



Summer

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

Charity Number SC010346



2013

The Eagle

SUMMERTIME – but the going isn't always easy.

Welcome to this summer edition of the Eagle and thankfully we have had something of a summer this year. Now, the schools are back and inevitably the evenings are drawing in and before we know it the clocks will change and our thoughts will turn to Concerts and Carol Services.

It is worth taking stock just for a moment though and reflecting on the past few months as they have brought both tears and laughter to our small worshipping community of St John's.

I have celebrated a decade as your priest, not sure which category that falls into! Sheila Biggs, after many years faithful service has retired (well sort of) as our Organist and we have welcomed Hazel Gray as our new organist. Gareth & Dee Whymant shared with us their celebration of 40 years of marriage by renewing their wedding vows and there was cake!

We have also shared difficult times with two families who lost in one case a daughter in law and in the other a daughter.

It is really hard for everyone when these untimely deaths occur, seemingly outside the natural order of our lives.

It is especially at times such as these that we need one another as we all struggle, me included, to make sense of what has happened. Even if we don't articulate it the question is always in our minds – Where is God in all of this?

My spiritual director once said to me – “When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is in all of this, remember the teacher is always silent during a test”.

I found that helpful to a degree, but if you are anything like me that just raises more questions like – Why is God testing me?

I don't know the answer to that either. But I do know that I am grateful to be part of the laughing, crying, sharing, worshipping community of St John's and I pray that you are too.

With love and blessings

Father Cliff

Vestry Seconds

Actually, this time the title ought to be Vestry Archives as it is 6 months since my last Vestry Seconds, so a lot of the 'news' is not new at all. However, in no particular order :-

Hall Flooring. Those who make it to coffee after the 10 o'clock cannot have failed to notice that we have new flooring in the hall. The old flooring was becoming dangerous with splits and tears presenting a trip hazard. Ideally, the Vestry would have liked to have had the entire floor levelled and resurfaced before putting down the new covering – but the cost would have been prohibitive. As it is, the new flooring still cost us £1600 – offset by a donation of £300 towards the cost from the nursery group.

Guide Books. The guide books were printed as promised in the last Vestry Seconds. If you haven't yet seen one, copies for sale can be found in a box at the back of the church.

Organist. In case you hadn't noticed, we have a new organist – Hazel Gray. Hazel took over from Sheila Biggs who retired earlier this year – leaving the cold North for the draughty South. (think transepts !!) In this day and age when so many church organs sit silent for want of a musician, St John's has been extremely fortunate in making such a seamless transition with no interruption to our sung Eucharist's.

Smart Water. Our lead roof is hopefully a little less tempting to metal thieves now that it has been marked by the application of "Smart Water" which identifies the lead as ours and makes it impossible to sell to a reputable scrap metal dealer. We took advantage of the work being done to get some tiles replaced at the same time, which saved a lot of money.

Smoke-Free Zone. The Rectory is once again a smoke-free zone as the chimney that was leaking fumes into the building has been fixed.

Concerts. The Marvel of Peru concert was well attended, raising some £300 for St John's. Moray Concert Brass also held a successful concert at St John's in April. Our new organist, Hazel, hopes to hold a concert soon.

Pipe Band Championships. The Fund Raising Committee put a lot of effort into assessing the feasibility of putting on some sort of fund raising event during the Pipe Band Championships in Grant Park. The fee for a stall inside Grant Park would have been £162. The likelihood of picking up passing trade by offering teas, for example, on the Rectory lawn was considered to be very low. In the event it was decided that there would simply be too much ‘competition’ for it to be worth the effort.

Health and Safety. Regulations require that we have all our portable electrical equipment tested annually, which has been done this year. A couple of items were found not to be up to standard and have been fixed. Health and Safety is not just a Vestry responsibility. Everyone has a part to play and if you spot something that might be unsafe and cause injury then speak up. Tell a Vestry member. The gas boilers were also serviced and it was discovered that one of the overflow pipes was plastic instead of copper. Extremely hot water could split the plastic pipe so it will have to be replaced. The gate into the Rectory garden by the Parish Room was in an advanced state of decay – it has been replaced at a cost of £360. Unfortunately, one of the fire alarms/detectors in the Rectory has failed. If it is not possible to find a modern replacement that is compatible with the rest of the older system it may be necessary to replace the whole system.

Servers. We have two new servers, Tina Coffey and Sally Ross-Mowat – and we bought a new alb to celebrate their induction.

Vacuum Cleaner. Our faithful hall vacuum cleaner passed away peacefully – beyond economic repair. Some cunning bargain hunting found us a new one at just under £200. The new one will be used in the church with the existing church vacuum moved to the hall.

Altyre Garden Opening. Unfortunately, reasons beyond our control meant we could not have a garden opening this year at Altyre as hoped but we are optimistic that we will be able to hold one next year.

Parish Room Toilet. The decoration of the Parish Room toilet has continued – we now have a floor covering and the walls will be painted soon.

Ministry. After many years of Forres Academy being a no-go area for our clergy, the new Head Teacher is setting up a Chaplaincy Team with a view to local ministers taking regular assemblies and getting involved in Academy life. Our Rector has been asked to participate and he has also been approached regarding the role of Chaplain to the Burghead group of the Boys Brigade.

Fairtrade Registration. St John's has become a registered Fairtrade Church. We have agreed to use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and for all meetings for which the church has responsibility, move forward on using other Fairtrade products (sugar, biscuits etc) and promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities. You can help – if you produce goods for sale or consumption at our coffee mornings then, wherever possible, use Fairtrade products.

Quinquennial Inspection. That dreaded time has come around again when we have our 5-yearly inspection of the church fabric. The Vestry are optimistic that, with all the work carried out over the past 5 years together with our proactive approach to maintaining the church, this quinquennial will not produce any expensive surprises. Watch this space!

Grant Swain

UPDATE ON THE BISHOPS HEALTH - *The Bishop writes,*

I am very relieved to be able to inform you, that following the completion of treatment and tests, the medical profession have declared me fit and healthy. They have been able to stabilise the remnants of the clot which is in my lung and that will simply break up in time. The medication has been stabilised and the leg problems corrected. I asked the Doctor if I needed to take particular care and his response was, no just be sensible and get on with life. Please let the congregations know this good news and thank them for their prayers.

Blessings +Mark



PERTH RACES - Monday 9th September. A mini bus (17 seat) is being hired for this trip. Grand stand entrance is £15 p.p. or £10 OAP p.p. Sign up list at back of church. Further details in due course. Speak to organiser Julian Rudd: Tel: 01309 674890
Email: julian.rudd@hotmail.co.uk

FRANCISTIDE – Saturday 5th October Mass at 12.00 noon, ALL WELCOME.

VESTRY MEETING - Monday 7th October in the Parish Room at 7.00 pm.

QUIZ - Saturday 12th October at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall, £5 each including refreshments, bring your own drink. Please sign up in teams of four on the list on the Church Notice Board.

CONCERT – Steve & Moira Jones performing at St John's on Friday 18th October. Tickets £8 including refreshments.

ST DROSTAN REGIONAL SYNOD – Saturday 2nd November, more details to follow.

COFFEE MORNING – Saturday 9th November in the Town Hall.

ST ANDREWS DAY CONCERT – 30th November 7.30 to 8.30 at St John's Church. An evening of traditional entertainment, £8 admission including refreshments of soup & oatcakes. Please speak to Hazel if you are able to help with the entertainment.

ST JOHN'S CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 22nd December

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA - A vacancy has occurred, to avoid disappointment do not delay to take up this position. Two places are available on the CLEANING ROTA. In the event of a rush to fill the gap consideration will be given to multiple applications. Apply to Barbara Westie. Ever Hopeful

Aseko Dinah (Teso Educational Support Scheme)

Aseko has passed her national exams and has moved to Iganga Technical Institute for a 3 year tailoring course.

Here is an excerpt from her last letter:-

Surely through your prayers I really performed well in my Uganda National Examination Board. Whereby it has made me proceed to the next level in my course and I am so happy that our coordinator in TESS and all the members really understood that I was meaning to make what I was aiming at.

I passed all three subjects (Science and Calculation, Theory and Drawing, and Practical Work) in credit. I kindly pray to God that I should continue with the same spirit in this next level, so that I will succeed with my future hopes.

Thank you for the great and luxurious retreat that I enjoyed in 2010 for my last year in Uganda Martyrs Vocational Institute. I remain your honest daughter, and believe through God nothing can fail me.

May God bless you. Thanks.

Yours truly, Aseko Dinah

Unfortunately St Johns is no longer able to budget for any charitable giving. This year, a kind donor has gifted the money for Aseko, but for her final 2 years we shall have to pray that TESS can find a new sponsor.

Helen Barrett

READERS ROTA

DATE	READER	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
25 August Trinity 13	George Latham	Jeremiah 1.4-10	Hebrews 12.18-29	Luke 13.10-17
1 September Trinity 14	Barbara Westie	Jeremiah 2.4-13	Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16	Luke 14.1,7-14
8 September Trinity 15	Helen Barrett	Jeremiah 18.1-11	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14.25-33
15 September Trinity 16	June Airey	Jeremiah 4.11-12,22-28	1 Timothy 1.12-17	Luke 15.1-10
22 September Trinity 17	Gisela Bettle	Jeremiah 8.18 – 9.1	1 Timothy 2.1-7	Luke 16.1-13
29 September Trinity 18 (St Michael & A A)	Mary Little	Jeremiah 32.1-3,6-15	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 16.19-31
October 6 Trinity 19	John Horrocks	Lamentations 1.1-6	2 Timothy 1.1-14	Luke 17.5-10
October 13 Trinity 20	Jenny Swain	Jeremiah 29.1,4-7	2 Timothy 2.8-15	Luke 17.11-19
October 20 Trinity 21	Ron Fleming	Jeremiah 31.27-34	2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5	Luke 18.1-8
October 27 Last after Trinity	Anne Philp	Joel 2.23-32	2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18	Luke 18.9-14

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

The Very Reverend 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