15.1-10 |
| September 19 Trinity 16 | Gisela Bettle | Amos 8.4-7 | 1 Timothy 2. 1-7 | Luke 16.1-13 |
| September 26 Trinity 17 | Mary Little | Amos 6.1a,4-7 | 1 Timothy 6.6-19 | Luke 16.19-31 |
| October 3 Trinity 18 | John Horrocks | Habakkuk 1. 1-4; 2. 1-4 | 2 Timothy 1. 1-14 | Luke 17. 5-10 |
| October 10 Trinity 19 | Jenny Swain | 2 Kings 5. 1-3,7-15 | 2 Timothy 2.8-15 | Luke 17. 11-19 |

This edition of the Eagle is available in full colour on St John's Website.

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