

**The Scottish Episcopal Church**  
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# The Eagle

March /April 2012

During our journey through Lent we have been reading, hearing and I hope following the practices characteristic of this season. The three most important are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

These characteristic Lenten practices have this in common: each one helps us learn again that we're not running the world; God is. Done in the proper spirit, as Jesus recommends, each practice enables us to let go, to rest, to have something more to say than "Busy! Busy! Busy!" And each of these three practices does so in a different way, in regard to a different relationship that we have.

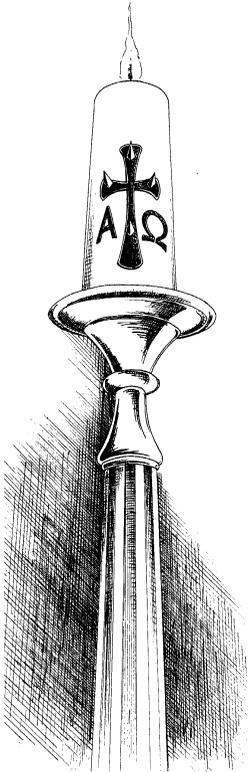
Consider prayer. Prayer concerns our relationship with God; prayer is when we allow God to engage us.

Consider fasting. Fasting concerns our relationship with ourselves, as we are creatures of body as well as soul, flesh as well as spirit.

The third practice is almsgiving. This means giving of what we have to meet the needs of people who otherwise would go without. Almsgiving concerns our relationship with other people and all of creation.

As we move toward Holy Week our journey takes on a whole new perspective and is about our relationship with Christ. Painful though it is, be sure to complete the journey. Don't take the shortcut from Palm Sunday to Easter Day and the happy ending. The Triduum, one act of worship spread over three days, is the most important part of the journey and we should all be with our Lord every step of the way.

*Father Cliff*



# **REPORT ON DIOCESAN SYNOD** – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Present Dean Cliff, Grant Swain, and Derek Bedford.

The Meeting commenced with Eucharist in the Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Mark. We then proceeded to Eden Court for coffee, and the Meeting, in the comfort of the Cinema.

The Bishop opened the Meeting, by delivering his Charge, emphasising the need for Mission within the Diocese, asking us to be “door openers” and “leaders to conversion, and good ambassadors for Christ”. He added that this would cost money, and would need to be funded from within the Diocese.

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising were dealt with expeditiously, along with arrivals and departures from the Diocese, including “in memoriam”.

The next item on the Agenda was the new Diocesan Constitution, which was presented by the Registrar, and incorporates the new Organisation Structure, and Committee basis for the Diocese. This was approved *nem con*.

We then moved to the Diocesan Statistics, which showed a worrying drop in numbers and attendances for the year. Congregations were down from 3215 to 3115, a drop of 100: the Communicants Roll from 2286 to 2257, and Communicants at Eastertide down from 2145 to 2013, a loss of 132. The Recorder put much emphasis on the snow and inclement weather in the winter of 2010/11; however these figures do help stress the need for mission within the Diocese, and it was pointed out that the weddings, baptisms, and funerals held in the Charges offered contacts for conversions.

Next on was Dean Cliff giving his Report, mentioning as major issues the Anglican Covenant, which Regional Synods have rejected; and the SEC view on same sex marriage, which has yet to be resolved. He stressed the need to pay Quota by all Charges, (we at St John’s pay more than requested to help cover the shortfall). He also drew attention to potential difficulties over the need for a Public Entertainment Licence for Concerts in Church, where Local Authorities in some cases, such as Moray, are undecided, as to whether the Licence is required. He stressed the importance of consulting the Local Authority regarding this, and checking on insurance cover too.

We then proceeded to the Treasurer's Report and Accounts. Although Voluntary Income was up from £123,080 to £123,975, there was a deficit of £19,882, which had to be covered by drawing on reserves. More worrying still however is the budgeted deficit for this current year at £33,400. I added in my Presentation later, that the Admin Board would be working hard to reduce this figure. The Accounts, which had been independently Examined were approved.

Elections came next, and our Alternate Lay Rep Grant was elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee.

The Provost then explained the building works going on at the Cathedral, which are primarily to improve Disabled Access, and we then broke for Lunch.

Two presentations followed by Lorna Finlay, the Provincial Communications Officer, who advised us on contacts with the Local Press and Media: followed by a talk on the work of Street Pastors in Inverness, where many developing difficult situations have been defused, and people helped, by Street Pastors working in pairs, in the City's trouble spots.

Revisions to the following Canons were approved:-

Canon 13 Appointments to an Incumbency.

Canon 63 Office of Lay Representative.

Canon 66 Authorising Lay Ministries.

Canon 65 Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

Canon 54 Of Accusations.

There followed Reports by the Mission and Ministry Board; Director of Ordinands; Lay Readers, and Mothers' Union. A leaflet has been produced by the Discipleship Committee, entitled "A look at Discipleship" with details of Training available.

It was then my turn to make a Presentation as Chair of the Stewardship Committee. I picked up on the points from the Diocesan Statistics, and the Accounts, mentioned above, and dwelt on the need for Time and Talents, as well as Money, on the theme for Mission and Ministry. I stressed this was not a "cash call", but a move to more active involvement.

If we could encourage more people into Church and to give, the Diocese would be on a better financial footing.

The task of the Committee is to spread the message about Stewardship, establish which Charges have schemes in operation (as we do at St John's), to learn any lessons we can, which will help spread the message. We shall also promote the case for Gifts, Bequests and Legacies; and we are preparing for the launch of a special fundraising scheme, to be allied to the Bishop's visit to Charges, to pay for the Mission Work of the Bishop in the Diocese.

*Derek Bedford*

12/03/12

## CHURCH RECORD



The Moray Banff and Badenoch Decorative and Fine Arts Society, sponsored by NADFAS, have spent the last two years recording the entire contents of St John's Church. The Record gives a detailed description of the building and contents of St John's complete with photographs. Members of the Fine Arts Society attended a recent Vestry Meeting and presented copies of the Record to the Vestry. The Vestry is very grateful to the members of the Fine Arts Society for carrying out such a huge task and producing such a valuable and useful document. Please speak to Father Cliff if you would like to see the document.

*Set Your*  
**CLOCKS**  
*Forward*

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME  
BEGINS SUNDAY 25 MARCH**

## Shedding Light on Our "Murillo"



I have a new obsession !!

I want to take a really good picture of our "Murillo", especially now it has been cleaned and repaired.

Unfortunately, perhaps the most difficult thing to photograph is a varnished oil painting on canvas. The reflective properties of the varnish combined with the three-dimensional texture of the canvas make it almost impossible to eliminate all the mini-reflections and bright spots from the light source.

Of course, it would be easier if I had all the right equipment - strobe lights (flash guns), light stands, reflective umbrellas, infinite time - but I don't. So why bother ?

Well, because of the stronger lighting from off-camera flash, even a poor quality picture taken with amateur gear reveals a whole lot more to the picture than first meets the eye. I've put a copy of the best I can do (so far) in a frame next to the painting - feel free to take it somewhere with good light to look at it (but please put it back). You'll see the mini-reflections that I haven't been able to eliminate on the lower right hand side.

When I first saw the painting, I was told it was "in the style of Murillo". However, I've been doing a bit of digging and discovered that it is a little more than that - it is actually a copy of a Murillo original. "In the style of" implies that the artist mimicked Murillo's choice of subject matter, form of composition, use of colour and painting technique. "Copy" implies that there exists (or existed) an original artwork which has been reproduced as closely as possible to the original.

The original, entitled "Madonna col Bambino" (Madonna with child), hangs in

the Corsini Gallery - one of the several galleries that make up the Italian National Gallery of Antique Art in Rome. It came from the collection of Cardinal Lorenzo Corsini, who became Pope Clement XII in July 1730.

Murillo probably painted the original between 1665 and 1682 (he seldom dated his work, unfortunately) and Lorenzo became head of the Corsini family in 1685 aged 33 - so he either inherited the work from his father or uncle (Cardinal Neri Corsini) or purchased it himself.

I have managed to track down 3 further copies. One, similar to our own, is in St Hubert's Church, Corfe Mullen. Another, by Giovanni Brilli, is owned by the New South Wales Art Gallery in Sydney, Australia - but is not on display. Compared with ours, it is a "poor" copy, in that there are obvious differences, whereas ours compares very favourably with the original. Another copy dated 19th century, is held in the Maryland State Art Collection, USA.

Murillo's work was copied prolifically both in his lifetime and after. Most copies will have been made by artists, such as Giovanni Brilli, who copied pictures to which they had access much as you can see young students copying works in art galleries today. They may have been lucky enough to be able to copy the original, or they may have merely copied copies.

However, some "official" copies would have been made under the supervision of Murillo himself - he was not only a painter, he was a businessman and needed to sell paintings to make a living. He started his career turning out small works with a religious theme to sell to churches in and around Seville and in the Spanish American Colonies. Later in life, he founded and then presided over a prestigious painting academy with many pupils. These pupils would have made copies of Murillo's originals (before he sold them) both as part of their training and as an early form of mass production.

Who knows, perhaps our Murillo carries just a touch of the master as he took the brush from a student's hand, leaned over and said, "No, like this", and demonstrated how to capture the gossamer like threads of Mary's tichel\*.

Grant Swain

*(\*Tichel - headscarf worn by married Jewish women in compliance with the code of modesty known as Tznuut)*



**LENT STUDY** – Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm in the Church.

**MOTHERS UNION** – Next Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> admission of 3 new members during the 10.00 am Eucharist.

**VESTRY MEETING** – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in the Parish Room.

**FELLOWSHIP GROUP** - the next meeting will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at noon in the Parish room. Please bring a piece of music (CD) which you enjoy and would like to share.

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

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room.

**CONFIRMATION** – Bishop Mark will be visiting St John's on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Anyone who would like to be prepared for Confirmation please speak to Father Cliff. Do please note the date in your diary so we can welcome Bishop Mark and support our candidates.

**LYON & TURNBULL**  
ESTABLISHED 1826

St John's are planning an  
**Antiques Valuation Day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 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
March 25 Lent 5	Handley Barrett	Jeremiah 31.31-34	Hebrews 5.5-10	John 12. 20-33
April 1 Palm Sunday	Kirsteen Mit- calfe	Isaiah 50.4-9	Philippians 2.5-11	Mark 14. 1-15.47
<b>The Triduum</b> <b>Maundy Thursday - Good Friday - Easter Vigil</b>				
April 8 Easter Day	Gareth Whymant	Acts 10.34-43	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	John 20.1-18 Mark 16.1-8
April 15 Easter 2	Anne Docherty	Acts 4.32-35	1 John 1.1-2.2	John 20. 19-31
April 22 Easter 3	Derek Bedford	Acts 3.12-19	1 John 3.1-7	Luke 24. 36-48
April 29 Easter 4	Gill Horrocks	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10. 11-18
May 6 Easter 5	Naomi Zair	Acts 8.26-40	1 John 4.7-21	John 15.1-8
May 13 Easter 6	Wiz Latham	Acts 10.44-48	1 John 5.1-6	John 15.9-17
May 20 Easter 7	Sheila Biggs	Acts 1.15-17,21-26	1 John 5.9-13	John 17.6-19
May 27 Pentecost	George Latham	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Acts 2.1-21	John 15.26- 27; 16.4-15

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

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