



Eagle



The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

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Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 25—34



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

It's such a joy on my early morning walks over Balmashanner and into the paths and roads beyond to see the burgeoning growth of Spring. As we tramp through these days of Eastertide, I notice that despite the cold north easterly winds the grass is growing, the cows have been turned out of the barns and the lambs get more daring in their exploration of the fields. **I'm reminded of** Ambrose of Milan in the fourth century who **preached, "In Christ's resurrection the earth itself arose."**

Why was he given to say this? Well, this person, Jesus of Nazareth, Wisdom incarnate, was composed of star stuff and earth stuff; his life formed a genuine part of the historical and biological community of earth; his body existed in a network of relationships drawing from and extending to the whole physical universe. As a child of the earth he died, and the earth claimed him back in a grave. In his resurrection his flesh was called to life again in transformed glory. Risen from the dead, Jesus has been reborn as a child of the earth, radiantly transfigured. The evolving world of life, all of matter in its endless permutations, will not be left behind but will be transfigured by the resurrecting action of the Creator God.

But where is this risen Christ? Everywhere and all around us—in you, your neighbour, the rowan tree tree outside, the budding clematis, the ants popping up through the cracks of the patio. The whole world is filled with God, who is shining through even the darkest places **of our lives. To "go to church" is to awaken to this divine presence in our midst and respond in love.**

The pandemic reminded us that we have an invitation to go to church by praying before the new leaves budding through dormant trees or the wobbly flowers by the side of the road pushing through the solid earth. We can sing with the air we breathe, the sun that shines upon us, the rain that pours down to water the earth. And we can cry with those who are mourning, with the forgotten, with those who are suffering from disease or illness, with the weak. We can mourn in the solidarity of compassion, but we must live in the hope of new life. For we are Easter people, and we are called to celebrate the whole earth as the body of Christ. Every act done in love gives glory to God: a pause of thanksgiving, a laugh, a gaze at the sun, or just raising a toast to your friends. **The good news? "He is not here!" Christ is everywhere, and love will make us whole.**

Every blessing for Eastertide

Elaine



Investiture of Rev. Elaine Garman, Rector of St. John's, Forfar and Rev. Christoph Wutcher, of Holy Trinity, Stirling as Canons at a Chrism Mass in St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on Maundy Thursday, 14th April.

Caring for God's Creation

The Scottish Episcopal Church has now published *Towards Net Zero 2030: Toolkit and Checklist*. This will help local churches achieve this challenging target. General Synod affirmed in 2020 that the Scottish Episcopal Church should commit to working towards Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Toolkit and Checklist includes the Energy Footprint Analyser (EFA), enabling churches to calculate the carbon emissions associated with the energy usage in their buildings as well as create a baseline from which future emissions can be tracked. Roger Cousins, our Treasurer has been busy collecting the data that we need to submit in order for the SEC to collectively monitor the progress being made to deliver on the goal of reaching net-zero by 2030. This is the first task – lots more will follow will keep the Vestry **busy! But of course, it won't be just the Vestry, we will all have to play our part.**

Our Primus writes, “The trees of the field shall clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12) The connection between our scriptures, God's creation and the climate emergency in the world is something that challenges us every day in our worship, in our prayers and in our daily lives.

Communities across the world are living with the devastating impacts as changes take place in the environment around them, with those least responsible for the climate and ecological crises being affected the most. Food becomes harder to produce, sea levels rise **and drought hits ' to name just a few of these impacts; these are not imagined threats of the future, these are things happening now to our brothers and sisters across the world. As part of God's creation and as part of the body of Christ we have a responsibility not only for what happens on our doorstep but also for what happens to the whole of God's creation.**

The Scottish Episcopal Church, along with partner churches and environmental groups, has committed to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, to help limit the changes to the environment and to begin to restore the balance in Creation. For the last few years, the Church in Society Committee has been working hard to help us all to discover ways of achieving this goal. Building on this work, the newly established Provincial Environment Group will provide continuing support to Dioceses and Charges as they engage with the task facing us all.

I am delighted to commend this initial part of the Toolkit of ideas and suggestions. The congregations and individual members of the church are often anxious about what it is we need to do and how we get started on this vital journey; this material begins to give us a roadmap of the journey ahead and I ask you all to engage with the Toolkit without delay and begin to make real change now.

People of faith are also people of hope, we believe in the hope of salvation, the hope of **God's love** and care for us and for this planet. Difficult as some of the changes may be, they are also signs of hope, each step on the road will bring hope to ourselves, to others, and to **all of God's creation.**

The Most Rev Mark Strange, Primus

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

YOU ARE INVITED!

QUEEN'S PLATIGNUM JUBILEE

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THURSDAY 2nd JUNE 9pm

EAST AND OLD CHURCH—OUTSIDE THE STEEPLE DOOR

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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.

We aim to create a safe sacred space for you to explore your faith and what it means for you.

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



The Tuesday Club – May 2022

Despite the Tuesday Club being in abeyance, our fundraising, via our Sunshine bags has continued. A cheque for £100 was recently sent to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Red Cross teams are providing round-the-clock health care, as well as distributing food and basic aid items to people arriving from Ukraine. They have also sent food and medical tents to Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people still have no food, no water, no medical care, and no heat or electricity. Red Cross teams have been working around the clock to get critical care to those who need it most, both in Ukraine and its bordering countries. An enormous number of people urgently need help right now. Together, we can give hope to people in the darkest of times. A big thank you to all those who have contributed to allow us to make this donation.

Carol and Evelyn

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BOOK LAUNCH

On Tuesday, 26th April, a book launch was held in Glamis Castle of a publication to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the family seat of the Lyon family. In 1372, John Lyon was appointed Thane of Glamis by the King, Robert 2nd. In 1376, Sir John was appointed Chamberlain of Scotland and also married the King's daughter, the Princess Joanna Stuart and the King gave them the lands of Glamis to be their own.

Ten years after his appointment as Thane of Glamis, Sir John was assassinated by a jealous rival, Sir James Lindsay of Crawford. His son, also John, was then so vulnerable that in 1388, the King made him his ward and appointed Sir David Fleming of Biggar to be his guardian.

So begins the chequered history of Glamis Castle.....

John, 6th Lord Glamis, married Janet Douglas, daughter of George Douglas, Master of Angus, in 1520. He died not long afterwards in 1528. In 1529, the King, then James 5th, issued a proclamation known as "The Douglas Proscription", which put a price on the head of every Douglas in the country. Janet Douglas had committed no crime to merit execution despite the King's repeated attempts to accuse her. Finally, one of her own kinsmen, William Lyon of Comalgy, testified against her and accused her of being included in a conspiracy plotting the King's death through witchcraft. Janet and her two young sons, John, 7th Lord Glamis and George, his younger brother, were incarcerated in the dungeons of Edinburgh Castle. Lady Janet was burned to death on Castle Hill the same day that she was found guilty in 1538.

The King then took possession of Glamis, being considered the property of a criminal and held court there until he died in 1543.

The two young brothers suffered horribly in prison and George did not survive. The King was succeeded by his daughter, Mary (Queen of Scots) who was much more reasonable and allowed the surviving Lord Glamis to pay a fine to redeem his property. He continued to suffer from ill-health because of the way he had been treated in prison and died young at the age of 38.

Between the 2nd and 3rd Earls, Glamis Castle was occupied by a garrison of Cromwell's soldiers. When the 3rd Earl, Patrick finally returned to take possession of it in 1683, he found a ruin. He decided not only to repair it, but also to make it much bigger and the striking silhouette of the castle that we all know today is the result of his project.

In 1767, the 9th Earl of Strathmore, another John, married Mary Eleanor Bowes. At the time she was the wealthiest heiress in Europe and according to her father's will, John was obliged to take the family name of Bowes, since there was no male heir to continue it.

John died in 1776 and Mary Eleanor was then left at the mercy of many unscrupulous suitors, one of whom, Andrew Stoney, tricked her into marrying him. The brutality that followed finally led her to be the first woman in Britain to successfully divorce her husband for cruelty.

The 10th Earl (also John) lived at Streathlam Castle, one of the Bowes properties in County Durham, and never married. He had a son (John) with a lady called Mary Milner whom he married on the eve of his death. Although his uncle, Thomas became the 11th Earl, John Bowes was left the wealthiest man in Britain.

With the finances severely compromised, the estate was nearly lost. Both Thomas, the 12th Earl and John Bowes died childless and in 1885, Claude, Thomas' brother became the heir to both the Bowes and the Lyons and the castle was saved once more. Claude threw himself into reviving the estate. Besides installing central heating throughout and modern plumbing, he reinstated and restored the chapel, planted the arboretum and had the walled gardens and glasshouses constructed. He is perhaps best known as the great-grandfather of our present Queen.

During the Great War, (1916-1918) along with many great country houses, Glamis Castle was used as a hospital for injured soldiers. Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later H.M. The Queen Mother) and her sister Rose helped to nurse the soldiers. One wild and windy day in 1916, while all the family were out shooting, the soldiers built the fire so high that one of the chimneys caught fire and subsequently the roof of the castle. Lady Elizabeth quickly organised chains of people with buckets to fetch water from the nearby river, and called the fire brigade. When the Forfar fire brigade arrived, they discovered their hose was too short to reach the castle from either of the two rivers and the Dundee fire brigade had to be called..

Meanwhile the heat had melted a lead water tank in the roof and water was cascading through the castle. Lady Elizabeth managed to redirect the flow of water down the spiral staircase and also to rescue many valuable items from the building.

It is said that she saved the castle - she was only 16.

Considering this history of murder, executions occupation and thwarted destiny and disaster, it is nothing short of a miracle that this year we celebrate the 650th anniversary of Glamis belonging to the Lyon family.

The commemorative book is available to purchase at the Pavilion Gift Shop, Glamis Castle.



NOTE

In the years before her death in 1780, Mary, daughter of the 4th Earl of Strathmore, lived alone in one room at Glamis Castle, attended by only one servant.

In her will, she left provision for an Episcopal Church to be founded in Forfar, since there was none - Restenneth having fallen into disuse.

It is partially to this legacy that we owe the existence of St, John's today.


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This poster is by 13 year old Anja Rozen from Slovenia. Winner of the international competition, Plakat MIRU, it was chosen from 600,000 entries. Anja says:

“My poster represents the earth that connects and unites us. People stick to each other, but unfortunately we are little aware of it.”

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