



EAGLE

The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

December 2020

£5 per annum or 50p monthly



Rector – Rev Elaine Garman

01307 463440

Email revelainegarman@outlook.com

Scottish Charity No 0165572



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.

RECTOR - The Revd. Elaine Garman
(01307 463440 mobile 0773 3151458
email rector@stjohnsforfar.co.uk)

ELECTED VESTRY MEMBERS:-

Mrs Colvina McBay (463097)
Mr Albert Shepherd (464 600)
Mrs Lee Winks (07547 310811)
Mrs Lynne Topping (01307 850297)

EXOFFICIO VESTRY MEMBERS

SECRETARY - Ingrid M Jäckel (07852 158499)
TREASURER - Mr Roger Cousins (819 489)
LAY REPRESENTATIVE - Mrs Marion Ingram Walker
(01828 640 318)

OFFICERS

FINANCE CONVENER - Mr Albert Shepherd (464 600)
ALTERNATE LAY REPRESENTATIVE - Mrs Colvina McBay
(463097)

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER - Mr Neil Smeaton (818 714 and 01224 210 355)

HALL CONVENER - Mrs Carol Douglas (464 610)

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR - Miss Madeline Kingston (463 185)

FUND RAISING - Mrs Fay Slingsby (01307 818787)

TUESDAY CLUB - Mrs Evelyn Balfour (818 648)

FLOWERS - Mrs Marie Hill (465 587)

GIFT AID - Mr John Webster (467 696)

STEWARDSHIP RECORDER - Mrs Carol Douglas (464 610)

FACT REPRESENTATIVES - Mrs Margaret Cousins (819 489) Judy Hill (818787)

MAGAZINE - Gordon Garman (01307 463440) (Mob/ Text 07799134869) Lynne Topping (01307 850297)

Submissions to: gordongarman@aol.com

DIOCESAN SECRETARY – Ms Carol Aitchison (01738 443 173)

Website: www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk

Merry Christmas

Advent means coming and like the early pioneers of the church who named this season when light and life are fading it feels apt – that something will be at the end of this – and very pertinent in this Covid-19 world when we are hunkered down but know something lies at the end. If we fast nowadays we tend to do that in Lent but there is a tradi-

tion too at Advent to set aside these days of December to fast, give, and pray—all ways to strip away the unnecessary, to focus on the ‘one thing necessary’ that there is One who is the source of all life, One who comes to be with us and in us, even, especially, in darkness and death. One who brings a new beginning. This is a message just as relevant today.

We don’t know what levels of circulating virus there may be by Christmas Day and we may still be grappling with our decision over what it will be safe to do for us at Christmas. Of course we all desire to visit who we wish but listening to the radio this morning it is clear even with the lifting of visiting restrictions over Christmas, some people do not feel it is worth the risk of higher levels of virus in the weeks that follow. Such difficult decisions for Government, and for families, and for individuals. Given the situation it is perhaps easier than most years to reflect on darkness in the Advent season.

But what do we do with this darkness? Uncertainty is a kind of darkness that many people find unbearable. We like to have certitude, and in its absence we often surround ourselves with our own conclusions and dismiss or ignore any evidence to the contrary. The very meaning of faith stands in stark contrast to this mindset. We ought not to ignore reality and instead be filled with the spirit of questing, a desire for understanding. In some ways it is like learning to ‘see in the dark’. We can’t be certain of what’s in front of us, but with some time and patience, our eyes adjust, and we can make the next right move. Once we can see the path, we discover grace, love, mercy, and forgiveness that help us to survive and flourish in an uncertain world.

Have a blessed Advent and joyful Christmas knowing that we never stop trying out new paths, that we will learn things along the way where we can find peace and joy.

With love

Elaine



"It's just that I find that having two glasses of wine at once stops me touching my face..."

Christmas Day Lunch—there is to be delivery of Christmas meals on 25th December to those who would like it, open to all in Angus through charity fundraising. If you would like this or know of someone, please contact Pauline Donald on 07583843437 or paulinedonald13@icloud.com

MEMORIES OF AN UNEXPECTED SUMMER IN BERLIN

When I left Scotland on March 2nd for two weeks break in Berlin little did I know that I would only get back to Scotland seven months later with some more new vocabulary like PANDEMIC, LOCKDOWN, SOCIAL DISTANCING

During the first lockdown in April and beyond I only saw my children and grandchildren on FaceTime.

The garden was a godsend and all my energy went into supporting my nephew in starting a vegetable plot with lots of herbs, lettuce, radishes, carrots, runner beans, beetroots, potatoes and sprouts.

With my sister we built a 'tomato-house' out of discarded windows, which in the months to come became a great success not only with the grandchildren.

When the time came, the lockdown loosened and we could again meet outside I saw the grandchildren almost every day. I organised bicycle tours, midnight walks with torches, 'hide and seek' in the high Summer grass ...etc....



It was a beautiful warm sunny Summer and many evening hours went into watering the garden and scrubbing the dirt off the grandchildren.

When the children went back to school and the days grew shorter I unpacked the little treasure I had brought back from Angus, the last patchwork the sewing group has been working on.



Four blue and white framed patchwork-blocs had laid dormant for some 50 years in a box full of fabric scraps on the attic in Reswallie. It was given to me a few years ago by the Loyd-Jones family. I can well image that their granny, the late Jean Lady Maitland, who started 'The Angus Folk Museum' in 1958 and who was well known for her patchwork-quilts, has been stitching the center piece many decades ago out of beautiful vintage material, which might have been part of an old shirt or an apron ...?

St John's sewing group collected a few more hand-me-down shirts and created the outer frame.

It was certainly an interesting challenge to work on this beautiful old patchwork started so many years ago by this great Lady and it was a real pleasure and privilege to hand-quilt this little almost forgotten collection of exquisit old fabric.

In March I saw the buds appearing on trees and bushes, I saw them in full bloom and when I left on 2nd of October the apples were ripe and the trees started to loose their leaves.....

..... and collected many happy memories of a beautiful Summer.

Ingrid



Panzerotti
Café & Bakery

Cafè, Shop &
Takeaway

01307 465414

Craig O'Loch Road - Forfar DD8 1BT www.panzerotti.co.uk

ALEX. CAMERON

Quality Tells, Quality Sells

For the freshest fish, game, poultry and finest hand-made pies and bridies

101 Castle Street, Forfar DD8 3AH
Tel: 01307 463520

esk glazing

windows • doors • roofline • balustrades
blinds • kitchens

uPVC, Aluminium, Hardwood, Redwood

Tel 01674 676158 FAX 01674 676208
Margaret House, Sir William Smith Road
Kirkton Industrial Estate, Arbroath, DD11 3RD



102A
MONTROSE RD
FORFAR, ANGUS
DD8 2HT
TEL: 01307 469000

**almost ALL
THINGS for
almost ALL
CARS**



NORTH STREET DAIRY
A Local Family Run Business

Deliveries in Forfar and Letham Four days a week



Perfect Presents

Gifts for all Occasions

78 CASTLE STREET
FORFAR

01307 477774

Suppliers of Fresh Dairy Products
• Milk • Fresh Cream • Double or Single • Cheese • Home-made Butter • Eggs

NORTH STREET, FORFAR
Tel: 463 796
email: northstreetdairy@btconnect.com



ANDREW Shepherd CONSTRUCTION

GENERAL BUILDERS, JOINERS,
SLATERS & PLASTERERS

Restenneth House, Old Brechin Road
Forfar DD8 3DX
Tel: 474510 • Fax: 474530

ZEST Hair Studio

Gail & Pam

Unit 3
Lochlands Mill
Dundee Road
Forfar DD8 1XF

Zesthair@hotmail.com 01307 462496




ABAUTOLOCKS.SCOT
24-hour mobile vehicle locksmith

Keys Lost/Locked in Car?
No Spare Car Key?
Car Remote Buttons Faulty?
Car Door Locks Faulty?

Call Aaron on 07549590430

COLIN M SMITH
for all your home electricals

Branches at 139 Castle Street Forfar 01307 464187
20 Glengate Kirriemuir 01575 572809
247 High Street Arbroath 01241 877877



A simplified (covid) Christmas Story by Helena Randle and sourced from social media.

Once upon a time there lived Mary and Joseph who were going to have a special baby called Jesus. The angel told Mary she was having God's baby. Joseph was very cross. Eventually he forgave her, and they formed a support bubble so they could live together until the baby was born. Early one morning they woke and went outside where they saw some soldiers. The soldiers were allowed to stand together as they were a bubble, and they couldn't work from home. They were wearing masks and carrying large vats of hand sanitiser. The soldiers said, "You must go to Bethlehem". "But we aren't allowed out," said Joseph, "except to the park or for a little walk around the local area". Bethlehem was in a higher tier, so this was very dangerous. Eventually the head soldier said that they could go, and it could be included as part of their daily exercise. So, Mary, Joseph and their donkey went. They were glad to be out of the house, to be honest. They walked and they walked, and they walked, and they walked until they got to Bethlehem. It was busy so Joseph said, "Who will help us find a room?" It shouldn't have been busy as everyone was supposed to be in lockdown. No wonder the virus was spreading so quickly if the Bethlehem locals had such disregard for the rules. "No room here" said the first innkeeper, "I have had to close my inn. But you can have a takeaway meal if you like, and I am selling my beer cheaply before it goes off." "No room here" said the second innkeeper, "My inn is closed, and all my staff are furloughed." "No room here" said the third innkeeper "but we do have a stable" Stables are exempt from the rules as there is no evidence that horses can transmit the virus. Joseph said "thank you" He was just glad of somewhere quiet after all this fuss. He much preferred having to social distance than having to speak to strangers. They waited and they waited, and they waited until Jesus was born. They decided not to take Mary to hospital as it was safer to have the baby away from the covid-ridden wards of the city. They had plenty of hand sanitiser to kill any germs. An angel told some shepherds about Jesus. (From a distance of two metres and in a quiet voice, not a shouty or singy voice.) So, they walked, and they walked, and they walked, and they walked until they got to Bethlehem. They were glad to leave their sheep behind for a bit, they were sick of the incessant bleating. They walked at a safe distance from each other, wearing masks; each enjoying a bit of solitude along the way. A big star told some kings about Jesus. Others reported that it was an angel who told the kings, but rumour was that the Kings had been drinking the hand gel and could no longer focus properly. So, they walked, and they walked, and they walked, and they walked until they got to Bethlehem. They couldn't use public transport as it was not recommended unless they were going to work, and they weren't going to work. Everyone was pleased to see the special baby called Jesus and the kings gave him special gifts. They waved to him through a glass screen and Mary left the presents outside to quarantine them for 72 hours. When she eventually opened them, she was most disappointed to find gold, frankincense and myrrh. She was hoping for gold, gin and a new dressing gown. It was a very special night. The end.



Going.....going.....gone!

One of the good things about lockdown, is that it has brought out in many of us a tendency towards creativity and resourcefulness which we didn't know we had: restaurants serving take-away meals, bakeries doing home deliveries – not to mention shopping online.

We are blessed at St. John's to be able to meet every Sunday and share fellowship. In order to do this, we have had to apply creativity and resourcefulness in order to meet the required guidelines.

One area where we still need to apply a little creativity, is in the small matter of fundraising. Roger, I know is very grateful to all who have arranged to donate through internet banking, but we have not been able to stage any of the usual events: Summer sales, annual dinner etc.

So.....how does the idea of an online auction feel? It would be a good idea to hold this in January, so that members of our congregation, or family and friends, could donate those unwanted Christmas presents – it is so hard to know what to do with them! Jumpers which are the wrong size or colour, yet *another* cashmere or silk scarf when you already have twenty, books given in duplicate – you know what I mean.....

This could get a bit more ambitious if you were having a good Winter clearout – possibly stretching to that painting you have never really liked, or even a small piece of furniture. Photographs of each item would be displayed in the Eagle magazine, and bids invited. These would be submitted by phone or email, in strict confidentiality, prior to the 'day' of the auction. Participants could then enjoy the suspense of waiting to discover if they had 'won' their desired item.

Please give this some thought over Christmas and New Year and perhaps we could look forward to this exciting event in January.

Lynne Topping (Ed.)



Merry Christmas

Book Review: Biography of Duncan MacInnes by Edward Luscombe and Stuart Donald

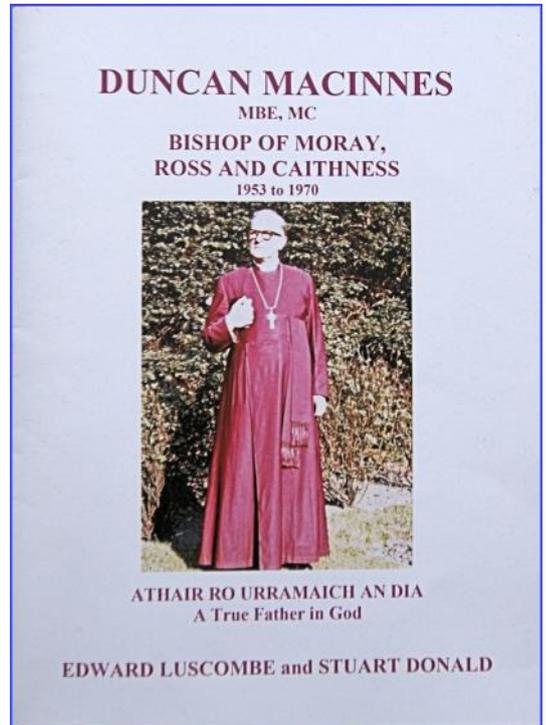
I am sure many of us have been intrigued by the increasing use of Gaelic language across the country. No less intriguing is the latest publication by Edward (Bishop Ted) Luscombe, in conjunction with Stuart Donald.

It is an intimate and detailed biography of the last Gaelic speaking Episcopalian Bishop – Duncan MacInnes. Covering important historic events, such as the arrival of Prince Edward Stuart in the West Highlands in August 1745 and the notorious massacre in Glencoe of February 1692, “The darkest deed in Scottish history”, this biography brings the past to the present as only ‘Bishop Ted’ knows how.

In common with Bishop Ted, Bishop Duncan MacInnes also served as an army chaplain during the 2nd World War. As you would expect, a detailed account of his military service and time spent as a P.O.W. in Germany and Poland are included.

To quote the Reverend John McK. Hunter, a contemporary of Bishop MacInnes and a fellow P.O.W. and army chaplain: “In the circumstances in which we were placed, a padre’s official creed and denomination were unimportant compared with the personality of the man himself. It is upon such simple, strong, selfless characters such as Duncan MacInnes that the continuing future of the Holy and Universal Church will depend.”

Lynne Topping



Notes from the Treasurer

What a year this has been! We started off in January full of hope and expectation then the pandemic hit us all for six with the lockdown of everything and everyone we love. We had to stop our regular worship but thanks to the hard work of our Rector those of us able to use the computer were able to follow a weekly service recorded from the Rectory. Since we were allowed once again to hold services on a Sunday we have had a good hard core of the congregation worshipping in a very different environment of masks and social distancing, the only element missing is the ability to get together after the service for a ‘cuppy’ and a ‘blether’ – an equally important part of our fellowship. For those unable or uncomfortable about

attending the service on a Sunday our Rector has organised the filming of the service (thank you Gordon) which is then available on ‘YouTube’.

If you want to save money at Xmas, now's the perfect time to tell the kids that Santa didn't make it through the pandemic

You will have heard at the AGM how difficult the finances have been this year with a running costs deficit and expensive repairs to the roof. We were then hit with the lockdown and were unable to engage in our usual fund-raising activities. To cap it all we found out that the heating system has been condemned and is in need of replacement. A miserable end to the year indeed but we must not give up hope because there is an answer out there, we just

need to find it. Perhaps we all need to knit rugs to keep the chill away!!!

Sorry to be so gloomy but in this festive season let me wish you all a Happy Christmas and health and good fortune in the year to come.

Roger



**GRAEME HARDIE
HEATING SERVICES LTD**



WEST MAINS OF DUNNICHEN,
LETHAM, ANGUS
DD8 2NW



Tel/Fax 01307 819111 Mob 07970 901802

EMAIL: GHARDIE88@GMAIL.COM

DIRECTORS: G. & L. HARDIE

Bruce Locksmiths and Hardware
 Keycutting - household and most vehicles
 Lockfitting - door and window
 Gaining entry - non destructive is possible
 92 East High Street
 Forfar DD8 2ET
 01307 462424

ARTHUR S. ARCHER

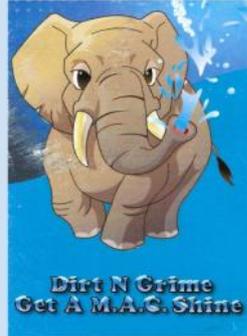
*PLUMBING AND
HEATING SERVICES*

10 WESTFIELD GARDENS
FORFAR DD8 1HN
Tel: 01307 462218

**PORTABLE APPLIANCE
TESTING**

Chic Leslie
Qualified Tester
sheenaleslie1@live.co.uk
Tel: 07729 301247

M.A.C.
Valeting Services
Car, van and truck washes
Wash and vacuum
07834 066359



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

STRATHMORE



FUNERAL DIRECTORS



*Privately Owned
Personal Caring & Professional
Service 24 hours
Pre-paid Funerals*

Tel: (01307) 460777
4 Roberts Street, Forfar

Dave Reid Motors

100 Montrose Road, Forfar

Tel: 468964 + 469080

Quality Vehicle Repairs,
Pre MOT's and Servicing



Lochlands Mill

Open again soon

01307 469 486



DAVID IRONS
D.I.Y. & HOMEWARE DEPARTMENT STORE

Electricals
Stationery Watch Repairs
Keycutting Service
Tools
And
Much much more



26 Castle Street Forfar DD8 3AD 01307 462024

ASHBROOK NURSERY

FORFAR RD
ARBROATH
(OPPOSITE RAIL CONDOIR)



TELEPHONE
**01241
873408**

Locally grown plants for local gardens.

Over 1200 varieties of Bedding & Patio Plants, Perennials, Alpines & Grasses grown at Ashbrook, also Fragrant Cut Flowers in Summer

Wide range of Trees, Shrubs, Conifers, Climbers & Bulbs

Baskets & Planters are our Speciality
- we can plant up to order for special occasions & anniversaries
Christmas Trees & Holly Wreaths; Bird care & 'Grow your Own'

Qualified Staff, Friendly Advice, Open Daily

www.ashbrooknursery.co.uk

'Who needs churches?'

Revd Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies, Scottish Episcopal Institute, and Assistant Priest, St Vincent's Chapel, Edinburgh

Our freedom of movement was taken for granted prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, writes Rev Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies at the Scottish Episcopal Institute. Before March 2020, we were more likely to be concerned about being locked out than locked in, never mind locked down. The initial shock of the lockdown has given way to novel thinking about space and spaces, public and private. As we saw our churches shut and now rejoice in their openings, even with restrictions — mindful that a second wave of the dreaded virus may shut them again — we may ask: What's all the fuss about churches? Christians may pray anywhere in public; they may let spaces to gather as congregations. Is it not Jesus who says that he is in the midst of any two or three gathered in his name (Matthew 18.20)? Christians may pray anywhere in private; they may pray at home. Is it not Jesus who recommends praying alone (Matthew 6.6)? We've all sorts of online worship now. Who needs churches?

We do. We need churches. We Christians need churches because churches provide fixed spaces for the sacred. They don't preclude the sacred in other spaces, but the *raison d'être* of churches is the worship of God. Vital as our online worship is when gathering in churches is impossible for some or all of us, online worship typically streams from churches or chapels: we naturally worship in purpose-built sacred spaces, even when our worship is virtual. For over two millennia, we've been erecting churches to facilitate our worship. A dozen or so years ago, archaeologists uncovered the remains of a church in Rihab (Jordan) dating from between AD 33 and 70. Christianity and its churches are coeval.

I guess that's why slogans to the effect that the church is open, even if its buildings are closed, rang hollow from the start; and by early June, when Bristol's statue of Edward Colston was dumped in the harbour, they began to ring false. Why are people toppling statues? Because what we human beings build for ourselves conveys meaning, because architecture speaks. Our public spaces and their adornments matter. This is particularly true of churches for they mark our faith in God in a most tangible way.

The purpose of churches is not only to facilitate the worship of God by appealing to our senses during public prayer or to offer a consecrated space for private prayer, but to stand fast to commemorate the advent of the Christ and to stand tall as watchtowers for his coming again. Still, it's not just Christians who need churches. Churches are testaments, witnesses, in brick and mortar, to Jesus, the world's Saviour. Saints and sinners though we Christians may be, we perform a service to our sisters and brothers when we construct our churches. Churches are a part of our mission to proclaim Christ and to make him known to others.

After praying at home, and often alone, we're elated to be back in our churches. Sometimes we human beings don't appreciate things until they're taken from us. Coming back to our churches is not only a moment to value them, to give thanks for them and to recall our responsibility to preserve our legacy of sacred spaces, but it's an opportunity to recapture the enthusiasm of Jacob as he built a sanctuary at Bethel exclaiming, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven' (Genesis 28.17).

The Stone Soup

A kindly, old stranger was walking through the land when he came upon a village. As he entered, the villagers moved towards their homes locking doors and windows.

The stranger smiled and asked, "Why are you all so frightened. I am a simple traveller, looking for a soft place to stay for the night and a warm place for a meal. "

"There's not a bite to eat in the whole province," he was told. "We are weak and our children are starving. Better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his cloak, filled it with water, and began to build a fire under it.

Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a silken bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumour of food, most of the villagers had come out of their homes or watched from their windows. As the stranger sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their fear.

"Ahh," the stranger said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with cabbage -- that's hard to beat."

Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a small cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot.

"Wonderful!!" cried the stranger. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king."

The village butcher managed to find some salt beef . . . and so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for everyone in the village to share.

The village elder offered the stranger a great deal of money for the "magic" stone, but he refused to sell it and travelled on the next day.

As he left, the stranger came upon a group of village children standing near the road. He gave the silken bag containing the stone to the youngest child, whispering to a group, "It was not the stone, but the villagers that had performed the magic."

Legend



Join the Scottish Episcopal Virtual Choir!

(article from November edition of Inspires online)

Music is especially important at this time of year, and so the team behind provincial online broadcasts intends to produce a series of musical offerings for use during Advent and Christmas worship.

The system for creating musical offerings is uncomplicated, and is designed to allow a large number of contributors from around the Province to take part. If you love to sing, and wish to be involved in this unique musical offering for Advent and Christmas, please get in touch with the SEC Digital Communications Co-ordinator (AidanS@scotland.anglican.org) for full details and guidance on how to contribute.

The SEC is keen for as many people as possible to be involved in this project to celebrate Christmas as a dispersed but still connected community during the pandemic, so if there are people in your circle who love to sing and might be interested in joining in, please share this information with them.

Singing ability is welcome, but enthusiasm is essential!

*We're getting there – a **warm(er)** St John's welcome – heating the church!*

Now that we are definitely in winter with fog, and freezing temperatures this is not the time to be without heating in St John's. Unfortunately, as many of you will know, our heating system has always been a bit temperamental, and although plans are being developed for a major upgrade, completion and installation of a modern system is some way in the future.

As our worship at church is now becoming a reality after the recent lockdowns that made church attendance impossible, a new heater was purchased, unfortunately a simple teething problem meant that this was not available for one service at the end of November. This problem has now been resolved and along with the existing central heating system being fired up much earlier than in previous years, should mean that the glow on faces leaving St John's after a service will radiate memories of happy communion, rather than a pained, blue expression.

Watch this space for more information regarding future heating plans. The defined brief for any new system has been specified as being able to maintain an acceptable temperature on a 24/7 basis with on demand boost when required. This will mean that the fabric of our rather wonderful St John's church will be easier to maintain as well keeping its structure stable for generations to come.



Best wishes to you all for the festive season