



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.

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From the Rector

Many of you will know that I have announced my decision to retire because of ill health. I am facing a health issue that needs me to attend to it. It was a difficult decision, but I will leave at the end of the year. Facing illness is always a challenge but one that many if not all of us deal with at times.

Whether it is illness or some other issue we all experience suffering of some kind. It can take us down two paths: a path that fills us with bitterness, resentment, and blame; or a path that softens our hearts to grow closer to God. For many of us, suffering is a cycle. We go back and forth, holding on and letting go, healing, hurting anew, and healing again.

One of my favourite writers, Richard Rohr, describes this as if we are inside of great love and great suffering where we have a much stronger possibility of surrendering ourselves and opening ourselves to the whole field of life. In great suffering, things happen against our will—which is what makes it suffering. Over time, we can learn to give up our defences, because we seemingly have no choice. We invariably cycle through stages of denial, anger, bargaining, resignation, and (hopefully) acceptance. The suffering might feel wrong, unjust, impossible, physically painful, or merely beyond our comfort zone.

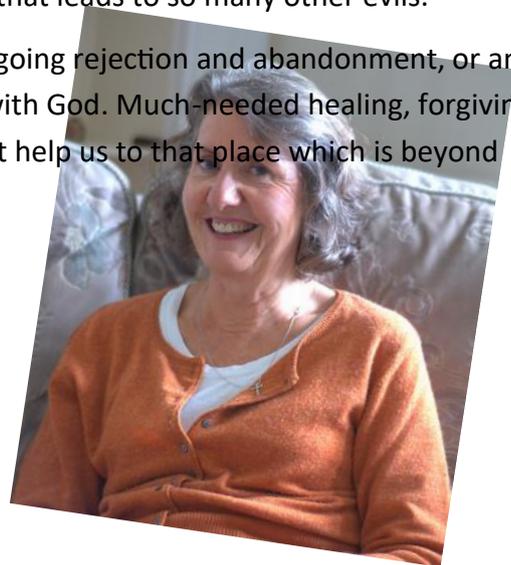
Suffering can make us very bitter and cause us to shut down, or it can make us wise, compassionate, and utterly open, because our hearts have been softened, or perhaps because we feel as though we have nothing more to lose. Suffering often takes us to the very edge of our inner resources where we “fall into the hands of the living God”, even when we are not sure we believe in God! We must all pray for the grace of this second path of softening and opening. This reminds us of “deliver us from evil” in the Lord’s Prayer. We are not asking to avoid suffering. It is as if we are praying, “When big trials come, God, hold on to me, and don’t let me turn bitter or blaming”—which is an evil that leads to so many other evils.

Struggling with all our interior conflicts and moral failures, undergoing rejection and abandonment, or any form of limitation: all are ways to internal peace and alignment with God. Much-needed healing, forgiving what is, and “weeping over” are often necessary experiences that help us to that place which is beyond any immediate recovery.

With love

Elaine

Cover picture: *Affirmation of Lay Ministry with Bishop Ian*



St John’s Annual Meeting
The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held after the morning service on Sunday 4th
December.



£££££ FINANCE £££££

At this time of the year as the gloom of autumn descends upon us so do the annual accounts. A reminder that our end of the year is 31st August and the account has to be approved by Vestry and examined by an external examiner before being tabled at the AGM (note on the calendar: it is 4th December) and submitted to the Charity Regulator.

Over the past couple of years the pandemic has had a major effect on our income but during this time it is gratifying to note that congregational giving has maintained its level with more members opting to contribute on a regular basis by bank transfer. Nevertheless our end of year figure shows a deficit of £10,000 for a reasonably “normal” year and this situation is not sustainable in the long term. What we have missed of course is our ability to hold fund raising events, however I know that plans are afoot to return to something like our previous pattern and I urge all of you to support these occasions whenever possible.

The bright spot in the accounts is the return of hall bookings which under the guidance of Carol have returned to their previous level. The latest hiccup with the hall is the new heating system which it would seem needs planning permission to locate a “box” down the passage at the side of the church and this is taking a long time to achieve. Here we must thank Gordon and Bob for their work (and patience) in this endeavour.

We are enjoying the benefits of the new heating system in the church which was largely funded by a large (but interest free) loan which has to be repaid over the next seven years.

Roger Cousins

Advent Course: People of Bethlehem in Scripture

To Christians, Bethlehem is best known as the birthplace of Jesus, and perhaps secondly as the hometown of David, the founder of the royal dynasty from which he was descended. Bethlehem occurs very much earlier in the Bible, and in the first two occurrences the central characters are women. Their stories also concern issues relevant to Christian faith and life, not least during the season of Advent.

The Reverend Canon Dr Nicholas Taylor, Convenor of the SEC Liturgy Committee and a biblical scholar, will be joined by members of the Church from across Scotland, with varied experience of Christian life and witness in the Middle East, in presenting a series of four studies based on the figures of Rachel, Ruth, David, and Jesus. Sessions will be delivered via Zoom on the Wednesday evenings of Advent (30 November, 7, 14, 21 December), and will include questions for discussion and points for prayer. There will also be a concluding reflection, drawing together the threads of the four studies, on the Wednesday after Epiphany (11 January). All will be welcome to participate, and a recording of the presentation will be available for use at other times. Sessions will begin at 7.30 pm.

The Rector is going to join this Advent Course, so if you want a familiar face on-line but keen to link with others across Scotland, then to receive the Zoom link for the sessions, or if you have any enquiries, please contact Nicholas Taylor nhtaylor@dunelm.org.uk or Jan Benvie jbenvie@yahoo.co.uk.



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GOLDEN GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Ho! Ho! Ho!

The Golden Group is a joint venture with St Mary's Kirriemuir. We have not had the opportunity to meet together since before the pandemic but this year we are again joining together to enjoy Christmas Lunch. We would like this year to extend an invitation to all the members of the two congregations to come along.

The choices for the two course meal are below. There is a vegetarian alternative to the main courses of goat cheese tart but this comes at a higher cost but can be ordered if so wished.

The date is 5th December and the venue is the Queen's Hotel Forfar. We meet at 12 noon and there is a small car park at the rear of the Hotel where folk can be 'dropped off' but there will be insufficient space for all cars to stay and so will need to be moved to a nearby car park.

Turkey with all the trimmings

Steak Pie seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes

Home cooked honey roast ham served with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes

Oven Haddock topped in a tomato pesto breadcrumbs served with salad and roast potatoes

Salted caramel cheesecake

Cloutie dumpling

Chocolate Fudge cake

Sticky toffee pudding

Served with pouring cream or ice cream

All orders together with £19.00 per person will need to be with me by Sunday November 27th. Hope we have a fun time together.

The first weekend of December is a busy one for St John's with the Christmas Fair taking place on Saturday 3rd and then the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 4th (details of these events elsewhere in the magazine), but then a chance to unwind at the Golden Group Christmas Lunch on Monday 5th.

MARGARET COUSINS Tel: 01307 819489

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Forthcoming Services, Meetings, and Events at St John's

November 2022

Wednesday 2nd November – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel – commemorating All Souls'

Sunday 6th November – 11am Sung Eucharist – Pentecost 22 – with the Rector

Wednesday 9th November – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Friday 11th November – 10.50am – Armistice Day Act of Remembrance – St Margaret's, Lunanhead

Sunday 13th November – **10.50am** – Sung Eucharist – Remembrance Sunday – with the Rector – retiring collection for Poppy Scotland

Sunday 13th November – 12.30pm – Civic Remembrance at the Cross

Wednesday 16th November – 10.15am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Lady Chapel – commemorating St Margaret of Scotland

Sunday 20th November – 11am Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament – Christ the King – with Bob Hamilton

Wednesday 23rd November – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Sunday 27th November – 11am Sung Eucharist – Advent 1 – with the Rector – start of Advent Appeal for Aberlour

Wednesday 30th November – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 30th November – 7.30pm – Advent Course: People of Bethlehem in Scripture via Zoom (see advert for details)

December 2022

Saturday 3rd December – 10.00-12.00md – St John's Christmas Coffee Morning – Church Halls

Sunday 4th December – 11am Sung Eucharist – Advent 2 – with the Rector

Sunday 4th December – Annual Meeting follows morning worship

Sunday 4th December – 2pm – Blue Sunday – St Margaret's, Forfar

Monday 5th December – Golden Group – Christmas Lunch – Queen's Hotel, Forfar

Wednesday 7th December – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 7th December – 7.30pm – Advent Course: People of Bethlehem in Scripture via Zoom

Sunday 11th December – 11am Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Advent 3 – with Bob Hamilton

Wednesday 14th December – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 14th December – 7.30pm – Advent Course: People of Bethlehem in Scripture via Zoom

Sunday 18th December – 11am – Carols and Readings – Advent 4 – followed by mulled wine

Wednesday 21st December – 10.15am – Said Eucharist – Lady Chapel

Wednesday 21st December – 7.30pm – Advent Course: People of Bethlehem in Scripture via Zoom

Saturday 24th December – 3pm – Christingle Service – St Mary’s, Kirriemuir

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

Sunday 25th December – 10am – Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day with the Rector

Wednesday 28th December – 10.15am – Said Eucharist for the Holy Innocents – Lady Chapel



The CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING will be in the halls on Saturday, Dec 3rd from 10am – 1.00pm. This will be our first Fund raising event since the Quiz Night the week before ‘Lockdown’ and the first Coffee morning since December 2019! So let us, PLEASE, all make a HUGE effort to make it a success!

In addition to the usual mince pies and coffee (included with the entrance fee) there will be a Cake stall with a fine selection of baking and produce for sale; Craft stall; Gift stall; Tombola and Bottle raffle etc. Although Eleanor is currently away, she will be back in time to run the Cake stall. She will have limited time on her return for baking etc, so all contributions will be most gratefully received. If you haven’t already done so, could you please advise Margaret Cousins (01307 819489) of your intention to contribute.



Anyone who is able to give a hand to set up the halls on the morning of Friday 2nd, commencing at 10am, or is willing to help in any way on Saturday 3rd, please contact Fay (01307 818787). The Halls will be open on the Friday from 10am – 1.00pm for the receiving of saleable items and prizes etc. (Please wrap Tombola prizes in Christmas paper). Where possible edible items should be packed in clear plastic bags or covered with cling film in multiples of 1, 2, 4 or 6. On Saturday the Halls will also be open from 9.00am for helpers and ‘last minute’ baking items prior to doors opening to the public at 10am.



By the time you read this there will be less than two months until Christmas, so a timely reminder to sign up for this year’s card. A sheet will be on the table at the back of the church, and as in previous year’s this is a great way of not only passing on your good wishes to your friends at St John’s, but it also helps raise vital funds.

As always, a big thank you to Eryl for his help with the photography; this year we are featuring the Three Kings and the Flight from Egypt on the front of the card. Hope you like it.



Caring for God's Creation

While we were very aware of the build up to COP26 in Glasgow, UK media has not been so full of articles on COP27 being hosted by Egypt on 6 – 18th November. It aims to build on previous successes and pave the way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. Heads of State, ministers and negotiators, along with climate activists, mayors, civil society representatives and CEOs will meet in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Faced with a growing energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentrations, and increasing extreme weather events, COP27 seeks renewed solidarity between countries, to deliver on the landmark Paris Agreement, for people and the planet. Whilst locally, nationally, and internationally we must find ways to reduce our negative impact on the world, we also have to adapt to the climate crisis.

We know much about how early warning systems can reduce subsequent damage. In Bangladesh for example, even as climate change becomes more severe, the number of deaths from cyclones has fallen by 100-fold over the past 40 years, due mainly to improved early warnings. But today, one-third of the global population is still not adequately covered by early warning systems. And while efforts have focused mainly on storms, floods and droughts, other hazards like heatwaves and wildfires will need to be better integrated as they become more common and intense.

Work to restore ecosystems across the globe will not only absorb carbon but also help defend the world from its most devastating impacts. In cities, restoring urban forests cools the air and reduces heatwaves. On a normal sunny day, a single tree provides a cooling effect equivalent to two domestic air conditioners running for 24 hours. On coasts, mangrove forests provide natural sea defences from storm surges by reducing the height and strength of the sea waves. Moreover, protecting mangroves is 1,000 times less expensive per kilometre than building seawalls.

We also need to build more climate-resilient infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and power lines that can withstand shocks from extreme climate impacts. Infrastructure is responsible for 88% of the forecasted costs for adapting to climate change.

The story of climate change is, in many ways, a story about water, whether it is floods,



droughts, rising sea levels, or even wildfires. By 2030, one-in-two people are expected to face severe water shortages. Investments in rainwater harvesting systems need to be made more widely available whether it is solar-powered wells, boreholes, micro-irrigation technologies, or water reuse systems. In Bagamoyo town, Tanzania, for instance, rising sea levels and drought from declining rainfall were causing wells to dry up and become salty. With no other options, children from the local Kingani School had to drink salt water, leading to headaches, ulcers, and low school attendance. With UN support, the government began constructing a rainwater harvesting system involving rooftop guttering and a series of large tanks for storing water. Diseases soon began to fall, and the children returned to school.

These are all examples of how we can adapt – but there needs to be a willingness to help countries with little financial resource to fund work that will help their country to flourish, where often their young people leave to find work elsewhere. There is much to celebrate in our ingenuity, but we must also keep pressure on our politicians to work in partnership with the long term in mind. Amongst our personal actions, our prayer work is never done!

The Rector

Ref: UN Environment Programme

‘Anglican’ Christianity: A four-part series in Advent 2022

What does it mean to be an ‘Anglican’ Christian?

Over 40 Churches around the globe, consisting of no less than 85 million people, identify themselves as ‘Anglican’. Yet, Anglicans are divided among themselves in terms of doctrine and practice as was demonstrated in the most recent Lambeth Conference (Summer 2022). This Series looks to four staples that Anglicans have classically identified as the bases of their doctrine and practice to highlight harmony rather than discord.

The Series will be offered on the Mondays of Advent 2022 at 7pm (Edinburgh time) in four 30-minute webinars, each of which will be posted on YouTube. The Series is meant to be a resource for Anglicans/Episcopalians to use creatively during the Season of Advent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a conversation starter for church groups, with discussion questions at the end of each webinar.

1. Holy Scripture: ‘all things necessary to salvation’ and the rule of faith (Monday 28 November)
2. The Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds: symbols and statements of faith (Monday 5 December)
3. The Dominical Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper (Monday 12 December)
4. The historic Episcopate: a universal and locally adopted means of unity (Monday 19 December)

Presenter: Revd Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies and Tutor, Scottish Episcopal Institute. Time: 7pm to 7.30pm (Edinburgh time) on Monday evenings in Advent 2022.

Registration is free. All are welcome. The link to register is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/anglican-christianity-a-four-part-series-in-advent-2022-tickets-451697538497>



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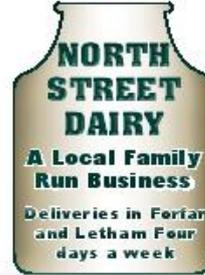
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High Flight

By Pilot Officer John G Magee, Jr.

An American Citizen Who Gave His Life

With the Royal Canadian Air Force

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth

And danced the skies on laughter-silvered Wings

Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of
sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things you have not
dreamed of .

Wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence,
hov'ring there.

I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung my eager
craft through footless hails of air.

Up, up the long delirious burning blue I've topped the
wind swept heights with easy grace.

Where never lark, or even eagle flew and, while with si-
lent lifting mind I've trod the high untrodden sanctity
of space put out my hand and touched the face of God

Poem submitted by Gordon Miller

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A New Editor for the Eagle—you?

We extend our grateful thanks to Lynne Topping for the work she has done editing the Eagle. Due to work commitments, she has had to step down. Gordon Garman has taken up the reins temporarily, but we seek a new editor. If anyone would like to try this out Gordon is very happy to support them.

Review of Angus Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan

Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) is reviewing its Strategic Commissioning Plan. This plan describes the way that adult health and social care services are delivered in Angus. A new plan will take effect from April 2023.

People are invited to tell AHSCP what is important about adult health and social care service in Angus and what they think about the Partnership's vision and current priorities. They consider it is important that new plan is informed by as many people as possible. There will be an opportunity to provide comments on the new plan later in the year.

Please visit the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership website www.angushscp.scot for more information where there is a link to their survey.