



Eagle

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist
Forfar

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Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's 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.

Ready for love?

Were you tossing pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? The day before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent we symbolically use up all the goodies before we take the time to prepare hearts, bodies and lives for the life that's made available through Jesus' resurrection. Lent is only helpful if it points us towards resurrection. Self-denial for Lent is only useful if it points us to all that God has for us. Through the self-denial we make space for what God can give us.

But self-denial inevitably suggests scarcity not abundance which is what God is about. Yes, we need to use the liturgical seasons to help us – Lent and Advent are about preparation, but Lent is not necessarily about giving things up. Many of us will have already lived lives of scarcity – seeking enough love, enough to get by, enough self-worth. If we want to go for giving things up maybe we should be giving things up that are a burden, not just for 40 days but lifelong that would allow us to take more from God. In fact, if we were to focus on more, on practicing more not less then we would be ready to receive more of God's love.

Lent was, in days gone by, a meagre time of the year. In the Northern hemisphere we awaited spring and its freshness of new growth, fresh food, things being more plentiful. It must have seemed that much had already been given up. Nowadays for the most part we are driven neither by scarcity nor faith – we give up the things we worry about – alcohol, meat, biscuits, screen time – but only the things we can tell people about. And so what? We can indulge in them again for another 10 months very shortly.

Let's go back to the God of abundance. God is always wanting to give us more. This Creator God has a hard time giving away more – we resist. "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." (Ezekiel 36.26-17) God is there, ready, waiting – let our preparation this year be about preparing our readiness for that new heart, accepting more of that love, eager to pass it on.

With love

Elaine

In the Act of Becoming Me

I am in the act of becoming me.
You'd think I'd have already become,
but really I've only just begun.

I am in the act of becoming me.
You ask if I've not left it too late.
I smile, "Growth comes to those who wait."

I am in the act of becoming me.
You're curious what I'm going to learn.
"I'll embrace the things for which I yearn."

I am in the act of becoming me.
You want to know what will make me, me.
"I'll only know when I'm flying free."

I am in the act of becoming me.
You smile, and bless me on my way.
"Thank you," I grin. Then dance away!

Anonymous



Nancy Topping Baptism

Sunday 16th February was a joyous day in St John's when the congregation formally welcomed Nancy into the family of our church. Nancy has been worshipping at St John's for many months now and had made the decision to take this step some weeks ago. It was great for that day to arrive and for us all to share in the occasion.



Well done Nancy!

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Tuesday Club - 11th January 2020

Talking Doric - Rev'd. Hamish Smith

Carol opened the batting, as it were, with a reference to Hamish's secure early career and his launching out into the deep, in the Sacred Ministry.

Hamish (I hope you will forgive me for this 'familiarity') began by dismissing any misapprehension that 'Doric' belongs only to 'somewhere up in the north-east'. He explained that the term 'Doric' applies to any local dialect, whether it be Moray, Aberdeen, Peterhead, Angus or indeed Farfar.

He then went on to introduce familiar stories from Aesop, rewritten in the Doric by one Robert Stephen but in poetic form (cleverly done incidentally and humorously). He explained that Aesop belonged, roughly speaking, to the era of Alexander III, or say, fourth century BC, and who may have had slave status. The term 'Doric' by various means, (including skittish), has its origins in ancient Greek Doris, which, of course, also gives us a class of Greek architecture. The fables are about being worldly wise rather than ethical/moral...but then we are told to be 'wise as serpents'. So Hamish used 'The Dog and the Bone', 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and 'The Crow and the Pitcher' to give us the flavour of Robert Stephen's Doric style. Quite hilarious! More soberly, but still charming, Hamish went on to give us excerpts from 'In the Beginning' (OT) and 'By the Shores O'Galilee' (NT).

He concluded with two of his 'shaggy dog' stories following the precept to always leave 'them' laughing. He certainly did. I think we might advertise the evening as a sample of 'Doctor Smith's Winter Cure-all'.

Rector Elaine gave the vote of thanks and we all expressed our appreciation roundly.

Gordon Miller

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th February, when a talk will be given on 'Radio Lollipop' – a volunteer-run service at Ninewells Hospital radio station, mixing music with arts, crafts, toys and games for sick children in the wards. This is the Tuesday Club's chosen charity of the year, which will receive our donations via our Sunshine Bags and Collection Box.

'Come awaa doon, aabody welcome.'

Carol



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Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for churches

The College of Bishops in the Scottish Episcopal Church supports the advice issued by the Church of England in relation to Coronavirus (COVID 19) which has taken guidance from Public Health England.

“Churches should already be following best-hygiene practices that include advising worshippers with coughs and sneezes to refrain from handshaking during The Peace and to receive Communion in one kind only (i.e. bread only).

At present, there is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended.

It is also best practice for churches to have hand-sanitisers available for worshippers to use.

In addition, priests presiding at the Eucharist, communion administrators and servers should wash their hands, preferably with an alcohol-based (minimum 60%) hand-sanitiser.

Intinction (dipping the wafer in the wine) is **not** recommended as this represents an infection transmission route.”

Money for Mission!

Two combined bids from St John’s and St Margaret’s, Forfar have been successful in receiving funding from Angus Council in a scheme called Participatory Budgeting. 144 groups across Angus were involved in developing proposals for a share of £200,000. The 144 proposals received totalled £684,198. The proposals were then shortlisted, with the suitable projects being put forward for online voting and ‘token’ voting at venues across Angus. As a result of the voting process full funding is being given to 71 projects and part funding to another four projects. In Forfar, three church projects were funded in full. Lowson Memorial Church received funding for their children’s holiday club. The Teen Café and the Uniform Pop-Up Shop, the two bids submitted by St John’s and St Margaret’s, were also funded in full. This will allow us to fund the snack lunches and some more games for the Teen Café. We will also be able to provide breakfast for children coming with their parents to the Uniform Pop-Up Shop.

Advertising for the voting, whether online or with tokens at venues across Angus, will hopefully be increased next year. There will be many in St John’s who were not aware of the Participatory Budgeting voting taking place. However, we were successful which shows people are appreciative of the projects and hopefully next year we will have other mission opportunities for which we can seek funding!

Elaine



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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 1st (Lowson) and 3rd (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.

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

Thursday 5th March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at St Fergus

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

Friday 6th March 2020 – 7pm – World Day of Prayer at Lawson Memorial Church

Saturday 7th March 2020 – Diocesan Synod – St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

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

Thursday 12th March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at Lawson Memorial Church

Friday 13th March 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by Lawson Memorial Church – donations to FACT charity

Friday 13th March – 7.00pm – St John's Quiz Night – Church Hall

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 £12. Quizmaster extraordinaire – Douglas Burt



Thursday 19th March 2020 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at Forfar Community Church

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

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

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

Thursday 2nd April 202 – 7.30pm – Lent Studies at St. Margaret's

Friday 3rd April 2020 – 12-2pm – Lent Soup Lunch at E & O Church, hosted by St. Margaret's – donations to FACT charity

Holy Week 6th – 12th April – services to be confirmed

Forthcoming Services and Events—contd

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

Sunday 19th April 2020 – afternoon – Daffodil Walk starting at Reswallie House

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.

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

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

Various stalls, coffee, chat and much more. Donations and offers of help welcome but your presence is paramount— and do bring a friend!

Tuesday 12th May 2020 – Tuesday Club AGM and Outing – details to be confirmed



Thursday 4th June 2020 – St John's Quiet Day – St Drostan's, Tarfside

Relax and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of St Drostan's; last year's visit received rave reviews!

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

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*.

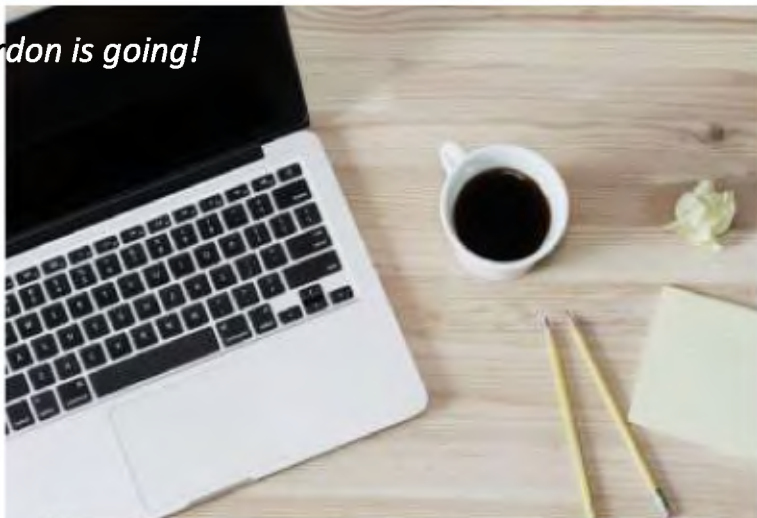
Roger will have to pay in full for the tickets by the end of February. So, anyone wishing to reserve seats should put their names down with Fay or Roger and we will be collecting the sum of £26 per person as soon as possible. The final price will be dictated by the amount of seats sold.....but hopefully 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.

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



This may be of interest to some—Gordon is going!



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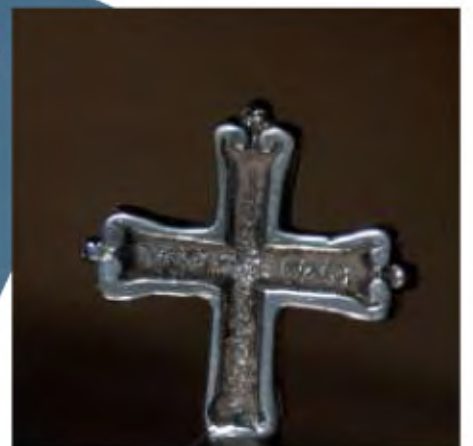
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Just for fun — can you identify these pictures - all in or around St John's?

(Answers at the bottom of page 12)



Holy Week & Easter Services Explained

Evening Prayer on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – These are short (approx. 10-15 minutes services). They are quiet and contemplative with purposeful use of silence.

Chrism Mass held in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. This service is for the whole Diocese. It is well worth the effort of going to Perth to share in this occasion. Bishop Ian will bless the oils used at baptism and those used for the sick. All the Diocesan clergy renew their ordination vows. It is a very moving service.

Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot (or hand) washing, stripping of the altar and Watch – in our own Lady Chapel. Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Triduum, the three-day observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the first part of a continuous rite which encompasses the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The Maundy Thursday service remembers Jesus' actions at the Last Supper. The service is less than an hour long, but people have an opportunity to 'watch' longer if they wish, contemplating, in silence, the remaining sacrament that has been placed in the Garden of Repose from the Eucharist.

Liturgy of Good Friday – the Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday liturgy and hence begins in the silence with which that rite ended. We listen to the Passion story being read. The Cross is brought into the Lady Chapel and there is an invitation to venerate the Cross where we think about what Jesus went through for us. The prayers reflect the solemnity and significance of the day. The service is about an hour in length.

Easter Vigil – The new Paschal Candle is lit and carried through the church, escorted by the congregation bearing candles which are lit during this procession. The candles are part of the rite and not an optional extra. This is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (Ex 12. 42), in which, we follow the instruction in the Gospel (Lk 12. 35-37), that the faithful, carrying lighted lamps in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table. After this 'Liturgy of the Light' we move into the first Eucharist of Easter having renewed our Baptismal Promises. This is a Sung Eucharist with the service taking slightly more than an hour. We **do not** hold the vigil until morning!

Easter Sunday – the Sung Eucharist in St John's is family oriented with the pre-requisite amount of chocolate involved! It involves water too with the renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Services for Holy Week & Easter

Monday 6th April, 5pm, Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel

Tuesday 7th April, 5pm, Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel

Wednesday 8th April, 10.15am, Said Eucharist, Lady Chapel;

5pm, Evening Prayer, Lady Chapel

Maundy Thursday 9th April, 11.30am, Chrism Mass, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth;

5pm, Said Eucharist with foot/handwashing, stripping of the altar and Watch, Lady Chapel

Good Friday 10th April, 2pm, The Liturgy of Good Friday (no Eucharist), Lady Chapel

Holy Saturday, 11th April, 8pm, Easter Vigil (see note above)

Easter Sunday 12th April, 7.45am, FACT Early Morning Easter Service at Forfar Loch;

8.30am, Easter Breakfast at St Margaret's, Forfar;

11am Family Sung Eucharist, St John's

On Sunday 23rd we were 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 issues affecting them and their global community.

Passages from the Testaments were beautifully read by voices considerably younger than those usually heard in St. John's, and very appropriately marking *World Thinking Day*, the Guides were led, with an introduction by Guiding Commissioner Karen Kelly, in renewing their Guiding Promises

The service ended with all the Guides making a spectacular sight as they carried their Colours in procession to mark the conclusion of this part of the morning, followed by coffee and then a short Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. The Retiring Collection raised £63.



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Captions to pictures on page 10 from top left:-
Cross on roof of South wall; Cross on top of Elements Jug; gargoyle at side of window in Green Street;
Carving at top of Hymn board; Top of the 250 year old staff used by Rev George Skene;
Cross above wooden cover for Font; Cross on roof at North gable; Cross on lid of Ciborium (wafers)