



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

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Candlemass - Easter

## **The Eagle**

2015

*Winter is still with us but the days are growing longer and Spring and Easter will be upon us very soon.*

*As we begin the season of Lent the anticipation of Easter is particularly strong this year. It seems as if the world has been a very dark place this past few months, what with Ebola and the increasing threat of ISIS.*



*The Church too is struggling, particularly with the issue of same gender marriage and one cannot help but wonder where we are heading.*

*Our Lord is with us through it all, no doubt despairing at times at the folly of mankind.*

*I pray that we may have a Holy Lent and a Glorious Easter.*

*Fr Cliff*

## Vestry Seconds

It seems that Vestry Seconds are becoming bi-annual rather than bi-monthly. *Mea culpa*, but, in mitigation, it is very difficult to summon the enthusiasm to write when there is little of any consequence to write about. Anyway, time I think to catch up on what has happened since last February.

Our Bevington Organ was serviced in the spring. Split wooden pipes were repaired, the pipes and mechanism thoroughly cleaned and the organ re-tuned. Talking about musical pipework, Church Hall users will have noticed that the toilets have been silenced at last !

Setting up a regular contract for garden maintenance has proved difficult. Contractors seem happy to quote on a per-job basis but reluctant to take on a longer term regular commitment. However, we did manage to get the lawns cut a couple of times and the hedges trimmed and tidied in August.

On the financial front – whether or not we can claim the £2000 per annum reduction in Employer’s National Insurance Contribution in respect of our Rector’s stipend is STILL being thrashed out between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the taxman. The Church’s position is that each congregation, being a separate registered charity, should be able to claim the reduction. The taxman, on the other hand, says that because we have to pay quota to the Diocese and the Diocese has to pay quota to the Province then we are not separate charities but one organisational unit and so only entitled to one discount for the whole of the Scottish Episcopal Church ! Talking of quota by the way, last year’s good news about a reduction in quota has been offset by an increase in quota for the coming year. Quota is essentially calculated on the basis of a congregation’s income as a percentage of the total income within the Diocese. So, if we do well with our stewardship then quota will increase. However, our quota will also increase if we stay still and everyone else does worse which sadly appears to be what has happened this time. The good news, though, is that our prudent Treasurer had already allowed for a possible increase in quota and so we are still within budget.

We have (at last) received quinquennial reports on the Church and the Rectory but as of the last Vestry Meeting the report on the Hall was still outstanding. In the Rectory we need to replace roof skylights, sort out the plumbing to a

toilet and shower, and investigate some cracks in a ceiling. This should cost in the region of £4,500 (already budgeted). Before 2019 we will need to replace the gutters and downpipes on the tower, Church and Rectory; repaint external woodwork on the Church and Rectory; repaint the Church walls below the string course and the boundary fence needs treatment. There will inevitably be work that must be done to maintain the Hall. The redecoration of the Parish Room and decoration of the new Parish Room toilet has been put on hold until the full costs resulting from the quinquennial are known.

The Boys' Brigade is a Christian youth organisation catering for boys aged from 5 to 18. 2014 has seen the formation of a troop in Forres and their Captain, Ian Adams from Holy Trinity Elgin, asked that it be affiliated to St John's with our Rector as Chaplain. St John's takes on the responsibility for the administration of the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults legislation and, in time, will host regular Church Parades. The inaugural parade took place at the 10 am service on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at which the boys, the Brigade officers and helpers AND the congregation took vows appropriate to their roles in this venture. This is true Mission in practice, allowing us to reach out and spread the Good News through example to others outside our congregation. Many of the boys' parents attended and it is hoped that our outreach might also extend to them. On the subject of youth activities, St John's part-sponsored just one person to attend this year's Annual Provincial Youth Camp and the Diocesan Youth visit to Quebec was postponed until next year for a variety of reasons.

Julian Rudd, our appointed Treasurer for many years, decided to retire from the post with effect 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Julian's tireless efforts on St John's behalf will be sadly missed. Volunteers for the post of Treasurer are hard to come by but we have been very fortunate in that Alison Manson has agreed to assume the mantle. The Vestry took the opportunity to consider the Treasurer role to see if it could be split into smaller parts. John Guthrie kindly volunteered to take on the Cashier role with the responsibility for emptying alms boxes, accounting for plate collections, depositing monies in the bank and obtaining cash floats prior to events. The Vestry determined that other distinct roles such as

Accountant, Bookkeeper and Gift Aid Manager should not be devolved but remain the Treasurer's responsibility.

I stand by my comment in the last Vestry Seconds that I would not report on social events – if you want to know about them – attend them. Worth a mention is that it is increasingly difficult to get volunteers to speak at a Burns Supper. This year's supper was cancelled and replaced with a Harvest Supper in September (which raised £155) and next year the plan is to hold a ceilidh rather than a traditional Burns Supper.

The fund raising committee remain overworked. The Altyre Garden opening raised £573 and the schedule for the next 6 months shows just how busy they are with coffee mornings, a planned antique valuation, the quiz night, a whist drive and so on – all publicised in the weekly pew sheet. 281 Christmas cards were ordered this year, raising £245. Ordinary cards sales have raised a further £108.

Following the ACM, the Vestry is running light as there were no volunteers/nominations to replace Julie Wrightson and Peter Airey who retired after their 3-year stint. Derek Bedford and I were re-elected as Lay and Alternate for another year and Sally Ross-Mowat's appointment in 2012 was ratified by the congregation. The formal appointment of the Secretary and Treasurer will take place at the next meeting, together with (hopefully) ad hoc appointments to fill the two vacancies.

The Vestry continue to consider Health & Safety matters – there are now two (re-chargeable) torches kept in the Sacristy for the use of stewards at evening events in case there is a need to evacuate during a failure of the main lighting and there is a copy of the evacuation plan on the Church notice board. All our electrical equipment has been "Portable Appliance Tested" in accordance with the regulations, the boilers serviced and carbon monoxide monitors renewed. The Vestry are looking at ways of improving/replacing the disabled access ramp at the front entrance of the Church.

I think that's about it for 2014.

Grant Swain

# BURNS CEILIDH



Great fun was had by all at the Burns Ceilidh. We enjoyed the traditional fare of Haggis, neaps and tatties with plenty of Topsy Laird to follow. Our entertainers were on top form and the singing was excellent. The event raised just over £200 for Church Funds.





**VESTRY** – meeting in the Parish Room at 7.00 pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**PANCAKE SUPPER & AUCTION** – February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall.

**CONFIRMATION** – Bishop Mark will be visiting St Johns on 22<sup>nd</sup> February for a Confirmation Service. Any additional candidates wishing to be confirmed on that day, please speak to Father Cliff as soon as possible.

**WHIST DRIVE** – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall. Prizes and refreshments. £5.00 per person.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** – meeting in the Parish Room at 2.00 pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. New Members welcome.

**DIOCESAN SYNOD** - Inverness, time and venue to be confirmed.

**COFFEE MORNING** – March 21<sup>st</sup> in the Town Hall.

**RAF SWING BAND** – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm performing in St John's Church. More details to follow but please reserve the date.

**GENERAL SYNOD** - Edinburgh 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**COFFEE MORNING** – November 14<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall.

# RECEIVING COMMUNION

It is important that when we come to church we are able to receive Communion safely and comfortably. This is not always straight forward for those of us who are less ambulant than we once were!

At the last meeting the Vestry discussed various ways for the safe and dignified distribution of communion for those of us who find the steps into the Sanctuary more challenging than they used to be.

A handrail is technically difficult because of the soft sandstone steps and the mosaic floor and the Category A listing of our Church Building. Equally it is not always practical for people to stay in their pew and be communicated there. Following discussion with some members of the congregation it has been decided to place some chairs in front of the front pew. This will enable people to come forward and sit for communion without having to climb the steps to the Altar Rail.



## HOLY WEEK

### THE TRIDUUM

#### Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

7.30 pm Said Eucharist (1982),

Washing of Feet, Stripping of Altar and Vigil until Midnight.

#### Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

2.30 pm Reflections at the Foot of the Cross

7.30 pm The Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Reading of the Passion - Solemn Intercession -

Meditation on the Cross -

Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

#### Easter Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> April

8.00 pm Sung Eucharist (1982)

Lighting of the Easter Fire - Blessing of the Paschal Candle -

The Exsultet - Renewal of Baptismal Vows - Communion.

# READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
1 February Candlemass	Naomi Zair	Malachi 3.1-4	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
8 February 2 before Lent	Wiz Latham	Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31	Colossians 1. 15-20	John 1. 1-14
15 February Next before Lent	Sheila Biggs	2 Kings 2.1-12	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9
22 February Lent	George Latham	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.9-15
1 March Lent 2	Barbara Westie	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-28
8 March Lent 3	June Airey	Exodus 20.1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22
15 March Lent 4	Gisela Bettle	Numbers 21.4-9	Ephesians 2.1-10	John 3.14-21
22 March Lent 5	Mary Little	Jeremiah 31.31-34	Hebrews 5.5-10	John 12.20-33
29 March Palm Sunday	John Horrocks	Isaiah 50.4-9	Philippians 2.5-11	Mark 14.1-15.47 or Mark 15.1-47
5 April EASTER	Jenny Swain	Acts 10.34-43	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8

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

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