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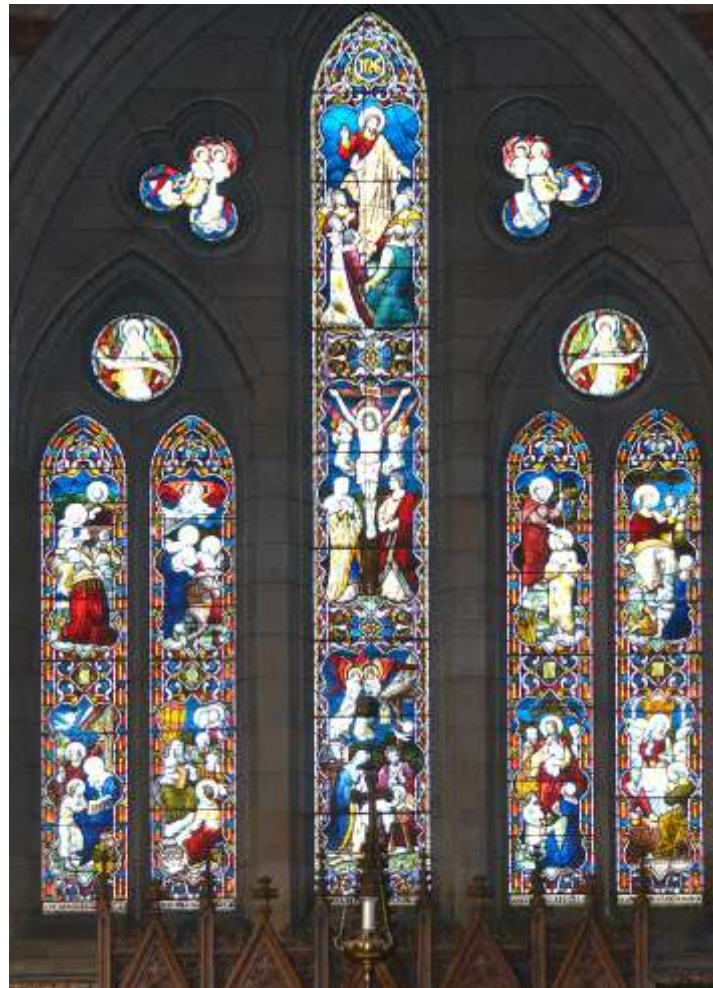


The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

Easter 2022

£5 per annum or 50p monthly



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Gospel according to John, Chapter 3, Verse 16



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-

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From the Rector

I wonder whether your household still embarks on an annual spring clean of the house. Certainly, in the past no self-respecting housewife would let the spring months slip by without a thorough clean of the house, moving furniture, putting up clean (summer weight) curtains, and disgorging the kitchen cupboards of their contents and repacking them on the **pristine shelves. Of course, our houses don't get the same amount of grime and soot from coal fires and carpets are cleaned with much more effective 'hoovers'. Whether these** patterns of household care are still practised, springtime does bring with it the sense of refreshment and renewal.

The phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness" jumps into my head too when I think of all this cleaning. Almost all of us have heard the saying, but where did it originate? While the exact phrase is not found in the Bible, the concept is clearly expressed. Actual and spiritual purification, ablutions, and washings featured prominently in Old Testament Jewish **ceremonial rituals. For the Hebrew people, cleanliness wasn't "next to godliness," but was** absolutely part of it. The standards God established concerning cleanness for the Israelites touched on every aspect of their lives. John Wesley, co-founder of Methodism, may have been the inventor of the phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness." He often emphasised cleanliness in his preaching. But the principle behind the rule dates back long before the days of Wesley to the worship rituals laid out in the book of Leviticus. These rites were established by God to show sinners how they could be cleansed from iniquity and reconciled to God.

Our Christian life begins with the use of water in baptism. Baptism is symbolic of the spiritual regeneration that takes place through repentance and forgiveness of sin. We look forward now to Easter and the renewal of our baptismal promises, with water still central to that rite.

For me, some of the most beautiful words of scripture are from Ezekiel as he is prophesying about the renewal of Israel and the word of God that comes to him:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." **These are such** hopeful words whether for an individual or at the level of society and ones that are so welcome as we kindle hope for our world.

With love

Elaine



Caring for God's Creation

TEN TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY IN CHURCH AND YOUR HOME

“There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man swallows it up.”
(Proverbs 21:20)

To reduce the effects of climate change we all need to reduce our use of electricity and gas. Added to this is the need for economy with rise energy prices. This does not mean drastic changes to our lifestyles. Here are some simple tips for use in your home and that we can use in the church that could add up to significant savings. Many of the tips are common sense, some are for use at home, some in church buildings, but they are useful for both.

1: Stay warm, cut costs

Turning your home heating thermostat down by 1°C can save you as much as £60 per year (on old prices) as well as reducing your carbon emissions.

2: Put an extra blanket on the bed

Putting an extra blanket on the bed means you won't get tempted to turn the heating up during the night.

3: Use the right ring for the right thing

If you're using a small pan, use a small ring (and keep the lid on). It's common sense, but it will reduce the impact your cooking has on the planet.

4: Shrink your bills, not your clothes

90% of a washing machine's energy expenditure is spent on heating the water, so wash at 30°C to save a substantial amount of energy.

5: Hang up your laundry

Air-dry your laundry outside rather than tumble drying it, especially in the summer.

6: Don't over tumble

If you do use a tumble dryer, **take them out before they're completely dry – they'll iron much quicker and you'll use less energy.** Some modern tumble dryers monitor the level of moisture in the clothing and can stop when it reaches ironing level.

7: Switch it off and save

Try to **switch something off before you switch something else on.** It's not always possible, but it is a good energy saving habit to get into. Make sure you switch off lights when you leave a room.

70% of most **churches'** energy is used heating their building. St John's has changed to a system that heats the people rather than trying to heat the whole building. At the moment we are experimenting with the length of time the heating is on to achieve a reasonable comfort level.

HM The Queen

The celebrations to mark HM The Queen's 70 years on the Throne will take place mainly on the weekend of 2-5 June. Churches in the Diocese are making plans, with other churches in the community, to mark this occasion. The Liturgy Committee of the SEC has created a prayer which has been authorised by the College of Bishops, and is commended to be used in worship at this time.



Almighty and eternal God, you uphold and govern all things both in heaven and on earth, and by your grace alone kings and queens do reign. We thank you for all the blessings which you have bestowed upon us throughout the reign of our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth, whom you have set over us these threescore years and ten. We thank you for the wisdom of her guidance and her love of peace, for the care and devotion with which she has served her people, for the example of her gracious life.

As we rejoice before you with thankful hearts, we pray that we may ever be united in love and service to one another, as people called to live according to your will, for the good of all the world, and the glory of your great name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

MARIE HILL

For many years Marie was responsible for the floral decoration at St. John's. At Christmas 2021 she came to the decision that the time had come to relinquish her role and her last contribution was the two pedestal arrangements either side of the altar for Christmas Day. Week by week Marie would visit St. John's to tweak and water the floral decorations to keep them in tip top condition. Sadly she passed away in March before we were able to recognise in church her dedicated service. Her skill and flair will be sorely missed. For the enthusiastic band of volunteers who helped at festival times we will miss her guidance and advice. Thank you Marie.

May you rest in peace and rise in glory.

MARGARET COUSINS

Memoires of a Childhood Evacuee - Chapter 8

One other task I had occasionally was to take food-stuff like butter and eggs into Ripon by bus for the related Oliver family in Brewster Terrace. I brought stuff back, I presume in exchange, as the Olivers were meat retailers. I mention this trivia because with strict food rationing this 'trading' was very important. I am not sure that this trading was entirely legal! On one occasion because of my window shopping I knew I was going to miss the bus home. But I had a 'plan B': I would walk the five miles home. This I did and there did not seem to be any fuss.

Writing of food reminded me that we ate quite well by self-reliance, with Edith making butter from Sophie's milk and looking after a run of chickens to provide eggs.

Porridge was made with milk, sweetened with Tate & Lyle golden syrup. More from the Bible: Do you remember the quotation on the tins?

"Out of the eater came something to eat;

And out of the strong came something sweet' (Judges Chapter 14, verse 14)

When Samson wagers that the Philistines will be unable to guess the solution to the riddle within seven days.

At table we ate 'Yorkshire puddings' with sugar and milk, as an entrée. Also, as an entrée we ate little cubes of pork fat dipped in a salt cellar. What dieticians would make of that today I hesitate to guess.

Before leaving the Jaqueses perhaps I should mention a younger Jaques, Jack. He farmed in Saskatchewan in Canada and visited the family in Rainton at some stage of the war. He came in his Canadian army uniform. I hope he survived unscathed. The Canadians suffered heavy losses at various phases of the war: such loyalty.* Isn't it silly how we remember trivial things and have no recollection of quite important ones - as I have a clear recollection of Jack brushing his teeth at the outside tap and his powder in a brown army tin, his shoulder badge proudly proclaiming 'CANADA'. But the philosopher would say that big things are composed of small things.

By-the-by, opposite the outside tap was a very large rain-water butt; it must have held a ton of water. 'Soft' rain-water was ladled from this for washing and laundry as Yorkshire's tap water was very 'hard' and you could not get a lather. The public supply filtered through limestone rock to make it hard.

*It is said that the war cost Canada 40,000 dead, of which 10,000 were in Bomber command.





PERTSHIRE RAINBOW TABLE



We are here!



7.30pm Thursday 17th February 2022
Thursday 17 March, Thursday 21 April all at
St Columba's Perth Rd. Crieff. PH7 3EB.

Friday 3rd June Lunch Party at Hunter's..
details to follow

We are an ecumenical Christian worship community which offers a warm welcome to people who are: **LGBTQIA+** and their friends- all who seek an inclusive Church.

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Whoever you are, wherever you come from,
you are welcome here.

<https://strathearn-episcopal-churches.co.uk/>
Contact Revd Gennie Evans rev.gen@btinternet.com



Shared Worship for Holy Week 2022

We are delighted this year that St John's and St Margaret's, Forfar will share their worship as below:

Monday 11th April, 5-5.30pm – Evening Prayer – Lady Chapel, St John's

Tuesday 12th April, 5-5.30pm – Evening Prayer – St Margaret's, Forfar

Wednesday 13th April, 10.15-10.45am – Communion – Lady Chapel, St John's – followed by tea/coffee in the Choir Vestry

Maundy Thursday 14th April, 5-8pm – Fellowship meal (simple family dinner) followed by symbolic foot washing and Communion – St Margaret's Hall, Forfar

Friday 15th April, 2-3pm – The Liturgy of Good Friday (no Communion) – Lady Chapel, St John's

Easter Sunday 17th April, 8am – 'Dawn' Service – followed by hot bacon rolls and pancakes at St Margaret's [covid allowing]

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In the beginning ...



*When God had made the earth and sky, the flowers and the trees,
He then made all the animals and all the birds and bees.*

*And when His work was finished, not one was quite the same,
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine and give each one a name".*

*And so He travelled land and sea, and everywhere He went,
A little creature followed Him, until its strength was spent.*

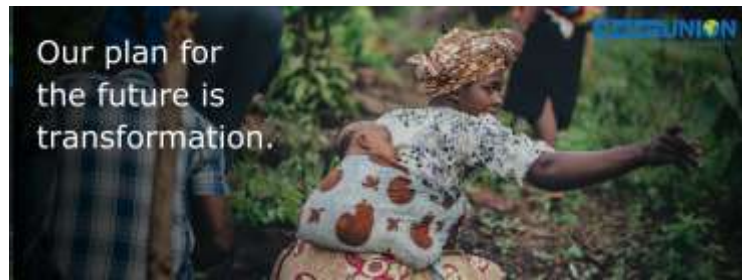
*When all were named upon the earth and in the sky and sea,
The little creature said "Dear Lord there's not one left for me".*

*The Father smiled and softly said "I've left you to the end,
I've turned my own name back to front and called you
'DOG' my Friend".*



Author unknown

From Mothers' Union



Our 2022 Theme: Transformation - now!

As we approach the start of a new triennium at Mothers' Union and look towards the future with fresh vision, our goal for 2022 is Transformation—now!

Our members have shown such incredible resilience, responsiveness and adaptability throughout the global pandemic. As an organisation, the pandemic forced us to change the ways we work and support those who benefit from our services.

Now is the time to:

- Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith.
- Transform the churches and communities we work with and of which we are a part, to reflect Christ's kingdom.
- Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.

Find out more about Transformation Now at our website:

www.mothersunion.org

Find out how you can get involved.

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I WAS A TREE

(To the tune 'O waly waly')

I was a tree in Galilee,
My green leaves grew abundantly,
There birds did sing as they flew free,
And children laughed as they climbed on me.

Men cut me down and stripped me bare,
No sound of birdsong filled the air,
They made a rugged cross of me,
Carted me to a hill called Calvary.

Day by day men died on me,
They cursed the air, they even cursed me,
I t was a dreadful place to be,
That evil hill called Calvary.

Men took me down from Calvary,
There a blood-stained man awaited me,
With his touch I remembered I was a tree,
Together we stumbled towards Calvary.

They nailed that broken man to me,
A false Messiah they claimed was he,
A crown of thorns adorned his head.
'Father forgive them.' were the words he said.

All day he hung there nailed to me,
A dying man for all to see,
He bowed his head and as he died,
A spear was thrust into his side.

They took us down, this man and me,
Friends bore him away from Calvary,
They left me there, as his blood dried,
A dying thief on either side.

Some three days on, the word was spread,
That he had risen from the dead,
I know it's true, it's plain to see,
Someone Divine was nailed to me.

I'm ashes now, no more a tree,
Men made a cruel cross of me,
But my Spirit cries to the heavens above,
I'm now the sign of the Saviour's love.

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