



Eagle

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist
Forfar

August 2019

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**St. John's welcomes the Earl and Countess of Forfar
flowers by Marie Hill and Fay Slingsby**



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Goodness, Gordon and I have been here a year! How time flies...

This morning after the conclusion of our July Vestry meeting, we had an informal discussion about the past year – the ‘good’ and the ‘less than perfect’ – nothing is ever as straightforward as that division but things which we celebrate and things we might want to improve upon. The first year in any job is one of getting to know people and issues, and identifying priorities. And just as I have gotten to know you, hopefully you have been getting to know me too. You will have seen from last month’s Eagle and indeed this month’s that our next Congregational Meeting is on Sunday 8th September after the service. There will be an opportunity to make your opinion heard on how you think the last year has gone – and your aspirations for the future.

Whilst the first year is always jammed packed with ‘firsts’ it was also proved to me today there will be firsts this year too. This afternoon I saw my first Angus red squirrel! However many times I see them they always bring a smile to my face. In some way they epitomise God’s creation for me. I know it is easy to sentimentalise the furry and fluffy creatures and less so the things with scales or venom – they all do have to live. But the cute red squirrel doesn’t have it easy: habitats are reducing, they are in danger from their grey squirrel cousins who carry pox for which they have no defence and I have no idea how or if they will adapt to our climate changes.



With thoughts of God’s creation, one of the issues I would like us to consider more over the next year, is our impact on the rest of the world – such as on climate change or on justice. There may be things you think St John’s should be tackling – so please either get your ideas ready or let me know in advance of our September meeting. Our gospel is to be proclaimed in word and in deed. There are many ways that we can be ‘church’. How do we want to be

known in our community? What things do we want to stand for? There are always choices.

Whilst the choices may be serious, we want laughter too and to praise the Lord with joy!

With love

Elaine

Officers

Following Richard’s wish to hand over the duties of office, the Vestry is very pleased to announce that the new Secretary to the Vestry will be Ingrid Jaekel. Ingrid has been a member of St John’s for many years and she will be taking up the reins from Richard Finch to whom we are most grateful for all his work. The exact handover dates have still to be agreed.

Getting to know – Marie Hill

A true native of Forfar, Marie Hill has spent almost all her life in Forfar and her ready smile is a sight well known around the town. School days were followed by attendance at Sunday School, but it was not until her brother joined the Scouts whose meetings were held in St. John's, that her connection with our church developed. An accomplished singer of both opera and musical scores, she was soon roped into the choir, and although no longer a choir member she is regularly to be seen in St. John's on a Sunday morning. One of her abiding memories is of choir practice being followed by the treat of her mother's fish and chips. Marie really did sing for her supper in those days.



Trained as a hairdresser, her early work was in Forfar, but the heady lights of Dundee soon saw her drawn to Draffen's department store in Dundee where she worked for a number of years. Her skills as a hairdresser were kept alive with duties as hairdresser at Dundee Royal Infirmary, and in addition her interest in flower arranging was developing. This latter interest developed from classes at Forfar Academy and was to lead to Marie starting to teach her own classes here in Forfar, at that time using the East and Old church hall as a venue. A growing awareness of her floral display talents resulted in invitations to demonstrate to various guilds and clubs around the area. Although still strictly a Forfar lass she spent some time at Kirriemuir, eventually becoming President of Kirriemuir Floral Arts Society. She also arranged many floral displays for weddings around the area. Obtaining the elements for the many displays she was being requested to do resulted in ever wider searches of flowers and greenery; often having to spend time on rain-soaked evenings scrambling about with a torch for the required greenery.

Marie has a daughter, Francis, who by coincidence retired from her teaching post on the 28th of June this year, an event that brought yet another smile from Marie in anticipation of the forthcoming celebrations.



With her latest floral display at St. John's Marie can genuinely say that she is a flower arranger for Royalty, having created one of the wonderful displays for the recent visit of the Earl and Countess of Forfar.

Recent Events

St Drostan's – a quiet day in June



Despite a less than enthralling forecast, a beautiful day provided the perfect setting for the June visit to Glenesk, making the (relatively) early and cool start from Forfar well worthwhile. Although not witnessed by the majority of those attending, the sight of the Rector on her knees getting the fire lit brought a light hearted feel to the day. This atmosphere continued

throughout with all contributing in their own way, not the least of which was the variety and quantity of items on the lunch table.

A series of three short talks by Elaine were interspersed over the course of the day, with the remaining time being spent in a variety of activities including walks in the surrounding countryside, reading, exploring St. Drostan's church, and even the odd person having a little snooze!



Much enjoyed by all and with a renewed sense of calm the assembled company left for home, but not before expressing a desire to repeat the day sometime soon.



Petertide Eucharist at Restenneth

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation", we sang as the final hymn at our outdoor service at Restenneth. And indeed, we had had a wonderful service of praise and adoration. It's the first time in a good number of years that St John's has held a Petertide service at Restenneth and it was lovely to be there, and to welcome people from St Margaret's and East & Old Churches. Quite a surprise too for the Rector for one of the priests involved in her training to turn up unexpectedly – and on the anniversary of her ordination – all of

which was unplanned.



Of course, our praise was helped enormously by Forfar Instrumental Band who arrived in force to provide such glorious music. Our thanks really do go out to them.



They coped well with the windy conditions which was a challenge at the 'altar end', where at one point a wafer was seen blowing in the breeze before it was ably retrieved by the server!

The service was followed by a bring-your-own-picnic and the weather continued to be kind with the rain staying off. The time for lunch allowed us to enjoy fellowship together and Zane (the black lab) seemed to revel in the company as well as appreciating a good supply of dog biscuits!

We all thoroughly enjoyed it and there were certainly plenty of calls for repetition in future years.

Readers Rota

Sunday August 4, 2019 – Pentecost 8

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Colossians 3:1-11

Reader – Douglas Burt

Sunday August 11, 2019 – Pentecost 9

Genesis 15:1-6

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Reader – Madeline Kingston

Sunday August 18, 2019 – Pentecost 10

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Reader – Nora Craig

Sunday August 25, 2019 – Pentecost 11

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Hebrews 12:18-29

Reader – Eleanor Rowlands

Sunday September 1, 2019 – Pentecost

12

Proverbs 25:6-7

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Reader – Richard Finch

Sunday September 8, 2019 – Pentecost

13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philemon 1:1-21

Reader – Eryl Rowlands



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Tuesday Club Outing and Annual General Meeting 11th June 2019

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the planned May visit to Glen Doll was cancelled, but the alternative arrangement of visiting the Community Garden (see April 2019 review) could not have been better. What a treat to see and be guided round this special place by Douglas and Ruth, providing first-hand experience of it's importance to the volunteers or anyone in need of a period of 'quiet time'. From there, the group moved on to *The Plough Inn* for a delicious afternoon tea before the business of the day, the Annual General Meeting.

Evelyn welcomed all to the meeting then recorded the following:

- Despite recent doubts over the future of the Tuesday Club, with a few adjustments to format it will continue.
- Summary of 2018 /19 guest speaker presentations.
- Annual subscriptions to remain at £10, visitors pay £2 per visit.
- Linda retires as 'reporter' for the club. Gordon Miller willing to occasionally write a review.
- Someone required to deputise when Evelyn not available.

Carol discussed:

- The 'Sunshine Bags' and 'Blue' tin - all money gifted to Charity, many thanks to contributors.
- 'Toilet Twinning' - the chosen Charity for this year.

Election of Committee:

- Chairperson / Secretary – Evelyn Balfour
- Treasurer / Organiser - Carol Douglas
- Helpers - Pat Green and Liz Barnett

Evelyn thanked everyone involved particularly noting Liz for collecting the membership money etc. and to those involved in washing-up etc. at the end of each meeting. After presentations to Carol and Linda the meeting ended at 1600hrs.

On a personal note I would like to include my own thanks to the Tuesday Club members for allowing me to act as 'scribe' but especially Carol for her support these last six years. I have considered it a privilege and a pleasure to research and record my version of the varied and interesting talks for *'The Eagle'*; I hope the end result proved a 'good read'. Many thanks and best wishes.

Linda Robbie.

ps. The 2019/2020 session of the Tuesday Club will begin on Tuesday 8th October at 7.30pm.

A big thank you to Linda on behalf of the Eagle for the very informative and entertaining accounts she has given over the years of the activities of the Tuesday Club. I am sure I am not alone in thinking that her contributions to the magazine are enormously good value. People do, from time to time, comment favourably on the readability of the Eagle, and I am quite sure that Linda has a great deal to do with that.
Ed



The Sewing Group continue to be busy. Their efforts of this 'Dresden Plate Quilt' are appreciated by Nancy Hutchison. Many thanks to the stitchers for bringing people pleasure from the quilts themselves, and for helping folks to feel remembered and loved.

Nancy said, "I would like to thank the sewing group very much for the beautiful quilt so kindly gifted to me. I am completely overwhelmed at your generosity and admire the lovely craftsmanship and time taken to create it. Thank you all once again."



FORFAR ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER NEWS F.A.C.T

The Annual General Meeting for 2019 took place on 13th June. Rev Maggie Hunt opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. The Treasurer presented the Accounts which showed that a total of £3065.42 had been raised for the designated charity, the Inspiration Orchestra. Proceeds from the visit by the Salvation Army Band in December and Lent Lunches were the main sources of income, although other smaller sums were also donated through the year. Discussion ensued on the charity to be supported in the upcoming year. The final decision was for two charities to be helped, the British Legion (as this is the year we are remembering the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings) and the Salvation Army Band from Bellshill who have visited Forfar on the second Sunday of December for many years. The Band fund their uniforms, instruments and travel and a contribution to their costs was well overdue.

The officials for the year 2019/2020 were then confirmed. Rev Maggie Hunt stood down as Chair and was replaced by Rev Brian Mulraine. Lexi Smart and Lynda Stobbs indicated their willingness to continue in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The position of Vice Chair was next on the Agenda and our Rector agreed to fill this role.

The Inspiration Orchestra are visiting Forfar on 16th August and will be presenting a concert in the East and Old. A cheque will be given during the evening and a large audience is hoped for. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

As well as the Inspiration Orchestra concert on 16th August supported by FACT, on Sunday 3rd November there will be 'War-Time Big Sing for Remembrance' in the East and Old at 7.00 p.m. It is hoped that all Forfar Churches will participate in this event. The Salvation Army Band from Bellshill will be visiting us on 8th December; they will be in Kirriemuir in the morning, Glamis Castle in the afternoon and presenting a Christmas-themed evening at Lawson Memorial at 6.30 p.m.

Judy Hill and Margaret Cousins, FACT Representatives for St John's

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NYCOS Concert

St. John's was very privileged to host the Summer concert of the Angus branch of NYCOS - the National Youth Choir of Scotland. Apparently, members are aged up to 25; those appearing at St. John's ranged



from the youngest at probably about 5 to the eldest in their teens. Apart from the wonderful sound they made, the impression was of great enjoyment, but with a professional approach. It was a wonderful experience for us, and they performed a very varied programme. They ended without using their voices at all, by making a very realistic sound of a windstorm, and obviously loving it. The church was packed with rightly proud parents and grandparents. They will be welcome any time, the more the merrier.

Royal visit to St. John's

In contrast to our usual visitors, the first day of July saw a very welcome



and important visit from the Earl and Countess of Forfar (Wessex). They were doing a



whistle-stop tour of Forfar, and came to St. John's to see the church where the

Earl's grandmother, the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, had been confirmed. She visited in 1981, so it was very good to keep up the connection.

The couple signed our visitors' book and spent quite some time in the church, much to the dismay of their security detail who could be seen anxiously looking at their watches.

We hope their visit to Forfar will be repeated before too long.



Forthcoming Events—dates for your diary

Tuesday 6th August – Doors open 6.30pm – St John’s Fundraising Bingo Evening at the Legion. Eyes down 7.30pm!

Friday 16th August – 7.30pm – National Trust Angus Members Centre – Concert & Supper – St John’s Church and Hall (for supper)

Friday 16th August – 7.30pm – Inspiration Orchestra – East & Old Church – FACT charity of the year 18/19

Thursday 22nd August – 10-3 – Prayer Workshop – St John’s Church Hall

Sunday 8th September – Following morning service – Congregational Meeting

Saturday 21st September – 10-12 – Christian Aid Coffee Morning – St John’s Church Hall

Sunday 22nd September – 9-9.30 – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Sunday 22nd September – 11am morning service – Black Watch Standard Rededication – St John’s

Sunday 29th September – 11am Sung Eucharist – Harvest Festival & Gift Day

Sunday 13th October – 11am Sung Eucharist – Bishop Ian presiding

Wednesday 16th October 10.15am Said Eucharist with Service of Healing

Wednesday 30th October – 10.15am Said Eucharist – Commemorating All Souls’

Friday 1st November – Evening – St John’s Annual Dinner & Speaker

Monday 18th November – 7.30pm – St Petersburg Russian Choir in St John’s Church

Sunday 24th November – Following morning service – Annual Meeting

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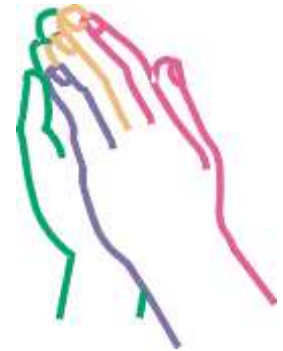
Prayer Workshop – Thursday 22nd August 2019 – 10am-3pm – St John’s Church Hall

Our struggles in prayer are far more common than we like to admit. Self-discipline does not come easily to most people. Sustaining a regular pattern of prayer whilst living with many demands on our time and attention tests our resolve. Life’s difficulties can take their toll, causing a dryness in prayer just when we had hoped for refreshment.

Our temptation is to ignore or deny the difficulties and gradually give up, accept convenient shallowness, or prefer alternative activities. Yet beneath these can be a silence born of guilt, despair, resentment or confusion as any effort to pray is experienced as hollow or self-defeating in a way that can be difficult to talk about, particularly with other Christians. There can be a conspiracy of silence and collusion where we say that Christians should pray and prayer is talked about but rarely shared together or explored personally.

Some may never have tried prayer outwith the walls of the church. Others may have a joyful prayer life and could share that experience as encouragement to others, and there is always more to learn. Whatever your situation, this is a day set aside to help us all, everyone is welcome!

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.



GENESIS a reminder of our trip to St Drostan’s

They say when God the Father made the earth

He rolled between his palms its rocks and clays

Then breathed upon it to give life a birth,

And it was done and set into its place.

But ere He sent it spinning into space,

He gave it one last little pat, in love;

And there the mark remains, upon the face

Of Angus – the thumb the Tay, And then above.

Glen Isla, Prosen, Clova, Esk, these four

God’s fingers fashioned and His palm, Strathmore.

Four fair green glens reach far into the west,

And of them all, the loveliest and best

Is Esk – Glen Esk – by loving gesture given,

God’s little finger left the mark of Heaven.

John Angus

My Inspiration

Inspiration is a stroke of brilliance

A realisation

Originality

Individuality

Inspiration is someone changing your life

Camaraderie

Companionship

Solidarity

Inspiration is understanding a difficult concept

Achievement

Accomplishment

Fulfilment

Inspiration is the birth of a child

Miraculous

Spectacular

Wondrous

Inspiration is the knowledge of your ancestry

Humbling

Reassuring

Enthralling

Inspiration can be anything

Anyone

Anywhere

Anytime

Inspiration is always there:

You just need to know where to look.

Andrew Pye 2019 (Fay’s grandson)

Second place Rotary Young Writer’s competition 2019 Senior level

And some wise words

Give me a good digestion, Lord
And also, something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord
And sense to keep it at its best

Give me a mind which is not bored
That does not whimper, whine or sigh,
That does not worry over much
About that fussy thing called I

Give me a healthy mind Good Lord
To keep the good and pure in sight,
Which seeing sin is not appalled
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.

Repairs, renovations and improvements

With extensive property such as St. John's it will come as no surprise that repairs and renewals are constantly ongoing. In common with many churches the roof is a major element and, in this respect, we are no different. A professional survey is carried out every five years in an attempt to identify problems before they become major items. This mostly works: unfortunately, it still leaves some relatively minor items that need to be repaired or replaced, and these are not necessarily cheap.

In the case of St. John's roof, several items have been attended to and a few more such as gutters are awaiting attention. The Vestry is always considering ways to fund repairs, including but not restricted to the possibility of obtaining grant monies.

The recent use of a "cherry picker" to obtain access to the Green Street side of the roof was a significant moment here in Forfar as that necessitated the closing of Green Street to all traffic for a number of hours. Hopefully we were not too unpopular as a result.

The tower roof is in very poor condition, the lead covering having been patched and then patched again is now past the end of its realistic lifespan, so rather than yet another temporary patch, the plan is to do the job properly, thereby keeping the integrity of our beautiful church for generations to come. Money, as always will need to be raised for this, and again grant assistance is being sought.



Looking north across the tower roof. Patches on top of patches!



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