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The Eagle

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



We enjoyed a very busy Christmas Season at St John's with all our services being well attended.

As we enter the new year with interesting prospects ahead in respect of the economy, employment issues and the arrival of the Army at Kinloss we all need to be ware of the changing needs of our community.

It is by being open and welcome in the Lord's name that we are equipped to meet these needs. Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year.

Father Cliff

Three candidates short-listed in vacancy for new Bishop of Edinburgh

Three candidates have been short-listed for election to the office of Bishop of Edinburgh which became vacant in August 2011 following the retirement of the Rt Rev Brian Smith, who had served the Diocese of Edinburgh since 2001.

The three candidates have been selected by a Preparatory Committee (chaired by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church) consisting of clergy and lay church members who represent the Diocese of Edinburgh and the wider Church. The next stage in the election process is a meeting of each of the candidates with members of an Electoral Synod (representatives of clergy and lay church members from the Diocese of Edinburgh only). That meeting will take place on 4 February 2012, with the election of the new Bishop taking place on 11 February 2012.

The candidates are:

The Very Rev Dr **John Armes** (born 1955), Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh and Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh; Rector of St John the Evangelist church, Edinburgh

The Rev **Michael Parker** (born 1954), Senior Minister for English-speaking congregations, All Saints Cathedral, Cairo

The Rev Canon Dr **Alvyn Pettersen** (born 1951), Canon Theologian of Worcester Cathedral

Easter Eggs

The Real Easter Egg people have been in touch there is an offer on for Easter Eggs of £3.99 per egg if ordered before 22nd of January (in other words postage and packing will be free) but we need to get orders in quickly. Please see the Poster on the Notice Board. Order forms are available from Tina.



Vestry Seconds

Inevitable delays over the festive period mean I need to start by saying "Happy New Year", which is a bit embarrassing as my last Vestry Seconds were published in September. So, I have two Vestry Meetings and one Annual Congregational Meeting to summarize. Rather than reporting meeting by meeting, I'll just focus on each of the topics.

Second Officer

One of the rules of being a Wizard is that you have to keep your magic secrets to yourself. Fortunately, our Wizard Treasurer felt it would be prudent for him to defy the Magic Circle and make sure that someone in addition to himself was au fait with the intricacies of our budgeting and accounting. He proposed the appointment of a Second Officer to shadow his role - not necessarily with a view to succeeding him in due time - but merely to make sure St John's did not have all its nest eggs in one basket.

The Vestry approved the concept, asked for volunteers and, not being able to run as fast as everyone else, Alison Manson kindly agreed to become our Sorcerer's Apprentice. The appointment of a Second Officer was then proposed and agreed at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Unfortunately, things are never that simple. Our current Constitution does not actually allow for such an appointment to be made and we will need to change our Constitution at the next ACM to include a Second Officer/Deputy Treasurer.

As an interim measure, the Vestry agreed to temporarily increase the size of our Vestry by one, thus creating a casual vacancy. Then, in accordance with the rules specified in the current Constitution, the Vestry appointed Alison to fill that casual vacancy.

Might seem like a bit of sleight-of-hand - but perfectly legal and it ensures that we comply with Charity Legislation.

Secretary

Sticking with the magic theme, everyone must know by now that the Vestry's Fairy Godmother for the past 14 years has resigned as Secretary.

I can add nothing to what has already been said, except to add my own thanks for all the hard work that has gone into keeping the Vestry in order for all that time. Tina Coffey has taken on the role.

New Vestry

Thanks are also due to Ella Daykin and Fiona Meiklejohn who retired this year following their three-year tours of duty - thanks too to Julie Wrightson and Peter Airey who were elected to fill the vacant posts. To summarise all the changes, your Vestry now looks like this :

The V. Rev Cliff Piper	ex officio		Chairman
Barbara Fleming	elected	retires 2012	
Tina Coffey	elected	retires 2012	Secretary
Anne Docherty	elected	retires 2013	
John Horrocks	elected	retires 2013	
Peter Airey	elected	retires 2014	Health & Safety Rep
Julie Wrightson	elected	retires 2014	
Derek Bedford	ex officio	retires 2012	Lay Rep & Property Manager
Grant Swain	ex officio	retires 2012	Alt Lay Rep
Julian Rudd	appointed	retires 2012	Treasurer
Alison Manson	appointed	retires 2012	Second Officer

None of us are magicians - and are certainly not mind readers - so if there is an issue you want raised or a comment you wish to make or a grumble you want aired PLEASE speak to a Vestry Member. Each of us are honour bound to raise the matter at the next Vestry Meeting on your behalf and (if you so wish) protect your anonymity.

Material Matters

The pictures are back. Wisely, the Vestry decided to have the pictures returned and re hung professionally rather than on a self-help basis despite the

cost of £513. Some in the congregation expressed initial disappointment with the results - probably my fault because, as self-proclaimed publicist for the Vestry, I should have made it clear that we were having the paintings cleaned, not restored. Cleaning removes the dirt and grime that accumulates over the years, but it does not restore faded paint or return pictures to the bright (some even say garish) original colours that the artists used. (The other difference between cleaning and restoring is that cleaning is expensive whilst restoration is INCREDIBLY expensive). I must admit, looking at the cleaned Murillo, it is difficult to recall exactly how it looked before. However, comparing before and after photographs shows just what a brilliant job the cleaners have done and what an amazing difference the cleaning has made.

The candlesticks are also back - looking good. The repair cost us £1,150. As we have a £1,000 excess on our policy the Vestry decided not to claim on our insurance. The £150 we could have got back would probably have been lost in increased premiums in future years anyway.

Those that go to coffee will have noticed the new door on the Church Hall, which cost £560. The old door was really falling apart and the new one is a great improvement. Some have had difficulty with the coded entry lock but all you need is the magic word - and a VERY firm push on the buttons.

Fund Raising Committee

You might get the impression that our Fund Raising Committee operates independently of the Vestry, but it is actually a Vestry Sub-Committee, albeit very informally, and regularly reports back to the Vestry. In general I am not sure that these Vestry Seconds are the right place to list details of forthcoming events, but I think the planned Antiques Evaluation Day on Friday 30th March deserves a special mention. Hopefully it will be our big fund-raiser for 2012, so keep the date clear. There will be an afternoon AND an evening session, so the old "I'll be at work" excuse will not be valid this time !

Despite what you might think - our fund raising events do not happen through magic. They need a lot of planning, co-ordination and implementation and, truth be told, things are not going as well as they should. It will be impossible to say what I am about to say without offending someone so I am going to try

very hard to offend everybody equally.

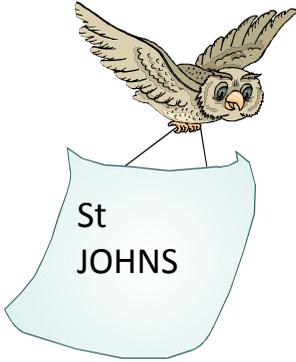
As a congregation we seem to have dropped into a degree of lethargy, leaving it up to the few dedicated Fund Raising Committee members to do it all. Some of us think there is an 'inner circle' and we are not a welcome part of it. Some of us think that simply announcing a Fund Raising Committee meeting to which all are welcome will be enough to bring in the volunteers. Some of us think that as long as we turn up to a function and spend a few pounds we will have done our share. Some of us perhaps like playing the hero and doing it all to the exclusion of others. Some of us volunteer to help - and then don't. The only common thread in this is that we ALL have a talent, we can ALL help, in some way or other, and we have ALL failed to communicate.

The major events planned for 2012 are a Burn Supper on 28 January the Valuation Day (and evening) on 30 March, coffee mornings in the Town Hall on 14 April and 17 November, possibly a couple of concerts and hopefully a garden opening at Altyre again. If you are interested enough in our church and community to be reading this then you are interested enough to start to help with these functions NOW.

Speak to Barbara Fleming and tell her your talent. Can you help by stewarding evening functions, can you bake cakes for teas, can you help serve coffees during day-time events ? Can you produce or distribute posters and advertising ? Can you help take money at the door ?

Yes I KNOW someone else already does all these things, it happens as if by magic, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for you too. What the Fund Raising Committee need is a list of EVERYONE, with their talents and their phone numbers so when something is planned they can ring round and fill the cast list with actors. What YOU need is to be on that list - so you can join in the magic.

Grant Swain



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Monday 23rd January at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room. New Members WELCOME.

BURNS SUPPER – St John’s Burns Supper is at 7.00 pm on Saturday 28th January in the Church Hall.

VESTRY MEETING – Monday 6th February at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

DIOCESAN SYNOD – Saturday March 10th at 10.00 am Inverness.

COFFEE MORNING - Forres Town Hall Saturday 14th April

GENERAL SYNOD - Edinburgh 7th - 9th June



St John’s are planning an
Antiques Valuation Day on Friday 30th March 2012
to take place in Forres Town Hall.

The valuers are the internationally renowned Lyon & Turnbull. Not only are Lyon & Turnbull highly regarded in the auction world but they are also one of the leading specialist valuation companies in the UK.

There will be a number of specialist valuers available on the day so this is your chance to have your antiques and collectables valued by real experts. Please note the date. More details to follow

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
January 15 Epiphany 2	June Airey	1 Samuel 3.1-20	1 Corinthians 6.12-20	John 1.43-51
January 22 Epiphany 3	Gisela Bettle	Genesis 14. 17-20	Revelation 19. 6-10	John 2. 1-11
January 29 The Presentation	Mary Little	Malachi 3.1-4	Hebrews 2.14-18	Luke 2.22-40
February 5 3 before Lent	John Horrocks	Isaiah 40.21-31	1 Corinthians 9.16-23	Mark 1.29-39
February 12 2 before Lent	Jenny Swain	Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31	Colossians 1. 15-20	John 1. 1-14
February 19 Next before Lent	Sue Piper	2 Kings 2.1-12	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9
February 26 LENT	Anne Philp	Genesis 9.8-17	1 Peter 3.18-22	Mark 1.9-15
March 4 Lent 2	Julian Rudd	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4.13-25	Mark 8.31-38
March 11 Lent 3	Seymour Monro	Exodus 20.1-17	1 Corinthians 1.18-25	John 2.13-22
March 18 Lent 4	Alison Manson	Numbers 21.4-9	Ephesians 2.1-10	John 3.14-21

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

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