



EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

December 2019

£5 per annum or 50p monthly



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Scottish Charity No 0165572

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Front Cover *Getting to know ... this month, Bishop Ted*
Previous months, Douglas Burt, Marie Hill, Bishop Ian, Roger Cousins, Madeline Kingston, Michael Hill, Richard Finch, Alison Peden

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The last verse of ‘Hark! The herald angels sing’ is a familiar one to us all – “Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.” Am I looking forward to Christmas and a time of peace and healing? Well, of course. But I am prompted with these thoughts ahead of Christmas as I contemplate the General Election scheduled to be held in the United Kingdom on 12 December. It is two and a half years since the previous election in June 2017.



As families are crossing off the presents on their Christmas list, scratch their heads, “did I buy this for Uncle Robert last year? How old are the twins now? Is this too small, too boring? Can I buy it locally?”, we need to think through what each of the political parties is offering and place a cross on a ballot paper. For once in my life, I may consider the Christmas list easy, compared to the ballot paper. As someone who sees every shade of grey, placing a cross on the ballot paper means a ‘best fit’ rather than agreement on everything in any one manifesto.

God’s manifesto on the other hand is made simpler (though not easy!) because we have an example to follow in Jesus. He comes with healing in his wings. There is little or no evidence in the past two and a half years and in the current main party manifestos that building unity and healing divisions is a priority for any of the politicians. So, it’s up to us! Everything in our witness must point to God’s way.

So often that way is counter-cultural, against our norms – it’s not about being in competition; there is no equivalence between what we give and how much we get. There are no such divisions in a gift economy. We give what we can without any expectation of reward – we share our gifts whatever they may be.

As the angels herald Christmas we too must be ready to help spread the healing.

With love, Elaine

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JOHN’S & ST MARGARET’S, LUNANHEAD

Advent 4—Sunday 22nd December

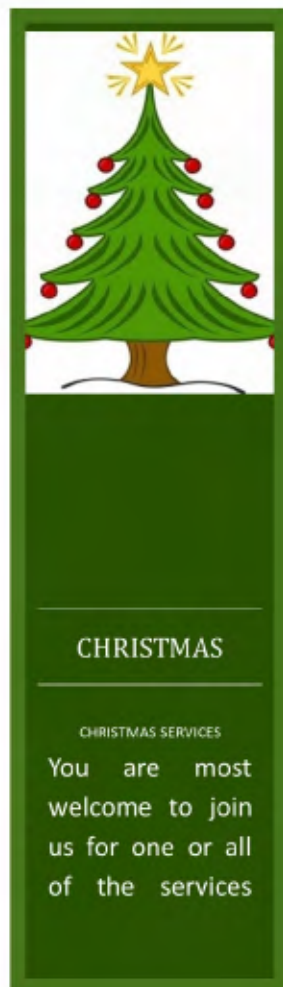
11am—Carols and Readings for Advent and Christmas at St John’s
 Followed by Christmas refreshments
 12.30pm—Said Eucharist in the Lady Chapel

Christmas Eve

6pm—Family Carol Service at St Margaret’s
 11pm—Sung Eucharist at St John’s (wrap up warmly!)

Christmas Day

10am—Family Sung Eucharist—at St John’s



Recent Entries in the Church Registers

1st September – 30th November

Deaths

Sheila Blair

Ina Grant

Charlie Bruce-Gardyne

Getting to knowBISHOP TED



Bishop Ted - Rt. Rev. Edward Luscombe former Bishop of Brechin and Primus

I was born in Devon ninety-five years ago. We were a church-going family, and from my early teens I felt a vocation to the ministry, I left Torquay Grammar School in 1940 to begin training for ordination at Kelham Theological College. However, after two years I volunteered for the Indian Army, and was commissioned into the Hyderabad Regiment. A brief spell of real soldiering followed by three months convalescing, left me downgraded medically and I was posted to a large military centre in the Punjab, initially as Adjutant.

In 1946 I married a young Dundee-trained doctor serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps who had almost certainly earlier saved my life. We were married for forty-six years until her death. She was a constant support to me through all the metamorphoses of my life. As India moved towards Independence, we both elected to stay on, — she in a Military Hospital and I latterly commanding a mixed company (Hindu, Muslim and Sikh) on duties in aid of the Civil Power during the dreadful massacres in the Punjab. A legacy of my time in the East was recurring bouts of malaria.

We returned to Britain in 1947. I had not lost my faith, but no longer felt a call to ordination. After qualifying as a CA, I became a partner in an old-established firm of Glasgow Chartered Accountants. While we were in Glasgow, our only daughter, Jean, was born. She is a solicitor, now living in Perth and has two married sons. As a layman, I became much involved in church affairs and for many years was Honorary Treasurer of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

I spent eleven years in public practice. Towards the end of that time my sense of vocation re-appeared. I passed the Ordination Examinations and after a post-graduate year at King's College, London, was ordained priest at the age of thirty-nine. A curacy in my own church in Glasgow was followed by four years as Rector of St. Barnabas, Paisley and then another four years as Provost of St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee. In 1975, I was elected as Bishop of Brechin, and ten years later, as Primus. There have been some high points: Unification of the Churches in North India 1970; one of the four pall-bearers at Archbishop Michael Ramsey's funeral in Canterbury Cathedral; Desmond Tutu's enthronement in Capetown Cathedral; a visit to the Christian Hospital in Gaza with Archbishop Runcie during the Intafada; linking Brechin Diocese with Iowa and Swaziland; seeing the Diocese grow over the fifteen years and baptisms increasing by fifty-percent; building St. Drostan's Hostel in Tarfside. And there were lows. A motor accident in Montrose when both my legs were broken and my face badly injured; giving up driving after seventy-five years was a great wrench.

I retired in 1990, but remained as Chairman of the Inter-Anglican Finance Committee, entailing travel to a number of overseas provinces. For a short time I kept the Chairmanship of the Committee of the Anglican Centre in Rome. I was a member of Tayside Health Board for five years and a Governor of the Northern College of Education, as well as of Glenalmond College, Lathallan School and Tealing Village School Board.



Teenage Soldier

At the suggestion of the then Principal of Dundee University, I went back to the classroom, and graduated M.Phil in 1991 and Ph.D in 1993, when I was appointed to an Honorary Research Fellowship. Since then I have occupied my time in writing books and booklets — mostly on Episcopal churches and clergy, for many years in collaboration with Stuart Donald, Archivist and Keeper of the Library in Aberdeen and Orkney Diocese. And I am still addicted to cross-word puzzles, although no longer competitively.

I am profoundly grateful to have had so many opportunities in my life; for the fellowship in Saint John's, and for those kind friends who see that I can get to church. Without whom ...!

Tuesday Club – 12th November 2019

Churches of Scotland – models – Robin Wardhaugh

Robin began by explaining that it was in finishing a model begun by his father, David, that he had caught his father's enthusiasm.

By coincidence, David had brought his scale model of the House of Dun, including reproductions of the antique furniture of all the rooms, to a Tuesday Club meeting in February 1992. It was then quite touching to see a picture of Robin's little granddaughter busying with her own model – the enthusiasm has passed on, now in the 4th generation.



Robin opened with screenings of a series of 'tin churches', marketed as 'tabernacles', that are to be seen even after more than 100 years. One in Wormit is still going strong, light, airy and spacious. They became important in the 19th century as a stop-gap following the great expansion in population, and indicate that the church was awake to the needs of the people. It is astonishing to realise that we had factory production, of what we might call 'flat packs' in the early 19th century.

Amongst the models on display, were Glen Isla Church, Careston Castle and St. Serf's near Dunning to name but a few. Robin's 'subjects' were not confined to Scotland. They included the famous Hardwick Hall, a historic fort in Qatar, a penal colony building in Tasmania, and the earthquake-damaged Cathedral in Christchurch N.Z.

Christchurch N.Z.

The speaker at the December meeting, Major Jim McCluskey, will be talking about the work of the Salvation Army. All are welcome.

Gordon Miller

POWER WALKING FASHION SOCIAL MEDIA

The Norman Shaw Building in Westminster is an eight minute power walk from the Chamber of the House of Commons.

Kirstene Hair MP was the speaker at our 15th annual supper and talk held on Friday 1st November. She enthralled us with accounts of some aspects of her life and her experiences representing the interests of all constituents in Angus during the past two and a half



years. At 7 o'clock a miserable wet autumnal day was enlivened for some 80 members of our congregation and guests by a convivial welcome in the Church Hall followed by a delicious meal accompanied by a veritable buzz of conversation and laughter.

'Orderrrr Order' was called and Kirstene rose to deliver a lively talk full of anecdotes, as well as some more serious issues about being an MP and surviving life in the city of Westminster. The Division Bell is rung eight minutes before a vote in the Chamber of the House of Commons and Kirstene can power walk within that time through underground tunnels from her office in the Norman Shaw Building to the Chamber. Waiting in the lobbies in the House of Commons to vote, MPs strike up unlikely friendships with fellow MPs, both government and opposition, and have conversations ranging from fashion to more serious subjects such as how to protect against abuse on social media.



Soon after arrival at Westminster, Kirstene presumed that her House of Commons mail would be automatically delivered to her office and it was only after a while that she was told to go to the mail room to make arrangements. On presenting herself at the mail room, she was greeted with 'Ah, Miss Hair we were expecting you, you have some mail.' Being a self sufficient lass from Angus, as she was presented with a bag of mail, saying thank you and turning to take it to her office, the mail room attendant said 'but wait a minute, there are another five bags!' - she decided to make arrangements.

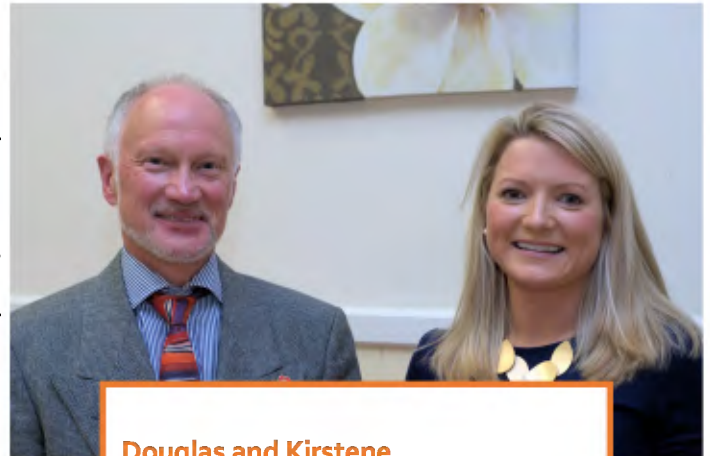
No heckling please

Yes, Kirstene ably illustrated how Westminster does perhaps reflect much of normal interaction in society. We may have listened to the youngest guest to date to deliver

the after dinner talk but Kirstene's relatively young years belied the wealth of experiences that she could tell us about.

Events such this do not happen without the committed input from a number of people and grateful thanks are extended to all who organized the evening, prepared the meal and contributed the legendary puddings.

Douglas Burt



Douglas and Kirstene

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FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 1st December – 2pm – Afternoon Prayer – St Margaret’s, Lunanhead

Tuesday 3rd December – 7.30pm – Advent Studies (Ecumenical Group) – Forfar Community Church

Saturday 7th December – 10am-12md – St John’s Christmas Craft Fair & Coffee Morning

Sunday 8th December – 4.30pm – Diocesan Advent Carol Service – St Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth

Sunday 8th December – 6.30pm – Bellshill Salvation Army Band Concert – Lawson Memorial

Tuesday 10th December – 7.30pm – Advent Studies (Ecumenical Group) – Forfar Community Church

Tuesday 10th December – 7.30pm – Tuesday Club – Major Jim McCluskey – *Salvation Army*

Tuesday 17th December – 7.30pm – Advent Studies (Ecumenical Group) – Forfar Community Church

Friday 20th December – 4-7pm – Open House at the Rectory for some pre-Christmas cheer

Saturday 21st December – morning – clean and decorate church for Christmas

Saturday 21st December – 11-11.30am – FACT Open Air Christmas Carols at the Cross

Sunday 22nd December – 11am – Carols and Readings – St John’s

Sunday 22nd December – 12.15pm – Said Eucharist (Lady Chapel) at a suitable point following festive refreshments

Sunday 22nd December – 7pm – FACT Big Sing for Christmas – St Margaret’s, Forfar

Tuesday 24th December – 6pm – Family Carol Service – St Margaret’s, Lunanhead

Tuesday 24th December – 11pm – Sung Eucharist – wrap up warmly!

Wednesday 25th December – 10am – Family Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day

Sunday 29th December – 11am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 5th January 2020 – 11am – Sung Eucharist for Epiphany with the Rev Canon Alan Tilson

Sunday 5th January – 2pm – Afternoon prayer – St Margaret’s, Lunanhead

Sunday 12th January – 11am – Sung Eucharist – Baptism of Christ

Tuesday 14th January – 7.30pm – Tuesday Club – Lord Lyon King of Arms, Rev Canon Dr Joe Morrow

18th – 25th January – Prayers for Christian Unity – Events to be confirmed

Sunday 19th January – 11am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19th January – 2pm – Afternoon Prayer –
St Margaret’s, Lunanhead

Friday 6th March – World Day of Prayer – Hosted
by Lawson Memorial – Events to be confirmed

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Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg – Monday 18th November 2019



The evening may have been cold but the performance by the choir was of a calibre rarely heard. St. John's excellent acoustics certainly helped to create an experience that will hopefully be happily remembered long

after thoughts of cold nights are forgotten.

The programme included both Folk and Sacred songs, some performed by all eight members of the choir, others being solo performances by the individual members of the choir. Completely unaccompanied, it was incredible how human voices alone were able to create such sounds; one comment overheard was that the music was so complete that one could almost hear a full orchestra in the background.

Unsurprisingly at the end of the performance an encore was demanded by the audience, and this was a lovely interpretation of Robert Burns "My love is like a red red rose". This was in fact an arrange-

The ever smiling Anatoly Artamonov brought humour to his singing as well



ment by John McIntosh, choirmaster at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Dunoon, and was especially appreciated by Rev Elaine who studied with John McIntosh.

During the interval the audience were treated to a welcome glass of wine for which many thanks go to Fay and Judy. As is common with such events the performers were hosted by members of the congregation and again thanks to Fay and Pat for, not only finding accommodation for the choir but also for

providing a wonderful dinner for the choir members following the performance. It is hoped that Conductor Jurij Maruk and his choir will return soon.

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READERS' ROTA

Sunday December 1, 2019 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14

Reader – Madeline Kingston

Sunday December 8, 2019 – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13

Reader – Eleanor Rowlands

Sunday December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10

Reader – Douglas Burt

Sunday December 22, 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of carols and readings: 7 readers to be confirmed

Tuesday December 24, 2019 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader - Nora Craig

Wednesday December 25, 2019 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7

Reader – Madeline Kingston

Sunday December 29, 2019 – First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18

Reader - Walter Lee

Sunday January 5, 2020 – The Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12

Reader - Fay Slingsby

Sunday January 12, 2020 – Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43

Reader - Lee Winks

Sunday January 19, 2020 – Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Reader - Nora Craig

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Readers Rota cont'd

Sunday January 26, 2020 – Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Reader - Eryl Rowlands

Sunday February 2, 2020 – Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18

Reader – Douglas Burt

Sunday February 9, 2020 Epiphany 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Reader - Lee Winks

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Annual Meeting 24th November 2019

St. John's Annual Meeting was held in the Church after the morning service and well attended. Chairing the meeting was Rev. Elaine accompanied at the table by Ingrid Jaekel, our new Secretary and Roger Cousins, Treasurer.

Rev. Elaine explained the format of the meeting and then summarised her report covering the various matters both arising during the past year and those for consideration during the forthcoming year. The overall emphasis being a positive one; to make the next year one of growth and development.

The Treasurer's report was regrettably not so positive, as the financial side shows an actual loss of £5,000, a figure that hides the real deficit of £20,000, the difference being made up from various legacies, refunds and one-off donations. In view of the ongoing maintenance costs involved in keeping our beautiful Church in a fit state of repair, as Roger put it when referring to our fundraising, must do better!

Brief reports followed covering Golden Group, Tuesday Club, World Day of Prayer and March 2019 Synod.

And finallyGordon's Mulled Wine

Before attempting this recipe plan to spend quite some time in travel as well as in the second time element, the actual preparation of the finished tippel. The latter is important as it is essential to taste at every stage of the production process. Too little time here could seriously affect the pleasure to be derived from what should be a most enjoyable experience. The first travel element is due to making a trip to Canada for one of the ingredients, Canadian maple syrup, although for those who are really short of time a good local delicatessen could be substituted for this part.



On to the process itself. First a good quality red wine, preferably in a larger quantity than initially thought necessary; see second time element above. Pour a little of the wine into a suitable heatproof pot, but first ensure that the wine is in good condition by sampling a little. Add sugar, granulated is fine, in the quantity of three heaped desert spoonful's for each bottle of wine that will be used. Turn on a gentle heat and dissolve the sugar while constantly stirring. Unfortunately most of the alcohol in the resulting syrup will be lost but don't worry the balance of the wine should be fine. It is worth tasting it again to make certain though. Now add a cinnamon stick, star anise, and whole nutmeg, one of each for every two bottles of wine. Allow the mixture to cool and then add the remaining wine, stir and taste again. It will be quite sharp at this stage. Add the juice of an orange or two and some slices of orange and lemon to the pot. Taste again, and if the pot of wine does not appear blurred add the final ingredient, dark maple syrup, to taste, while warming gently. This may involve several more tastings to ensure that it is ready for consumption.

Finally make certain that a comfortable chair is close by and enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas