

TALES FROM THE TREASURY

In the notices on 13 May I mentioned that significant work was being undertaken on the Rectory to satisfy the issues raised in the recent quinquennial inspection report. After years of benign neglect there is a need to bring it up to a standard suitable for a new Rector. The cost will run into many thousands of pounds and I have already been heartened by the fact that several members of St Johns' have given or promised donations towards the cost of the work – roof repairs, leadwork replaced, gutters and down pipes, internal decoration, carpet cleaning etc. The Rectory represents a major capital asset of the church and we have a duty to keep it in good order.

This of course is on top of the fact that every year our expenditure exceeds our income but it is thanks to the hard work of you, the congregation, through support of fund raising events, gift aid donations, legacies, plus our investment income that keeps us afloat to see another year. We can now look forward to the arrival of Revd. Elaine and her husband and hope and trust that they will find a warm and watertight home in the Rectory, and of course the eager and friendly congregations at St John's, Forfar and St Margaret's, Lunanhead.

With such a large amount of money being spent on the Rectory I feel it only fair that members of the congregation should see the results and to this end I will organise an “open day” sometime around the middle of June (further details later). So, if you can, do pop in and see how your money has been spent.

Roger Cousins
Treasurer

A vacancy is never a very easy time for a congregation – though it may be rather salutary in that we are made to realise how much we depend on a resident rector for all sorts of things over and above the maintenance of the regular services; but since April 2016 we have been aware of how incredibly blessed we have been in the clergy who have visited and looked after us.

Throughout this period two services a week have been maintained – the obligatory 11 a.m. Eucharist on Sundays, and the very popular 10.15 a.m. Eucharist on Wednesdays. We have many clergy to thank for this, and also, particularly for the Wednesday service, the lay ministry of Eryl Rowlands and Richard Finch. The magazine is perhaps, if rather inadequate, a means by which the congregation can express its huge gratitude and appreciation to everyone named below.

The Revd. Jenny Black

The Revd. Nerys Brown

The Revd. Thomas Bruar

The Revd. David Cameron

The Revd. Janice Cameron

The Revd. Canon Bob Harley

The Revd. Denise Herbert

The Revd. Canon Jo Morrow

The Revd. Jim Thomson

The Venerable Ian Young

We all hope that they enjoyed coming to St. John's, as much as we enjoyed their presence, and we can only extend our very heartfelt thanks for all they have done and given.

A letter from Eric and Aileen Ramsay

Dearest Sewing Ladies,

We were so overwhelmed by the gift to me of the beautiful patchwork quilt which Fay brought when she visited us. Gorgeous things like this are made with love and we could feel the love for me that you had all put into it.

I do not get out so much now but still enjoy a short walk along the road accompanied by Sally our cat who tags on to keep an eye on me! We have decided, with the help and guidance of our wonderful healthcare advisors, to have palliative care at home. I still so enjoy meeting everyone and we would love you to be in touch; the kettle has either just been on or is just about to go on. The quilt has spoken to us like a prayer heard and we so appreciate all the prayers that we are part of.

Heartfelt thanks to Ingrid, Fay, Marion, Barbara, Cathy, Nora, Eleanor and Sheila - you are all angels to us.

With love and best wishes, may God bless you and keep you safe.

And the quilt itself.....



Since receiving Eric's letter above, his condition deteriorated, and he died peacefully during the night of June 27th. Aileen and all his children were with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all. St. John's and St. Mary's congregations will miss him enormously. He has given us all so much over the years.

QUIZ NIGHT

The fourth St. John's quiz night was held on 20th April and 49 keen quizzers enjoyed (I hope not endured) an evening wrestling with questions covering a range of subjects from local knowledge of Angus, through the written word, science and technology to identifying some of the thirty one UK Shipping Forecast Areas.

The evening raised £625 for church funds and, as usual, our energies were deliciously sustained at the interval by a fork supper of stroganoff or vegetarian quiche. The final scores were generally close but there was a clear winning team in The Winos (what does that say about quizzing?) and the wooden spoon was retained for the third consecutive year by Les Q's.

The Eagle editor suggested to me giving an insight to setting a quiz, so here are some random thoughts: The quiz format is a 'table quiz'. The questions are given to all teams at the same time, the members of each team consult among themselves and then write down their answer. Everyone then participates in a team.

- each team is asked to agree a team name at the beginning and this gets the evening off to a lively and amusing start
- The knack in each round is to make each one varied enough so that everyone feels they can answer something
- Each question should be as clear and unambiguous as possible and must be adequately researched
- Hopefully there is a light educational element to the quiz; everyone likes to feel that they have learned something by the end of the evening
- Team size is dictated by how many a table can comfortably accommodate
- Big is not always better. A large team is not always an advantage. There is a greater chance of someone knowing the correct answer but also the possibility of more argument about it!
- There is always someone who will dispute at least one answer during the evening. Thoughts for changes next year? New subject categories - suggestions welcomed.

The jokers (the joker doubles the score for that round) declared at the beginning of each round rather than at the beginning of the quiz. Les Q's may keep the wooden spoon having won it for three years running, so rather than a wooden spoon, a 'nearly wooden spoon' award for the team second from the foot of the table.

Finally, many thanks to all who contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable and successful evening.

Douglas Burt

Tuesday Club – 8th May 2018 AGM and Outing

For the final meeting of the 2017/2018 Tuesday Club session, 21 members made their way to Brechin Castle Garden Centre for Afternoon Tea. There was time for some retail therapy in the shop and garden area, before all were seated at the banqueting table, beautifully laid out with bone china tea service etc. An added bonus was the view from the windows looking out at the Countryside Park and the lake upon which some of the Model Boat Club were sailing their 'toy' boats.

Evelyn started proceedings by welcoming all. Item 2 on the agenda was the election of officials - a status quo on that score. Other points would be brought to attention later, but the staff were all ready to serve, so Tea began.

A wonderful array of freshly made sandwiches were served, along with cake stands full of assorted scones, cakes and meringues. Mmmh!

Tea and coffee were provided, and the pots were replenished constantly. Cake boxes and bags were also provided in order that any left-over food could be taken home if wished, otherwise it would be disposed of. We eagerly obliged!

Item 3 on the agenda was Finance, and Carol provided the details. Membership Fees will remain at £10 for the year, and £2 per meeting for visitors. £185 had been distributed to various charities through donations to speakers. Raphael Centre, East Africa, RNLI, Ninewells Cancer Campaign, and Ghurkas Welfare Trust. Due to the Beast from the East, the Disabled Club concert, where we provide the band, raffles etc., was cancelled and this will now take place on Thursday 18th October. This is a fund-raising evening for the Disabled Club, and the concert is open to all. Tickets will be on sale nearer the time. The remaining £200 has been donated to The Inspiration Orchestra. This is a charity, based in Perth, aimed at enabling disabled people to play beautiful music. Their work revolves around weekly individual music lessons, weekly orchestra practices and monthly public concerts. Musical instruments are adapted to suit each disabled person, and all instruments and lessons are free of charge. If possible, do go to one of their concerts. They, and their tutor Ian White, truly are an inspiration. The total monetary donations are collected through our Sunshine Bag scheme, (if the sun shines, pop a coin in the bag which can be provided). Lots of sunshine, lots of lolly!!!!

Lastly, special thanks must go to those who provided transport to Brechin Castle Centre. Evelyn, Pat, Allison, Richard, David, and Derrick. The 2018/2019 session will begin on Tuesday 9th October, when we will look forward to welcoming past, present and hopefully new members.

Carol Douglas

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 3rd June Leprosy Mission meeting

Thursday 14th June FACT Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 20th Annual Pitlochry Outing, Matinee 2 p.m.
'The Rise & Fall of Little Voice' by Jim Cartwright

Thursday July 5th Picnic at Auchmithie and Boat Trip around Bell Rock

Saturday July 14th Institution of the Revd. Elaine Garman at 1pm

Past fundraisers – the Coffee Morning raised £698 on 19th May – despite clashing with the Royal Wedding! Many thanks to everyone involved.

LEPROSY MISSION SCOTLAND FORFAR AREA COMMITTEE

On Sunday 3 June there will be a meeting in the Royal British Legion, Forfar and present will be Linda Todd, CEO of Leprosy Mission Scotland and Brent Morgan who is the International President of Leprosy Mission.

Brent is the key-note speaker at the Leprosy Mission Scotland Annual Celebration Day which will be held on Saturday 2 June at 11.00am in North Parish Church, Stirling.

On Sunday afternoon in Forfar, Brent and Linda will be sharing stories. There will be Leprosy Mission goods for sale and information sheets available. A quiz, tea/coffee and cake will also be on offer. Donations will be welcome.

Margaret Cousins

FORFAR ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER

The FACT Annual General Meeting will be held on 14 June and everyone is welcome to attend this meeting to find out more about the work of FACT.

Up to three representatives from each of the churches in Forfar plus the Rector/Minister/Priest make up the FACT Committee. At present I am the sole representative for St John's and would welcome one or two people to join me. The invaluable help afforded by Judy Hill and Fay Slingsby at meetings whilst I was away is greatly appreciated.

If you feel liaison with the other churches in Forfar is important, please come to the AGM or speak to me.

Margaret Cousins FACT Representative

PITLOCHRY OUTING: Matinée 2pm Wednesday June 20th, 2018

“The Rise and Fall of Little Voice” by Jim Cartwright.

“It’s like at the races when you have found yourself a little nag that no one’s noticed but you know you’re onto a certainty and you’re feeling, this is it! She is the one.”

The format and timings will be the same as last year. The coach will leave Letham at 10.30am (so please be in the square by 10am); then Academy Street, Forfar, at approx 10.45am and will then proceed, via Meigle, to Pitlochry where we will have plenty of time to enjoy picnics or use the restaurant facilities and enjoy the surroundings before the performance starts at 2pm.

PICNIC AT AUCHMITHIE AND BOAT TRIP AROUND THE BELL ROCK

Thursday 5th July

As previously announced, a boat trip to see the Bell Rock and Lighthouse has been organised. The trip is from Arbroath harbour, circumnavigating the Bell Rock and returning to Arbroath via the Red Cliffs north of Arbroath.

Those going on the boat must be capable of descending 7-8 vertical quayside ladder steps to board the boat at low tide and be aware that even in calm weather, there can be some lateral swell in the North Sea.

The trip will start from Arbroath harbour between 12.00-12.15 and should last approximately 2 1/2 hours. The cost of the boat trip is £20. Numbers are limited to 14; several people have booked and anyone interested should phone Douglas Burt (01241 829242)

Bishop Ted Luscombe was involved in the decommissioning ceremony when the lighthouse became fully automated and, although unable to sail out to the rock now, would like to be included in the day. Bishop Ted personally bought Auchmithie Church from The Church of Scotland and it is a gorgeous little church in a beautiful setting. We have organised a short Eucharist at Auchmithie Church to be conducted by the Ven. Ian Young and Rt. Revd. Edward Luscombe after the trip and a picnic after the service. We hope that those who, for whatever reason, cannot make the trip will join us at Auchmithie for the service and picnic afterwards. The service will be at 3.30pm and we hope that the weather is kind to us in order to have the picnic outside, as the church sits in an elevated position looking out to the North Sea.

The boat trip is not going to raise funds for the church, but we hope that in the absence of a summer evening event this year many of you, your family and friends will join us at Auchmithie for the picnic.

The picnic, plates, tables and napkins will be supplied by the fund raising committee and you are invited to bring your own beverages and drinking vessels. The cost of the picnic will be £5

A list inviting names to be added for the picnic will be put up on the church notice board but it would also be helpful to confirm to either Douglas (01241 829242) or Fay (01307 818787) if you are coming to the picnic.

ROTAS

Sunday June 3rd

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Deuteronomy 5: 12 – 15, 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 12, Mark 2: 23 – 3:6

Reader Lee Winks

Wednesday June 6th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday June 10th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Genesis 3: 8 - 15, 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1 Mark 3:20 – 25

Reader Fay Slingsby

Wednesday June 13th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday June 17th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Ezekiel 17: 22 – 24, 2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10(11 – 13) 14 – 17, Mark 4: 26 - 34

Reader Eryl Rowlands

Wednesday June 20th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday June 24th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Job 38: 1 – 11, 2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 13, Mark 4: 35- 41

Reader Nora Craig

Wednesday June 27th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday July 1st

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Wisdom 1: 13 – 15; 2: 23 – 24, 2 Corinthians 8: 7 – 15, Mark 5: 21 - 43

Reader Douglas Burt

Wednesday July 4th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday July 8th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Ezekiel 2: 1 – 5, 2 Corinthians 2: 2 – 10, Mark 6: 1 - 13

Reader Madeline Kingston

Wednesday July 11th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday July 15th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Amos 7: 7 – 15, Ephesians 1: 3 – 14, Mark 6 14 - 29

Reader Eleanor Rowlands

Wednesday July 18th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday July 22nd

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6, Ephesians 2: 11- 22, Mark 6: 30 – 34, 53-56

Reader Richard Finch

Wednesday July 25th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday July 29th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

2 Kings 4: 42 – 44, Ephesians 3: 14 – 21, John 6:: 1 - 21

Reader Lee Winks

Wednesday August 1st
11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Sunday August 5th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

Exodus 16: 2 – 4, 9 – 15, Ephesians 4: 1 – 16, John 6: 24 - 35

Reader Fay Slingsby

Wednesday August 8th

10.15 a.m. Said Eucharist

Sunday August 12th

11a.m. Sung Eucharist

1 Kings 19: 4 – 8, Ephesians 4:25 – 5: 2, John 35: 41 - 51

Reader Eryl Rowlands

A Passage to India

Initially, it was the idea of the family to visit this country of vibrant colour and varied culture to see where Gran was brought up, and while there to visit some of the most beautiful temples, sculptures and monuments as well, so with my daughter and two young grandsons for protection we arrived in Delhi.

The old sector we explored by cycle rickshaw. The narrow streets were lined with tiny stalls of fresh produce and good. Electric cables for the shops behind, were all jumbled together outside - how any breakdown could be detected was a mystery, but the monkeys used it as a means of travelling up and down the street.

The 300 year old walled city was built by Emperor Shah Jahan. We visited the Red Fort built with red sandstone, within its walls were marble palaces where Moghul emperors held court and where the Peacock throne once stood. Opposite the fort was the black and white onion dome and minarets of the Jama Masjid, the most elegant mosque in India. New Delhi with its beautiful wide streets, where the President resides and where the houses of Parliament are, exists in direct contrast. We visited a beautiful park dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi Raj Ghat. Apparently, he was cremated there.

Next was Agra, the capital of the Moghuls and the city of the Taj Mahal. As you know it was built by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his favourite queen Mumtaz. This marvel in marble with beautiful inlay work and marble screens is probably the most beautiful building in the world.

Jaipur the capital of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City because of the pink coloured buildings, was an absolute delight. It has the distinction of being the third jewel of India's 'Gold Triangle'. Here we visited the Amber Fort, stopped at the red sandstone 'Hawa Mahal' (Palace of Winds), a five storeyed wonder with an incredible pyramid façade, overhanging windows with lattice screens, domes and spires. Then on to the City Palace, a synthesis of Rajput and Moghul architectural style.

As a driver, the streets in India were of special interest. Lanes exist but no one drives in them. Overtaking is from any direction to take advantage of an opening, with a myriad of horns tooting at the same time. All vehicles were scraped or dented. Add to this the sacred cows that wander through the traffic undisturbed, and you have this driving nightmare. Strangely we never witnessed an accident.

For a special treat for the boys we visited Ranthambore National Park at the foot of the Aravalli Hills. The forests round Ranthambore were once the private hunting grounds of the Maharajahs of Jaipur. Today it is one of the most popular parks with tiger sighting at its best. We were very fortunate in that one beautiful animal, a mother with three large cubs came very close past us. They could have had a tasty morsel if they decided to choose one of us, as we were in open vehicles, but they could not be bothered.

From Delhi we flew to Bagdogra, at the foothills of the Himalayas, to visit Kalimpong, where as a child my brother and I spent summer holidays up in the cool where my grandparents had retired. Grandad built a lovely bungalow which he designed himself in vast grounds, It had an uninterrupted view over the Himalayas and snows, (many painted by my mother). The hotel we stayed at, called the 'Summit' was built on the grounds of my grandfather's property with the bungalow used as an annexe. How incredible was that! But all was changed, tall trees now obliterated the beautiful views of the snows; buildings everywhere; gone was the green peaceful panorama – change!

Calcutta was the same. I remembered the names of streets I lived in, went to school and college, but they were so changed I hardly recognised them. The home we had, had been knocked down and the lovely 'Gold Mohor' trees that

lined it were no more. We visited the Cathedral where my parents were married, and where I remember attending three hour services on Good Friday. We also saw where Mother Teresa had her headquarters.

Kalkata, as it is called now, saw the boys off to Australia for the start of seeing the rest of the world, and Amanda and I set our sights for Edinburgh. A very eventful and concentrated holiday with great memories, but now it was homeward bound, to the peace and green of Forfar.

Wendy Tyndall

The entrance to the Taj Mahal



The wonderful building itself.



A kind member of the congregation sent this charming poem by A.E.Housman for inclusion in the Eagle - it just missed the deadline for the most appropriate month, but the memory of this lovely blossom is still pretty fresh...

Loveliest of trees the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Easter-tide

Now of my three score years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score
It only leaves me fifty more:

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
Around the woodland I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.