

Lent—Easter

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

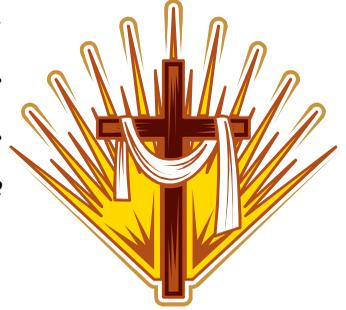
Charity Number SC010346



2014

The Eagle

Christmas and Epiphany are now past and preparations are well underway for Lent and Easter. Indeed our Easter Services are advertised in this edition of the Eagle, please do everything you can to attend yourselves and encourage family and friends to come as well.



As we prepare for our journey to Easter by walking with our Lord through Holy Week, let us try to commit to all of it, every step! All too often we attend the Palm Sunday Service and then cut straight to the Happy Ending on Easter Day. In doing so we miss so much, especially the Triduum, which as the name suggest is one service stretching over three days - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

These three days embody the very essence of our faith I very much look forward to sharing them with you.

With love and blessings.

Father Cliff

Vestry Seconds

Another Vestry Seconds that should be called Vestry Archives as it is, for the second time in a row, 6 months since I last wrote. I can think up lots of exotic excuses, but the real issue is that there often isn't anything of great interest to report. This rather gives the impression that your Vestry aren't doing anything but actually nothing could be further from the truth.

Take, for example, the saga of the "Plastic Pipe". In the last Vestry Seconds I reported that when our gas boilers were serviced the Scottish Gas engineer noted that the church boiler had a plastic overflow pipe. He said it ought to be copper because extremely hot water overflowing might split a plastic pipe. Scottish Gas installed the boiler, so we arranged for another Scottish Gas engineer to call and give an estimate and – assuming the estimate were reasonable – carry out the necessary modification. In the event, when the engineer called, he initially denied any responsibility for having to do any work. On being shown the maintenance contract he then said that he was unable to quote a price but would "be in touch". Nothing had been heard by December, so the Vestry re-assessed the risk of having a plastic overflow pipe and deciding it was minimal agreed to wait to see what was said at the next annual service. Net result:- nothing happened, so nothing to report, so it appears that the Vestry have done nothing. However, this saga has already involved several phone calls and consumed hours of time. Time to discuss the issue with the original service engineer, time to discuss the Vestry's response. Time to make the phone calls to arrange for another engineer to attend. Time to give the second engineer access, time to discuss with him his apparent ignorance of his duties. Time to discuss the matter again in Vestry, time to phone and make alternative arrangements. Time to record the actions in Vestry Minutes – my time in writing this paragraph.

Similar scenarios are acted out with monotonous regularity. Scotia were engaged to carry out our Quinquennial inspection. The Rector and the Property Manager gave up their time to be present – but due to a breakdown in communications, Scotia failed to turn up. The inspection had to be rescheduled. A gardening company were contacted and asked for an estimate to enter into an annual maintenance contract for hedge trimming, leaf clearing and so on. No such estimate appeared, a Vestry member had to try and contact them again. There may be "nothing to report" – but that doesn't

mean that “nothing has been done” – far from it.

So – what HAS happened since the last Vestry Seconds ? Following the ACM we have two new Vestry Members – Gareth Whyment and John Guthrie. Derek Bedford was re-elected as Lay Representative, with me staying as Alternate. Due to an oversight, Sally Ross-Mowat’s appointment last year to fill a vacant position on the Vestry was not put to the congregation for formal ratification so the Vestry re-appointed her at the December meeting for another year (the item is already on the agenda for the 2014 ACM) and re-appointed Tina Coffey as Secretary and Julian Rudd as Treasurer.

On the buildings front :- a modern equivalent for the failed fire alarm in the Rectory was found – so the system is back in working order with no need to completely replace it. The Quinquennial inspection has taken place, but we are still waiting for the formal report. It seems that we are doing quite well with our maintenance regime and nothing major has come to light. However, there is an issue with extremely low water pressure in the Forres area causing some problems that we need to look at. We have obtained initial estimates for the redecoration of the Parish Room, decoration of the new Parish Room toilet, staining the new gate/fence, painting the outside of the Parish Room door and repainting of the wall in the church up to the string course have been obtained. Once we know the final outcome of the Quinquennial the Vestry will be able to consider what (if anything) from that list can be afforded. (Another example of “nothing to report” that has involved quite a lot of time and effort already.)

As I write, a plumber is looking at the Hall toilets (faulty flush mechanism and weird noises). We are about to establish a regular garden maintenance contract. Our fire safety equipment has been inspected and we have replaced one fire extinguisher and the fire blanket in the Hall kitchen. All our portable electrical equipment has undergone its annual testing – no significant problems found there, either. The push button lock on the hall door failed and has been replaced with a traditional key lock.

On the financial front there are a couple of pieces of good news. Every year we are required to send a portion of our income to the Diocese – quota. Being one of the better off congregations we have usually paid more than required – so supporting those less well off than ourselves. However, a major drive over the past couple of years means many more congregations are meeting their obligations with the result that the Diocese is no longer in deficit. On that basis, the Vestry decided that St John's would contribute no more than the assessed amount in 2013/2014 – which will help our own budget. The other good news is that the government have decided to reduce the national insurance contributions required from small employers, which should save us £2000 p.a. from April 2014.

On the social front – we had a series of musical events towards the end of the year. The concert given by Steve Jones and Moira Harrison was not well attended – had they not waived their fee the church would have made a significant loss. However, the St Andrew's Day concert raised £422 and the Musick Fyne concert a thousand pounds of which St John's retained £500. The coffee morning took in £737 and the Carol Service raised £401 for the Aila Coull charity.

Ian Adams from Holy Trinity, Elgin is about to start a Forres Boys' Brigade that will be affiliated to St John's. Our Rector will be their Chaplain and perhaps there is an opportunity here to attract some younger people into our community.

Technically, our Fund Raising Committee is a sub-committee of the Vestry – so technically these Vestry Seconds should include a summary of their activities. They certainly cannot be accused of doing nothing – coffee mornings (22nd March), Auctions (4th March), concerts and other events do not just happen. Someone has to put in a lot of effort to make these occasions successful. However, I am not sure that Vestry Seconds are the best way for you to find out what happened – the best way is for you to support these functions by being there and seeing for yourself.

Finally, stop press (there is a pun here if you can spot it) – our superb Bevington Organ is in need of a little TLC. Organ pipes get dusty – and we have had a lot of dust-creating work done in the church since the

pipes were last cleaned. The work will take a week and cost about £1,500 plus VAT. The Vestry considered that this would be money well spent – our organ is as important as our murals and our building – and hopefully the work will be completed before Easter.

Right – that’s it for now. I’m off to carry on doing nothing – after I have amended the Vestry Handbook, checked on any new Health & Safety Regulations, updated the Auction software,

Grant Swain

What do we call the Rector?

A dangerous question to ask I know!

But now that Father Cliff has finished his ~~sentence~~, I mean term of office as Diocesan Dean, he is no longer ‘The Very Reverend’ or ‘Dean’.

On taking up the office of Dean, which is a fixed term five year appointment, the rules required that Father Cliff had to resign his title as Canon.

The sharp eyed among you will have noticed that last weeks Pew Sheet gave the title ‘Reverend Father’. However this past week the Bishop made Father Cliff an Honorary Canon of St Andrews Cathedral. At some future point the Bishop will formally install Father Cliff as an Honorary Canon at a service in the Cathedral (another outing to look forward to). Appointment as Honorary Canon is a life time appointment so the Notice Board outside the Church is now once again accurate!

So what do we call the Rector? Well it depends on how formal you want to be, but you can use any of the following: Canon Cliff; Father Cliff; The Reverend Canon; Father; or just Cliff.



OLIVE OIL SUNDAY – Sunday 23rd February following the 10.00 Eucharist, in the Church Hall. Mathis & Marianne sale of Olive Oil, citrus fruit and other produce direct from Spain.

CHORAL EVENSONG - St Andrews Cathedral Inverness on 23rd February at 5.30 pm to mark the retirement of Father Cliff as Diocesan Dean.

INSTALLATION OF CANON ALISON AS DEAN - on 2nd March at 5.30 pm at St. Andrew's Cathedral during Sung Evensong. ALL WELCOME.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING - Instead of the usual Monday, we shall meet on Tuesday 4th March, to help with items for the forthcoming Auction. No lunch, but arrive at 2.00 pm, to help number and carry auction goods across to the Church Hall.

AUCTION & PANCAKE SUPPER - Tuesday 4th March in the Church Hall at 7.00 pm. Promise Slips are now available.

DIOCESAN SYNOD – Saturday 8th March.

COFFEE MORNING – Saturday 22nd March in the Town Hall.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Monday 31st March meeting in the Parish Room at 2.00 pm.

VESTRY – Monday 31st March at 7.00 in the Parish Room.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION – the folder at the back of the church has been updated.



Easter Services at St Johns 2014

PALM SUNDAY 13th April

8.00 am Holy Communion (1970) Said Service
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (1982)
Commencing with the Liturgy of Palms and
Procession into the Church.

HOLY WEEK

THE TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30 pm Said Eucharist (1982),
Washing of Feet, Stripping of Altar and Vigil until Midnight.

Good Friday 18th 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 19th April

8.00 pm Sung Eucharist (1982)
Lighting of the Easter Fire - Blessing of the Paschal Candle -
The Exsultet - Renewal of Baptismal Vows - Communion.

EASTER DAY 20th April

8.00 am Holy Communion (1970) Said Service
10.00 am Sung Eucharist (1982)

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
2nd before Lent 23 February	John Guthrie	Genesis 1. 1 - 2.3	Romans 8. 18-25	Matthew 6.25-34
Next before Lent 2 March	Seymour Monro	Exodus 24.12-18	2 Peter 1.16-21	Matthew 17.1-9
LENT 9 March	Alison Manson	Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7	Romans 5.12-19	Matthew 4.1-11
Lent 2 16 March	Kirsteen Mitcalfe	Genesis 12.1-4	Romans 4.1-5,13-17	John 3.1-17
Lent 3 23 March	Gareth Whymant	Exodus 17.1-7	Romans 5.1-11	John 4.5-42
Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday) 30 March	Anne Docherty	1 Samuel 16.1-13	Ephesians 5.8-14	John 9.1-41
Lent 5 6 April	Derek Bedford	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Romans 8.6-11	John 11.1-45
Palm Sunday 13 April	Gill Horrocks	Isaiah 50.4-9	Philippians 2.5-11	Matthew 26.14-27.66
Easter Day 20 April	Wiz Latham	Jeremiah 31.1-6	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10
Easter 2 27 April	Naomi Zair	Acts 2.14,22-32	1 Peter 1.3-9	John 20.19-31

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

The Reverend Canon Clifford J Piper
 The Rectory, Victoria Road, Forres, IV36 3BN
 Phone: 01309 672856 Email stjohnsforres@btinternet.com
 St John's website: www.stjohnsforres.wordpress.com
 Diocesan website: www.moray.anglican.org
 Provincial website: www.scotland.anglican.org