

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

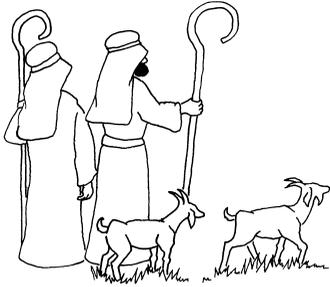
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The Eagle

Sep—Nov 2012



On the 30 September St John's, along with all the other churches in the Diocese, will commence a Stewardship Campaign which will run until the end of the Church Year.

For many people the very term 'Stewardship Campaign' means that it is all about money. Well money is certainly a big part of this Campaign.

There is no denying that our churches along with all the expensive associated costs, such as priests, maintenance and energy costs are expensive and we all need to reassess our levels of giving and increase them if we can.

There is however much more to good stewardship than just money. One of the greatest assets that we have is ourselves and Sunday by Sunday we pledge ourselves to God in the Eucharistic Prayer '*a single holy living sacrifice*'. How do we put that into action? We start by worshipping together each week. There are however many other ways in which we can come together and 'Steward' and build up and strengthen ourselves and our worshipping community.

Here are a few examples of some of the exciting opportunities. The Book Club is restarting, the choir is welcoming new members, all our rotas from readers to cleaners, to servers to intercessors have exciting vacancies. The Quiz Night, the Coffee Morning, the Parish Lunch, the buying and sending of Christmas Cards, the selling of raffle tickets to the community. The new Sunday School venture where on the first Sunday of the month, starting in October, we will make a special effort to gather all our children together.

These are all forms of giving, all examples of good stewardship. I commend them to you. With love and prayers.

Father Cliff

Vestry Seconds

Your Vestry met again on 6th August. Since the last meeting we have had the Family Forces Day in Grant Park, the Altyre Garden opening, the Burgie Horse trials and an awful lot of rain ! I mention the rain because I think the weather had an adverse effect on all three.

Burgie only ran over three days this year, with free entry on the Friday, so income was significantly down on previous years - only £791. The Vestry discussed the effort needed to support Burgie - there is almost as much effort involved in a 3 day event as in a 4 day event - and in light of the increasing difficulty in finding volunteers fit and able to help, the Vestry decided that St John's will not seek to be involved next year. Over the years, Burgie has provided a lot of fun for those who helped with traffic management - and a welcome source of income for the church. However, time moves on and so should we.

The Altyre Gardening opening was a surprising success, given the extremely wet weather leading up to it and the drizzle on the day. I did hear one of the family comment that "next year we will have done some repairs and redecoration", suggesting that Altyre might become an annual event. I certainly hope so.

The Forces Family Day was perhaps our biggest success. The weather was cold, it was not as well attended as one might have hoped - but lots of people availed themselves of the pancakes and free juice. Some went on to visit our open church - and therein lies the success. If just one person walked through our door who might not otherwise have done so then we have succeeded - because as they did so, God said "Hello". They might not have heard Him, this time, but the door is now open.

On the home front, we now have a new notice board at the back of the church, together with some "post boxes" which hopefully will hold all the notes and letters that usually lie beside the font in an alphabetically ordered fashion. It does mean you will have to remember to check your "mail box" now and again, not just look down as you enter church.

The top of the second gate between the Rectory garden and the Hall has been cut down to make it easier to open when bolted on the other side. However, whilst cutting the gate, it was noticed that the gate post and associated fencing is about to collapse. The Vestry decided to remove the whole assembly - but to allow the Nursery Group to erect a lower gate/fence if they need the division between the two areas around the Hall.

Our new Constitution has been approved, signed, sealed and registered. Not that anyone will notice anything different - but the changes were necessary to keep us on the right side of the legislation.

Those of you who have noticed an unusual bouquet to our Communion Wine will be dismayed to note that it was "Brasso" left over from cleaning our well-used second chalice. Thanks to a couple of generous donations, we now have a replacement silver plated chalice.

Our own Derek Bedford is convener of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee and he briefed the Vestry on the forthcoming Stewardship Campaign. There is to be a special service on Sunday 30th September and the Diocese has produced leaflets for everyone about stewardship which will be available from 26th August. Please look out for the leaflets - they will have your name on them and be in our new "mail boxes". The recent rise in the stock market has put our impending bankruptcy back until the third quarter of 2017 (on current trends) - and no, for once I'm not really joking. The only thing that keeps St John's going is your giving - be it in time, talent or money. The only thing that keeps the wider Scottish Episcopal Church going is our giving - it does not get a grant from government, it does not have vast investments. Stewardship is not just important - it is vital. Talking of the Scottish Episcopal Church

A Very Brief History of the Scottish Episcopal Church

I always seem to start with an apology (sorry about that). I had hoped to start my series of "informative" pieces with a concise but comprehensive history of the Scottish Episcopal Church - but it seems I seriously underestimated the complexity of the subject. Truth be told, I can only scratch the surface.

Our history looks a bit like a tree. Our roots are buried in time, mostly hidden from view. Our bulk, timewise (from about 700 AD to 1500 AD) is the trunk; solid, not a lot of detail, not much variation. From the trunk springs the complexity and chaos of the past 500 years - it is difficult to see the wood for the leaves (to misquote an old proverb). Branches shoot off in all directions, some wither, some flourish. The growth is affected by wind and war, rain and politics, sun and dogma, storm and intolerance. At times it is difficult to remember that the sap that runs through it has but two constituents - Love God and Love Your Neighbour.

The tree is the Church **IN** Scotland (as opposed to the Church **OF** Scotland which, like the Scottish Episcopal Church, is but one branch. All Scottish Churches have the same roots - St Ninian leading the first Christian mission to Scotland (preceded no doubt by Christians in the Roman Legions) and St Columba, based on Iona, establishing an evangelising mission to the Scots and Picts in 563 AD. Already, though, we see the seeds of division. St Ninian was a product of the organised Roman Church, a Bishop consecrated by the Pope. St Columba was a missionary monk - the early Celtic Church was monastic with no form of diocesan organisation. This dichotomy was, temporarily, resolved by a Synod in 664 AD at which the Roman view prevailed. Thus began the trunk. Evolving for some 300 years it was further solidified in the 11th century when, through the influence of St Margaret (wife of the Scottish king), the Scottish Church aligned itself to the English church and thus to Rome. Relative stability reigned for a further 500 years - a single episcopal (i.e. ruled by Bishops) church.

The branches began with the Scottish Reformation in the 1500's. The Scottish Church broke with Rome, but remained episcopal until 1582 when the Church of Scotland rejected episcopal government in favour of Presbyterianism. Thus started the battle between Episcopalianism and Presbyterianism which raged for almost 300 years. In 1584 James VI of Scotland tried to bring the Church of Scotland under royal control, re-establishing two bishops. This was supported by the Episcopalianists who were, therefore, seen as monarchists; but strongly opposed by the Calvinists. In 1592 Presbyterianism became the established form. In 1610 Episcopacy was restored. In 1637 Charles tried to introduce a Book of Common Prayer and this was the final straw.

It set off a revolt in Edinburgh which led to the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, the Bishops Wars and, finally, to the English Civil War. By 1638 Presbyterianism was "in". In 1661 the Episcopacy was restored again but the final crunch was yet to come.

In 1688, James VII fled the country and his daughter Mary (of William and Mary) took the throne. However, as James VII had neither died nor abdicated, the Scottish bishops felt that their oath of obedience to him was still valid and so they could not swear another oath to Mary.

The bond between the monarchy and the Episcopalians was broken. Episcopalians were seen as potential traitors and became a persecuted minority whilst the Presbyterians were able to ensure the establishment of the national Church of Scotland in Presbyterian form.

The Episcopalians insisted on viewing this situation as provisional and looked forward to a reconstituted national Episcopal church under a "legitimate" sovereign - which is why many supported the Jacobite cause and further alienated themselves from the Scottish state. Eventually, however, they accepted that the Stuart's cause was lost and set themselves up as a territorial episcopate free from royal prerogative - the beginnings of our Scottish Episcopal Church.

God works in mysterious ways, however. In 1784, Samuel Seabury, from the recently independent United States, sought consecration. Because (as an American), he would not swear allegiance to the British monarch, the English bishops would not consecrate him.

However, the Scottish bishops, whose refusal to swear an oath to Mary meant they too owed no royal allegiance, were able to consecrate Seabury who became the first Anglican bishop to serve outside the British Isles, marking the beginning of the Anglican Communion of Churches.

In 1792 the Penal Laws were repealed, marking an end to the persecution of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church which had once ministered to two thirds of the Scottish population had been reduced to just 4 bishops and about 40 priests serving a very small minority of Scots.

During the 19th century, the Episcopal Church began to grow again. In 1810 it founded the Theological College in Edinburgh, the first such College in the Anglican Communion. There was a spate of church building (including St John's in Forres in 1840) to replace the buildings that had passed to the Presbyterians.

The story does not end there - although in 'Pisky' terms, anything that happened after 1840 is news rather than history - but I have run out of space.

My primary source in writing this has been a publication available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website - go to <http://www.scotland.anglican.org> and click on 'About' - which has much more detail and some pretty pictures. For those without Internet access, I have produced a couple of copies of the full article and left them at the back of the church. Please feel free to borrow a copy to read - but PLEASE bring it back so that others may benefit.

Grant Swain



THE PRAYER GROUP - meets the first Monday of each month at 11.15 am, all welcome. Please give prayer intentions to Barbara Fleming or Daphne Dann.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Monday 24th September at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sunday 30th September. This is also the launch of the Stewardship Campaign.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING - on Monday 1st October at Noon in the Parish Room. The speaker will be Suzy Gentle from "Age Concern". Everyone is welcome.

BOOK CLUB – St John's Book Club is to recommence on 1st Tuesday of the month, starting on the 2nd of October at 7.00 pm at 2 Woodside Drive Forres, please phone 676936 to confirm attendance. The first book is "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. All Welcome.

FRANCISTIDE – Celebration of the Eucharist at 12.00 noon on Saturday 6th October at St John's – All Welcome.

QUIZ – please start recruiting your team of four for the Quiz Night. Saturday 6th October at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall. Please sign up on the list on the Notice Board.

MOTHERS UNION – meeting Tuesday 9th October at 2.00 pm in the Parish Room.

COFFEE MORNING – Saturday 17th November in the Town Hall. Details to follow, please reserve the date.

PARISH LUNCH – in the Church Hall Sunday 2nd December.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – Grant Swain will be producing Christmas Cards, please take an order form from the Notice Board. Profits will go to St John's so please buy these top quality cards.

FUNDRAISING – the Fundraising Committee are planning a Christmas Raffle. We have been generously gifted a valuable bicycle as first prize and are now requesting donations of further prizes. Please speak to any member of the Fundraising Committee if you can contribute. The Draw will take place at the Parish Lunch on 2nd December.

GRAND RAFFLE



There are prizes galore in St John's Grand Raffle. First prize is the Irn Bru Special Mountain Bike, pictured left. Other prizes are Benromach Malt, a case of champagne, portable DVD player and many other prizes. Tickets are now available for sale. Please take some to sell and don't forget to buy some for yourself.

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
Trinity 16 September 23	Anne Docherty	Jeremiah 11.18-20	James 3.13 – 4.3,7-8	Mark 9.30-37
Harvest September 30	Derek Bedford	Joel 2. 21-27	1 Timothy 2. 1-7	Matthew 6. 25-33
Trinity 18 October 7	Gill Horrocks	Genesis 2.18-24	Hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12	Mark 10.2-16
Trinity 19 October 14	Naomi Zair	Amos 5.6-7,10-15	Hebrews 4.12-16	Mark 10.17-31
Trinity 20 October 21	Sheila Biggs	Isaiah 53.4-12	Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 10.35-45
Trinity 21 October 28	Wiz Latham	Jeremiah 31.7-9	Hebrews 7.23-28	Mark 10.46-52
All Saints November 4	George Latham	Wisdom 3. 1-9	Revelation 21. 1-6	John 11. 32-44
Third before Advent November 11	Barbara Westie	Jonah 3. 1-5, 10	Hebrews 9. 24-28	Mark 1. 14-20
Second before Advent November 18	Helen Barrett	Daniel 12. 1-3	Hebrews 10. 11-25	Mark 13. 1-8
Christ the King November 25	Hugh Mitcalfe	Daniel 7.9-10,13-14	Revelation 1.4-8	John 18.33-37

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

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