

Christmas

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

Charity Number SC010346



2015

## The Eagle

### RECTORS RAMBLINGS —

The 2015 Church Year is drawing to a close with Advent and Christmas rapidly approaching. Inevitably we look back over the past year and reflect on the good bits and the not so good bits.



With Remembrance Sunday fresh in our minds we remember those who gave their lives for us, we remember through those two powerful symbols the Poppy and the Cross.

It is equally important to look forward as well. We hope and pray for an end to war, to an end to refugees having to flee their own country for fear of their lives. In particular at this time of the year as we enter the season of Advent, we take time to pause, to reflect, to look forward to the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. With all the pressures of the commercialism of the season I know how difficult it is to find time to pray, to reflect and to be ready to make that special place in our hearts for the greatest gift we will ever receive. But if we work at it together, we can be ready.

Fr Cliff



# Room at the inn?

Small charity HOST is seeking friendly people who would like to learn more about other countries and cultures and share their home life with adult international students at UK universities. Young adults from many countries would love to have a short homely break and discover the real life of this country.

Host Kit Millington-Hore wrote “Meeting students from around the world is hugely fulfilling and satisfying. Watching their pleasure as you introduce them to our ways of living, particularly over Christmas, is extremely rewarding.” Visits can be for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas. Offering a Christmas invitation to someone who would otherwise be alone on a University campus can make a big difference. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter their age, or how far they live from a university. To find out more, or to be put in touch with your local organiser, please visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call 020 7739 6292.

## Responding to the Migrant and Refugee Crisis

The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, The Most Rev David Chillingworth, has received a response to the letter he sent on 10 September to the Prime Minister regarding the refugee crisis. The letter sent by the Primus can be read [here](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/responding-to-the-migrant-and-refugee-crisis/).  
<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/responding-to-the-migrant-and-refugee-crisis/>

The response, sent from Richard Harrington MP, Minister with Responsibility for Syrian Refugees, acknowledges the generous spirit of the British public in volunteering and supporting charitable causes and points out that the initial focus is in working with a number of local authorities who have well established structures and support mechanisms in place to accommodate refugees but also indicates that it has not ruled out a future role for private support

and sponsorship from members of the public. Richard Harrington also affirms the UK Government's moral responsibility to assist those who are suffering as a result of conflict in the world and outlines some of the measures that it is taking in order to address the current migrant situation in Europe, stressing that its priority is to continue to provide humanitarian aid to those most in need in the region and to actively seek an end to the crisis.

## **A QUIET SPACE IN THE NORTHWEST**

The Chapel of St Mary the Virgin is housed on the ground floor of 25 Market Street, Ullapool.

There is a flat on the first floor which has until recently been made available as holiday accommodation on a not-for-profit basis. This arrangement has now ceased, and the flat is now available for use as a resource for the Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness, particularly for clergy, church-workers or church groups who wish to make retreat, have quiet time or just 'time out'.

There are three bedrooms (two twins, and one with a double and single bed), a sitting-room with TV, kitchen and bathroom. No charge is made for using this facility, although guests are asked to cover the costs of the electricity they use, laundry, and cleaning the flat after use (although this last charge can be waived if you wish to do your own cleaning before leaving).

For further details and availability, please contact:  
Mrs Gilly Court on 01854-612506,  
or email [gilly.court@btopenworld.com](mailto:gilly.court@btopenworld.com)

Priests using the flat are invited – if they wish - to preside and/or preach at the Eucharist whilst in residence. If this is the case, please contact the Rector, the Rev'd Canon Nicholas Court on:01854-612506, or via email [nicholas.court@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholas.court@btinternet.com)

# REMEMBRANCE



The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says “Thousands of refugees from the conflict in Syria are on the move across Europe. They seek safety and the possibility of a better life. They are today’s reminder of the cost of war. In this season of Remembrance, we honour with deep respect the bravery and the sacrifice of those who fought in the two World Wars of the last century and in the many conflicts which have followed. We also remember the suffering of those who were prisoners of war and of civilian populations displaced by the horrors of war. We pray for a world in which justice and the rights of people are honoured and protected. We pray for a world in which war and the suffering which it brings are rendered unnecessary.” Bishop David took part in BBC Radio Scotland’s Remembrance Sunday Programme, which can be listened to [here](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06np5s9). <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06np5s9>

## Carol Service

The Carol Service is at 6.00 pm on  
*Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.*

Please bring family and friends and enjoy the carols, mulled wine and minced pies. The Collection is in aid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forres Boys Brigade



# Christmas Services at St John's

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Holy Communion 10.00 am

Carol Service 6.00 pm

Mulled Wine and Minced Pies

Retiring Collection in aid of

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Forres Boys Brigade

## Midnight Mass

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 pm

## Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Children's Service (with Holy Communion)  
10.30 am

## St John the Evangelist

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

Holy Communion 8.00 am

Holy Communion 10.00 am



## NOTICES

**COFFEE MORNING** – Forres Town Hall Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November following the 10.00 am Service. Nomination Forms for Election to the Vestry are available at the back of the church. There is one vacancy. Duly completed Nomination Forms should be handed to Tina Coffey, Vestry Secretary, prior to the meeting.

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE** – meeting in the Parish Room Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00 pm.

**VESTRY MEETING** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

**MUSICK FYNE CONCERT** – Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> further details to follow.

**CAROL SERVICE** – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm. The Collection is in aid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forres Boys Brigade.

**VESTRY MEETING** - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

**PANCAKE PARTY & AUCTION** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**DIOCESAN SYNOD** – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Details to follow.

**COFFEE MORNING** – Town Hall Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**VESTRY MEETING** - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

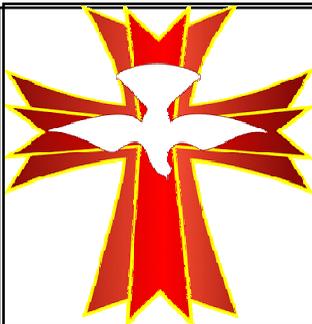
# TESS SPONSORSHIP

Those in the congregation who meet for coffee after the service will have noticed that we have been sponsoring another student from Uganda. Her name is Amuge Ketty. She is sixteen and started at secondary school in January, so is nearing the end of her first year. We have had one letter from her so far. She is most grateful for the chance of an education. Sadly, both of her parents have died of AIDS, and she lives with her grandmother. Home is very basic and they work hard to grow enough crops for the family , and some to sell.

This years fees have been paid and we are well on the way to raising the £360 for next year. A small amount each week soon mounts up. If anyone who does not come to coffee and would like to make a small contribution, please let me know.

TESS ( Teso Educational Support Services ) is now eleven years old and has seen many students through secondary school, plus a number through university. This means they are not only able to support their own siblings, but sometimes their whole community - making our efforts very worth while.

*Helen Barrett*



## CONFIRMATION

Canon Cliff is planning to hold Confirmation Classes early in the New Year with a view to Confirmations taking place during Eastertide. Please speak to Canon Cliff if you would like to be prepared for Confirmation.

# READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
November 15 2 before Advent	Sheila Biggs	Isaiah 35. 4-7	James 2.1-17	Mark 7. 24-37
November 22 Christ the King	George Latham	Daniel 7.9-10,13-14	Revelation 1.4-8	John 18.33-37
November 29 ADVENT	Barbara Westie	Jeremiah 33.14-16	1 Thessalonians 3.9-13	Luke 21.25-36
December 6 Advent 2	June Airey	Malachi 3.1-4	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6
December 13 Advent 3	John Horrocks	Zephaniah 3.14-20	Philippians 4.4-7	Luke 3.7-18
December 20 Advent 4	Jenny Swain	Micah 5.2-5	Hebrews 10.5-10	Luke 1.39-45 (46-55)
December 27 St John	Michael Thompson	Exodus 33. 7-11	1 John 1.1-10	John 21. 19-25
January 3 Epiphany	John Guthrie	Isaiah 60.1-6	Ephesians 3.1-12	Matthew 2.1-12
January 10 Baptism of Christ	Alison Manson	Isaiah 43.1-7	Acts 8.14-17	Luke 3.15-17,21-22
January 17 Epiphany 2	Emma Moffatt	Isaiah 62.1-5	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1-11

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

The Reverend Canon Clifford J Piper

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St John's website: [www.stjohnsforres.wordpress.com](http://www.stjohnsforres.wordpress.com)

Diocesan website: [www.moray.anglican.org](http://www.moray.anglican.org)

Provincial website: [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)