

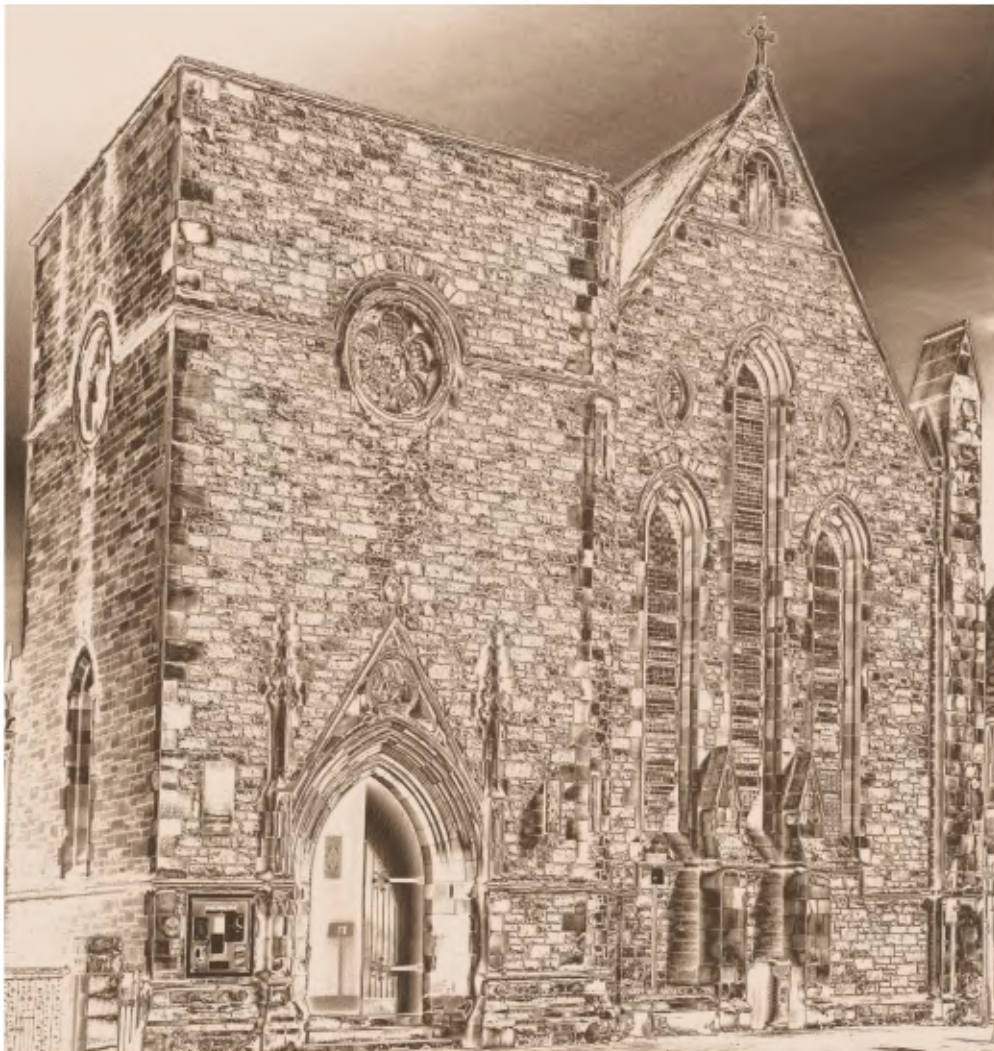


# EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist  
Forfar

January – February 2020

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## Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's [www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk) you can also find information at the following on-line resources:

Inspires Online <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/>

Inspires Online is the free e-newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church – to subscribe please use the address above and then the sign-up box on the footer of that page.

Pisky.scot – <http://pisky.scot/> This provides the latest in thinking and discussion within the SEC. Previously Inspires Magazine offered a forum for information, discussion and debate. Now pisky.scot allows for that same conversation to be held more publicly and with the invitation to comment and get involved.

Diocesan website address <https://standrews.anglican.org/> – from there you can access all the Diocesan resources and subscribe to the Diocesan e-newsletter.

Snowdrops always remind me of my great aunt Hilda – the only relative on my father’s side who I have ever met. So, important in that way but also crucial because she helped me to identify some of the things that have become significant in what I’ve done and how I’ve lived my life. Snowdrops were Hilda’s favourite flower – February therefore tends to be the month I think more about Hilda and the many little ‘epiphanies’ she helped to reveal. Of course, it didn’t often feel like a ‘eureka’ moment, these glimpses of how things really are, are not obvious at the time but are revealed when we pause to take stock. What seems perfectly obvious now, looks little like that at the time!

We’ve travelled in a matter of a few short weeks, from the revelation of God as a baby in the manger, highlighted by the Magi, through Christ’s baptism in the Jordan and back chronologically to Jesus’ presentation in the temple, Candlemas. Each event reveals more of Christ’s identity. Another revelation, the Transfiguration, we will celebrate in August this year, rather than the Sunday before Lent because we’ll have visitors in the church on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, and I think we should take time with them celebrating their lives and what they do. On this particular Sunday we will be joined by the Forfar Girl Guides, Ranger Guides, Rainbows and Brownies in marking *World Thinking Day*, the day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all ages encourage members to think about the big issues affecting them and their global community. Previous World Thinking Days have tackled the subjects of poverty, gender inequality, environmental sustainability and access to education. Money raised on this day has helped girls around the world – for example, it helped deliver advocacy and leadership training to the Malaysian Girl Guides who went on to launch a successful campaign to end child marriage.



I’m not sure that we’ll have snowdrops in the church on World Thinking Day, but we can help these children and young people learn a bit about how they can live their lives and celebrate the gifts they have, to make a difference to others. We can also take that moment to pause and see where Christ is revealed in our own lives, celebrate it and help build on God’s plan for the world.

*With love*

*Elaine*



Picture taken at the celebration of 25 years of the Ordination of Women at St. Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth



## Mission in St John's

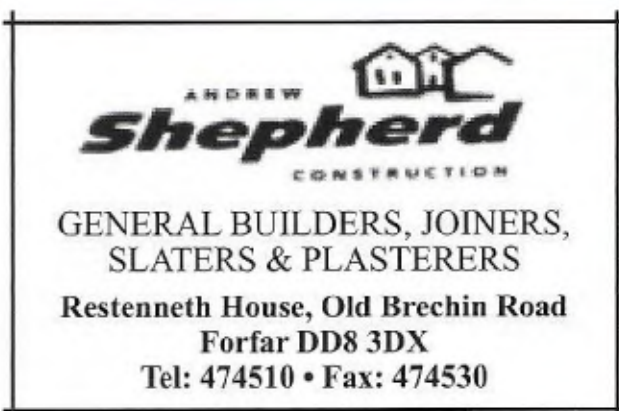
One of the comments that is not far from people's lips when we talk about mission is "well, most of us are a bit older and we don't have the same amount of energy as before". And indeed our average age is that bit older but that does not stop us from being involved in mission. Apart from work that we may do with other churches or other organisations in responding to need around us we can do two big things – we can pray, and we can raise money.

At December's Vestry meeting we discussed our planned giving as a church. Much of it has been to organisations that we have donated to for some years and that is good and unless we want to direct our money elsewhere, we think that should continue. But we could be more deliberate in our giving to other causes and link both existing recipients of our giving and new ones with our prayer activity.

Each month through the *Eagle* and in the pew sheets we'll inform you of who we are planning to raise money for that month, give a little information about the charity and ask people to pray for that organisation or activity. Where possible we will ask speakers to come and tell us about the work of their organisation helping us to envisage what the problems and potential solutions are and equip us to tell other people about the work.

As I talked about in my pastoral letter this month, we have the various sections of the Forfar Girl Guiding Association with us on 23<sup>rd</sup> February as they commemorate World Thinking Day. The World Thinking Day Fund helps girls around the world tackle issues of poverty, equity and education. I look forward to welcoming them at the service and no doubt we'll hear more about what's made possible with this Fund. During the month of February please pray for the work of the Girl Guiding Association around the world especially where it is working to address poverty, equity and education; and pray for its leaders to inspire girls to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of others.

Rector



## Christmas 2019

As always there was a lot going on over the Christmas season, and 2019 was no exception - FACT organised a very good Advent study group in the Forfar Community Church, well attended from all the Forfar churches, comfortable and warm with very welcoming refreshments. Not quite so well attended was the carol singing at the Finavon Care home, but the residents clearly enjoyed the carols and it was lovely to see them.



Carols at The Cross

There was the usual Christmas Coffee morning, which raised £774 and the hamper £104... Open house on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Rectory - lots more mince pies, FACT carol singing at the Cross. The annual Christmas Eve service was held at St. Margaret's Lunanhead. It also was very well attended and definitely child friendly.

The Midnight Eucharist at 11 p.m. was rather more formal, but the lovely service familiar as ever. Christmas Day was certainly not formal – in fact it almost

took the form of a children's party - the gift of Christmas doubling up as a 'pass the parcel' game. It was so encouraging seeing quite a few children there, clearly enjoying the service. It was a wonderful way to start the day.



Golden Group Christmas lunch

*Dorothy*

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## Aberlour



We welcomed Catherine Thomas to our service on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to hear about the services Aberlour provide for children in Scotland. In Catherine's talk we heard about Morgan who is the first young person in her family to go to university. She is photographed with her youth worker Julie. It was good to hear of what the charity does.

Since then the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry has published its Third Case Study Findings which highlights children were physically, emotionally and sexually abused in harsh regimes

in residential institutions run by Quarriers, Aberlour Child Care Trust, and Barnardo's between 1921 and 1991. This clearly was awful for those children who suffered and distresses us all. It is distressing too that potentially money raised by St John's could have been used in this way. However, the evidence is only to 1991 and records show that we gave money from 2003 although it is possible that we gave money before that. There is always a risk in giving monies to charities that there is misuse – we have seen that with other charity sectors. To do nothing to help others is also a risk – arguably a bigger risk. The Vestry will continue to monitor all charitable giving and would urge people to continue to contribute to our retiring collections.

The Aberlour Child Care Trust was asked for a statement in response to the Findings.

"Aberlour Chief Executive, SallyAnn Kelly, has issued a statement in response to the report included below in full.

**"We welcome today's interim findings from Lady Smith and wish to again reiterate our unreserved apology to those who suffered abuse while in the care of Aberlour. We recognise the value and importance of this Inquiry and have co-operated fully throughout in the hope that in doing so, it will bring some degree of closure to those who have never been afforded the opportunity to tell their story.**

**Undoubtedly the Report is difficult to read in many places and includes harrowing testimonies from people who suffered great harm as children. We would like to acknowledge the strength and courage of all of those who were able to come forward.**

**Aberlour is committed to ensuring that we continue to learn lessons from our past and improve our support to children and their families. Lady Smith rightly points out that hearing the voices of children is key to ensuring that we offer the safest care we can. Today we feel that we have an organisation where genuine love for children and a child-centred approach is at the heart of Aberlour.**

**We will continue to digest the findings of the report, as will the whole child care sector, and are committed to doing all we can to ensure that children can live in safety and without fear.**



We would repeat our deep gratitude to those who have spoken to the Inquiry and would encourage any other person to come forward and seek assistance directly from Aberlour or through the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. If you would like to get in touch please contact us.”

The organisation went on to say in 2020, the rights of children and young people are at the heart of everything they do. As well as having clear quality standards they also have stringent financial controls in place and make sure every donation they receive is used to support children, young people and families through relationship-based, personalised support through their network of experienced workers.

Should you have any further concerns please contact the Rector or Aberlour. Details for Aberlour are: 0800 085 6150, enquiries@aberlour.org.uk and Aberlour, Kintail House, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ

*The Vestry*



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## Forthcoming Services and Events

All Sunday services are Sung Eucharists at 11am in St John's unless otherwise stated. All Wednesday services are Communion services (including services from the Reserved Sacrament) at 10.15am in St John's unless otherwise stated.

All Sunday services at St Margaret's, Lunanhead are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> (Lowson) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (St John's) Sundays of the month at 2pm excluding July and August (no services). All services led by St John's are Services of the Word except for February and September which are Communion services.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 2pm – Care Home Service at Benholm Care Home, Glamis Road

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 7.30pm – Tuesday Club *Talking Doric* – Rev Hamish Smith

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 10.15am – Said Eucharist with Service of Healing

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 – 11am – Morning Service celebrating *World Thinking Day* with Forfar Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Ranger Guides

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 – 12.15pm – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 10.15am – Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 2pm – Vestry Meeting – Choir Vestry

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at E & O Church

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church – donations to FACT charity

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – 10.30-11am – World Day of Prayer (short service) – St Margaret's, Forfar

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at St Fergus

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by St Fergus – donations to FACT charity

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7pm – World Day of Prayer at Lowson Memorial Church

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Diocesan Synod – St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7.30pm – Tuesday Club - Radio Lollipop - for children in hospital

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at St Margaret's

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by St Margaret's – donations to FACT charity

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 7.00pm – St John's Quiz Night – Church Hall**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at Forfar Community Church

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by FCC – donations to FACT charity

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at St John's, Choir Vestry

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by St John's – donations to FACT charity



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 202 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at Lawson Memorial Church

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by Lawson Memorial – donations to FACT charity

Holy Week 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April – services to be confirmed

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – 7.30pm – Tuesday Club *Scottish Tapestries* (may be subject to change) Mary Daun

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – afternoon – Daffodil Walk starting at Reswallie House

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 11am – Sung Eucharist with preacher Dr Val Cameron, SEI Student

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 10-12md – St John's Spring Coffee Morning

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Tuesday Club AGM and Outing – details to be confirmed

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – St John's Quiet Day – St Drostan's, Tarfside

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Pitlochry Theatre Trip – *Private Lives* by Noel Coward – tickets for coach and performance £26

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 11am – Petertide Eucharist at Restenneth Priory with Forfar Instrumental Band followed by congregational picnic (all subject to weather)

### **New Bishop for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**

The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson has been elected as the new Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. Bishop Kevin is currently the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles and his election to Glasgow and Galloway represents a historic “translation” of a Bishop from one See to another. The See of Glasgow and Galloway became vacant in 2018 following the retirement of the Rt Rev Dr Gregor Duncan who had served the diocese as Bishop for eight years. Bishop Kevin will take up his new post at a service of installation later in the year, on a date to be announced in due course.



Bishop Kevin has served as Bishop of Argyll and The Isles since February 2011 and before that was Rector of St Michael & All Saints Church in Edinburgh, Canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh and the Provincial Director of Ordinands (responsible for the discernment and selection process for candidates for ministry). He is also currently the Convener of the Council of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (responsible for the training of those entering authorised ministry) and serves on the provincial Standing Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Many of us will know him in the time that he was the interim Bishop for St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane following the retirement of Bishop David Chillingworth until Bishop Ian came into post in October 2018. We wish Bishop Kevin and the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway many congratulations.

### **QUIZ NIGHT: Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020**

The format will be similar to past years and teams can comprise of 4 to 8 persons. Do not worry if you are on your own or just a pair – teams can be put together on the night.

Reception will be at 7pm and the Quiz will commence at 7.30pm. Supper will be served during the Interval.

There will be a prize for the team with the **most** marks and the '*prized wooden-spoon*' for the team with the **least** marks!

Please reserve your space from FRC members or by phoning Douglas – 07841457716 or Fay – 01307 818787 / 07831708996. Tickets at £12 will be available soon.

### **DAFFODIL WALK: Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2020**

#### ***Donations for Marie Curie and St John's***

We have again been invited to join in this very special Annual event which has now become a 'Daffodil Walk' in Memory of Helen & David Lloyd-Jones. The walk will commence from Reswallie House at approximately 2pm and will culminate in tea/coffee & scones & cakes back at the House (donations of scones & cakes will be appreciated). All are welcome including dogs on leads. Final details and timings will be confirmed nearer the time.

### **SPRING COFFEE MORNING : May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **PITLOCHRY OUTING: Matinée 2pm Wednesday June 25th 2020**

#### **Private Lives by Noël Coward**

To ensure that we could get a suitable June date for our Pitlochry outing, Roger made our booking before Christmas! Sadly week-day Matinées are few and far between and the choice of plays limited earlier in the season but I am sure that we will enjoy Noël Coward's classic Private Lives.

The price of the tickets has slightly increased this year, and the 'Early Bird' ticket discount reduced so, after **many** years, we will have to make a minimal increase. This, of course, is dependent upon us 'selling' all the spaces.

Roger will have to pay **in full** for the tickets by the end of February. So, anyone wishing to reserve seats should put their names down with **Fay or Roger** and we will be collecting the sum of £26 per person as soon as possible. The final price will be dictated by the amount of seats sold.....but hopefully we will not need to collect any more.

The format and timings will be the same as usual. The coach will **leave** Letham at 10.30am; stop in Academy Street, Forfar at approx 10.45am, and will then proceed 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.

## **Tuesday Club/Disabled Club Concert Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

The Tuesday Club, in conjunction with Forfar Disabled Club, organised a concert to help raise funds for the hiring of the Forfarian Community Bus to transport elderly and disabled members to the club nights taking place every Thursday evening. These club nights are held in St Johns hall every week for nine months of the year. Summer trips are also organised, and that also involves the hire of buses.

Music was provided by The Carnoustie Traditionals, a fiddle and accordion band, which was invited back by special request. There was lots of feet tapping, hand clapping and those able enough 'took to the floor' for some dancing. Band members told jokes and stories and encouraged community sing-a-longs too, all of which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. Supper was provided and a raffle helped boost the coffers. £430 was raised.

Many thanks to Tuesday Club members who bought tickets, helped with donations of food and also donated prizes for the raffle.

**Carol Douglas**

## **Tuesday Club - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 The Salvation Army by Major Jim McCluskey**

Jim began his talk by recounting his, and his wife Sandra's 'career' development within the S.A. He and his wife trained at the S.A.'s International Training College in London and were ordained in the Royal Albert Hall in 1979. Their first post was Aberdeen, moving to Arbroath in 1980. They were then appointed to Thurso where they oversaw the centenary celebrations which included a visit from the late Queen Mother. She presented the S.A. with her very own banner. Unfortunately the S.A. building did not have a flagpole on which to raise the Royal Standard. Help was sought from the US base in Inverness, who produced a flagpole and quickly erected it in front of the S.A. building ignoring the need for planning permission – there was no time for that! After Thurso, Jim had various posts before coming to Forfar in 1997 where he served for 17 years before he and Sandra retired in 2015. His talk moved on to The Foundation of the Salvation Army within the U.K. and its connections to Angus. A video clip was shown of William Booth being driven through Arbroath and Forfar in 1904. Prominent Salvationists from Angus were David C. Lamb, Friockheim who was the 1<sup>st</sup> Chancellor of the Exchequer for the S.A. and 2<sup>nd</sup> in command after General Booth, also George Scott Railton, Arbroath, whose son Rev. David Railton was the inspiration behind the idea for the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

A vote of thanks was given to Jim for his informative talk, and thanks to Linda who ably acted as slide projectionist.

**Carol Douglas**

## **Tuesday Club - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Lord Lyon**

### **King of Arms - Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph Morrow**

We must emphasise that Dr. Morrow was not with us to merely *talk* about the Office, but to speak as *holder* of the office, a rare privilege for us.



I suppose we can recognise three phrases in Dr. Morrow's delivery: the historic; the present effective; and the world-wide benevolent - and Patriotic influence of the Scottish societies, linked with Dr. Morrow's office by their desire to have authentic 'Arms' and to have him address them, wherever they may be. A common purpose of many Scottish Societies, whether at home or abroad, is to give financial support to those striving to succeed; they lower a ladder rather than pull the ladder up – is the common metaphor.

In his introduction, Dr. Morrow explained that the origins of Arms go back to medieval warfare and the need to recognise friend from foe in close combat. The Office (held by Lord Elgin) is mentioned in minutes from Arbroath Abbey in 1313, but had its origin in 1308. We can sympathise with the instinct and family pride that maintain the concept of Arms alive, but the dignity of Arms has spread into the public sphere. In a way, the design of the actual 'Arms' can inform us to some extent as to the purpose and origins of a body or institution. In the case of the St. Andrew societies, the Saltire is dominant.

Dr. Morrow explained that he would not normally have to comment on the aesthetics of a design when granting Arms, but if it were a matter of offence, he would need to act firmly. In the present day, the Lord Lyon will usually be involved in disputes over inheritance and 'Title', and he has his own court and Procurator Fiscal.

I may not have conveyed the humour and lightness of touch of Dr. Morrow's delivery. Would you take it 'as read'?

**Gordon Miller**

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Talking Doric with the Rev. Hamish Smith.**

## **APPEAL - Premature baby hats**

Dundee Midwifery Unit (DMU) needs your help. Unfortunately, they have run out of knitted hats for their new-born babies. They are looking for anyone who can knit and would be kind enough to get out their knitting needles to donate a few to the unit. If you leave any finished items in the Choir Vestry, we can drop them off at the Dundee Midwifery Unit, level 6, Ninewells.

4 ply yarn; please use pastel colours, a very small ball will do; 3.25mm needles UK 10

Cast on 50 stitches knit 3 rows garter stitch.

k3, yarn forward, k2 tog repeat from to\* until last 3 stitches k3. (This row forms a row of eyelet holes, in case tubes need to be threaded through in the Hospital.)

Continue in stocking stitch or pattern of your choice until work measures 3 inches.

\* k2 k2tog k1 repeat from \* to last 4 k4 = 40st

Next row Purl 2 k2tog k1 repeat to end of row = 32st

Next row Purl1, k2tog to last 2st k2 = 22st

Purl 2tog rep to end of row = 11st

Break off yarn thread through remaining stitches draw up tight and sew down to end of crown.

## READERS' ROTA

### 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

### Sunday February 16, 2020 – Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Reader - Eryl Rowlands

**Sunday February 23, 2020 – Epiphany 7 (Sunday before Lent) Celebration of World Thinking Day. the Forfar Brownies and Girl Guides will be with us. Readings and Readers to be determined**

### Sunday March 1, 2020 – Lent 1

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19

Reader – Lynne Topping

### Sunday March 8, 2020 – Lent 2

Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Reader - Eleanor Rowlands

### Sunday March 15, 2020 – Lent 3

Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11

Reader - Madeline Kingston



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## Looking ahead to Holy Week

On Palm Sunday there will be two opportunities to join with the other Forfar Churches. The first is a walk around the Loch with stops/pauses to offer prayers, and the second is a walk around St Margaret's Church Forfar with tops echoing the Stations of the Cross. There will be refreshments after these two events.

There will be the annual Lochside Service early on Easter Day with refreshments afterwards in St Margaret's Church Forfar.

On Palm Sunday there will be two opportunities to join with the other Forfar Churches. The first is a walk around the Loch with stops/pauses to offer prayers, and the second is a walk around St Margaret's Church Forfar with stops echoing the Stations of the Cross. There will be refreshments after these two events.

The baptism of Christ from 'Sounding the Seasons' by Malcolm Guite, Canterbury Press. Used with the poet's permission, this sonnet was used in the service on 12<sup>th</sup> January (Baptism of Christ) as a lead into the intercessions.

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;

The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,

The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son

Reveal to us the single loving heart

That beats behind the being of all things

And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.

The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings

'You are beloved, you are my delight!'

In that quick light and life, as water spills

And streams around the Man like quickening rain,

The voice that made the universe reveals

The God in Man who makes it new again.

He calls us too, to step into that river

To die and rise and live and love forever.

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Unit 3, 3a Craig O'Loch Road, Forfar DD8 1BT



## Lent 2020 - Lent studies

The first Lent Study will take place on 27th February (The Fire and the Name). Week two will be on 5th March (And all the earth shall cry glory). Week three will be on 12th March (Face to Face). Week four will be on 19th March (Heart to Heart: sorrow and joy). Week five will be on 26th March (Bound together in love and sacrifice). Week six will be on 2nd April (How then would the scriptures be fulfilled).

**Lent lunches** Each Friday during Lent, beginning on 28th February there will be a Lent Lunch hosted by each of the Forfar Churches and held each week in the East and Old Church from 12 noon to 1.30. St John's is responsible for the lunch on March 26th and offers of help to provide soups, French bread, biscuits, milk or help on the day would be most appreciated.

**The World Day of Prayer will be on 6th March this year.** Details elsewhere and more fully in the pew sheet and March Eagle.

Within the next six months there will be a retiring collection after the 11.00 service for Leprosy Mission. Details will be given when the date in St John's is known. The Annual General Meeting of FACT will be held on 18th June 2020.

Judy Hill and Margaret Cousins

FACT Representatives for St John's

## FACT (Forfar Action of Churches Together) NEWS

The Retiring Collection on 8th December was added to the other monies collected on that day when the Bellshill Salvation Army Band visited the Forfar area, the total raised being £1415 and this will be given to the British Legion (one of the designated FACT Charities for the year 2019/2020) in due course.

The Teen Café held at St Margaret's Forfar each Friday afternoon is serving the needs of children from the High School and a plea was made to all the congregations for anyone who would like to interact with youngsters for two hours a week to volunteer. No skills are needed just an empathy with youth. The café runs from 1.30 to 3.30 each Friday during term time.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will run from Monday to Thursday, 20th to 23rd January and there will be a time for Bible Study and Prayer Time each evening at St Margaret's Forfar from 6.00 to 7.00 p.m.

## PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING

**Chic Leslie**

*Qualified Tester*

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Memories of summer

## St John's Episcopal Church, Forfar – it's your Church

We all enjoy the services and activities that form part of life at St John's, but as with any building that is approaching 150 years of age there is quite a lot of ongoing work required to maintain the fabric.

The main efforts currently in hand are to have the tower roof completely refurbished, and the installation of a disabled access ramp at the front door. The former involves completely replacing the existing rotten lead roof and installing new lead, estimated cost for this work is over £50000, a cost hopefully to be at least partially covered by grant monies. The ramp has yet to be fully costed, and although planning permission has now been obtained from the local council, additional permissions from other bodies including the Diocesan Office are being sought, prior to fully costing the project. Fortunately, there are several organisations that help with grant funding for such projects.

In the meantime, you will no doubt have noticed the recent activity on and around the church roof. We even had to get Green Street closed to traffic for a while before Christmas in order to access some of the guttering that has now been replaced. There were several areas on the roof that needed attention and it is good to know that currently planned work is almost fully completed, regrettably costs for this work will have to come from church funds. We do need to keep focused on our fundraising efforts.

A few pictures show some of the recent work.

