



# EAGLE



The magazine of the Church of St John the Evangelist

Forfar

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**The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.**

**Psalm 85. Verse 12**



## Communication

As well as our own website address for St John's [www.stjohnsforfar.co.uk](http://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.

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## From the Rector

By the time you are reading this we will have passed the Feast of Francis of Assisi on the 4<sup>th</sup> October but given that is the end date of the Season of Creation, I thought it worthy of some thoughts.

Each and every creature is a unique word of God, with its own message, its own energetic style, its own way of showing forth goodness, beauty, and participation in what we deem as the Great Mystery. Each creature has its own glow and its own unique glory.

Living close to nature as he did, Francis could see Christ in every animal he encountered. He is quoted as talking to or about rabbits, bees, larks, falcons, lambs, pigs, fish, cicadas, waterfowl, doves, and the famous wolf of Gubbio, to name just a few. Those of you who love dogs know that each one is uniquely gifted by God and blesses our lives in special ways. Their unconditional love, forgiveness, and loyalty show us what God is like. I have had two dogs in my adult life, Oscar and Rana and they have enriched my life in many ways.

I wonder whether you agree with me that human beings need someone to love, someone to awaken us to the flow of love and to keep that flow going. I can understand why so many people have bought pets to ease their isolation during the pandemic! It also seems to me that there must be someone (or something) whose goodness, truth, and beauty draw us out of ourselves. That someone doesn't even have to be human; it can be an animal to whom we give ourselves and through whom we feel ourselves given back.

Rana had an amazing ability to tell the time or at least judge time. I would phone the house with two rings before I left the office in the evening to let Gordon know I was on my way home. The journey took 50 minutes. She'd get ready at the window when the 50 minutes was up. What was she thinking about during that time? What was it that she genuinely seemed to like in me that she wanted to greet me and anticipate greeting me? She didn't get a treat when I arrived other than being cuddled and patted (along with Oscar and Gordon of course!). The mutual love was evident.

Love and connection are important with those around us and with God.

*With love*

*Elaine*



## Caring for God's Creation

As we get closer to COP 26, I thought it would be useful to look at some of the 'basics' about the conference.

### What is COP 26?

COP 26 is the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of world leaders at the UN climate change talks. The conference has been described as the most important gathering on climate change since the Paris Agreement (COP 21) was signed in 2015. In COP 21 the world came together to adopt universal legally binding targets to limit the impacts of climate change; to keep our increasing world temperature well below 2.0°C above pre-industrial times and aiming to 1.5°C, being carbon neutral by 2050 and with increasing levels of ambitions as we head towards the deadline. Some current estimates are that 1.5°C is less than a decade away and that it is now too late for gradual, incremental steps.

The delayed COP 26 is due to take place in the first two weeks of November 2021 in Glasgow. For many, this conference remains the best, and only, global platform to build consensus on climate justice and action.

### What should faith communities be doing?

At COP 26 we hope for progress on the key issue of climate finance – making sure that those most affected by the crisis are provided with money to help cope with it.

In 2009, the world's richest countries, including the UK, agreed to deliver \$100bn a year in climate finance to the world's poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries by 2020. This promise was not fulfilled. As Christians we need to press this issue alongside other faith communities in the UK.

Faith leaders across the UK have united ahead of COP 26, in a move they hope will raise a new generation of advocates for climate justice. More than 50 religious leaders have signed the Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration which calls for those in power to put the 2015 Paris Agreement into effect. The Declaration stresses that urgent action is needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change. Religious leaders are asking for a transition to a just and green economy and for governments to commit to science-based targets aligned with a zero-emissions future. The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) is one of the signatories to the Declaration. Bishop Mark, Primus of the SEC has said, "It's not good enough simply to be saying to politicians, to governments, to institutions: 'You've got to do this otherwise the planet is in danger.' It has to start with each of us, actually having the commitment to not only do things for ourselves but to have the courage to speak about that to others.

"Part of this Declaration is that we will hold each other accountable for what we are doing. There is a sense that if we don't make those changes, if we don't work hard to indicate why we need to make those changes, if we simply ask someone else to do it, that's never going to work. It has to be each of us, looking at our own life. What can we renew, rather than just buy? What can we do without, rather than having too much? What changes can we make?"

In St John's we have started with the big things like heating and lighting – we are taking advantage of having no heating at the moment and seeking solutions that will make the least negative environmental impact. Each of us need to consider our own situation from "will these slippers do me for another few months" to "do I really need to take this flight?" These answers are our actions.

**Rector**

## Just a Thought

Being moved by the lyrics of a song must be a common emotion to many of us; these beautiful words coming over my air waves recently had exactly that effect. It felt so appropriate at a time, when we are all encouraged to do any little bit we could to contribute to the reduction of carbon in our atmosphere. Caring for the trees on our own little plot or even planting a new one could help contribute positively to climate change.

### Trees

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with rain  
Poems are made by fools like me  
But only God can make a tree.

Wendy Tyndall

**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING**  
**THE CHURCH AGM WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER**  
**FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE**

**ALL WELCOME!**

## Memoires of an Wartime Evacuee - Chapter 4

I have a fairly clear picture of the main room of the Jaques' cottage even now, a typical farm-house kitchen, with a terracotta –tiled floor, walls rose-pink , but distinguished by a small oil-painting of two rather corpulent monks enjoying a covert plate of spaghetti; a Victorian water-colour, gilt-mounted, of 'Mother and Foal' on a wind-swept moor (well done, I would say); a wall clock, with Roman numerals that were new to me; a brass bed warming pan; a portrait in pastel shades of a rather charming young lady (perhaps a Jaques?); and over the fireplace a



rifleman's short sabre and scabbard; the brasses all gleaming. Cooking was by a typical Victorian range incorporating the fire. A tall north window to each side of the fireplace was a nice touch. Also, in some sort of symmetry, were old Mr Jaques' easy chair to the left of the fire and to the right Miss Jaques' chaise longue (to me it was just a settee). Against the right wall was an elegant writing desk cum bookcase. The only lamp was lit by oil and hung on a chain for raising and lowering. Mr Jaques' ashtray advertised 'Valparaiso', the souvenir of some adventurous Jaques. There was a small sky-light in the pitched roof. There were hooks to the roof beams for a side of bacon, hand cured with Chile saltpetre. It was as you would expect, all so cosy. But I could have commenced with the big kitchen sink and its box of 'Sylvan' Soap-flakes, - 'for your delicates' - soon to be rendered obsolete by the liquid detergents post – war; for this was not a museum but a balance between the workaday world and the world of the exquisite, the aesthetic. We are not mere animals.

When I was recounting this scene to our young folk some years ago I added;

"And behind the settee I had a basket in the corner." They all burst into fits of laughter. "NO", I said, "NOT TO SLEEP IN! - FOR MY BOOKS AND PENCILS!!" - Awful teasers, bless them.

I liked to scan through the local newspaper, the 'Ripon Gazette & Observer'. I did not get 'comics' then. I always found a piece amusing called 'Around the Courts' (Magistrates'), written by one 'J. Fairfax Blakeborough', although I had difficulty with words like 'alleged'. The court proceedings were all about petty things like dishonesty (is that petty?), unpaid bills, rents etc. or public order offences—'drunk and disorderly'. The writer knew how to make these and even the accused sound funny, but as I grew up I realised that this was just making fun of quite poor people who were in various predicaments; their own fault but pitiable just the same.

I did stray into the chilly and rather dank front parlour occasionally. The piano was badly out of tune—I soon found out with a furtive finger (I just had a feeling that I was intruding into territory to which I was not invited). But I think I was more intent on the book-case with its Victorian selection. The books I remember, as you would guess, were typically the 'improving' sort: 'A Pilgrim's Progress', 'Gulliver's Travels' etc, I think 'Swiss Family Robinson', - or was it 'The Coral Sea' - was he one I took to. I read of the 'Malay Archipelago', (not realising that I would be 'out there' in the army in just a few years), with its Upas tree, whose vapours made you drowsy to the point of death. The little boy's imagination was more exciting than the reality. Returning to the kitchen I had to pass the little internal room called the 'dairy'. It had borrowed light from a small window looking into the kitchen. I suppose this 'dairy' was really the larder as the effective dairy was just outside the back door and known as the 'far dairy' with its butter churn etc. The 'dairy' door was open as I passed and I noticed a large glass jar of clear liquid on a high shelf with wires coming out. It transpired that this was a primary electric cell, which ran the door bell. The wires would be attached to plates of different metals like copper and zinc, immersed in a watery solution, an 'electrolyte'. That would be the only electrical thing in the whole house—oh! apart from the radio ('wireless'). This puzzles me: the Jaques' must have had charged 'accumulators' - low voltage batteries—delivered or had some arrangement with the village shop. But did they have a 'wireless'? I cannot recall hearing or listening to such.

# THINKING OF CHRISTMAS ..... YES, CHRISTMAS

For several years St John's has produced a Christmas card which is included with the December magazine. We would like to continue this for 2021. If you would like to take part please let me or Carol Douglas know and how you would like your name to appear. The card is usually issued with the December Eagle and It takes time to organise so let us know quite soon if you are interested.

A donation to the cost would be most welcome.

Remembrance Sunday is to be observed on Sunday, 14th November and this seems an appropriate date to finalise requests for inclusion.

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## Our (Digital) Pilgrimage

**It's all about the journey—physically, spiritually and even digitally!**

*Many people find it easier to walk rather than talk their faith, and find encouragement through treading in the footsteps of countless pilgrims before them.*

— Ian Brady, *The Fife Pilgrim Way*

I remain very inspired by the SEC's Season of Pilgrimage and have continued undertaking my own pilgrimages, in both geographical and spiritual contexts. I have been fortunate to visit and be inspired by a few wonderful spots at the western and eastern edges of the Diocese with a stop in the middle.

### Killin

My most westerly stop was the newly designated Pilgrim Chapel in Killin to visit 'Wild Church' so thoughtfully developed by Revd. Gennie Evans.



In addition to visiting the lovely chapel and seeing the many materials and activities available through Wild Church, I was able to meander from the chapel to the beautiful vistas along a heritage trail, inspired by a Wild Church leaflet offering reflections on nature, creation and spirituality.



With the rich heritage and phenomenal beauty of the area, it offers wonderful possibilities to be a pilgrimage launching spot or a stop along the way for pilgrims on various journeys.

### **The Bield**



In the centre of the Diocese I was able to embark on more of a spiritual pilgrimage, in a stayover at the Bield retreat and conference centre, just west of Perth. I find refreshment in walking the grounds, enjoying and partaking in the art incorporated throughout the property, and walking one of my favourite labyrinths. Even though it was more of an internal pilgrimage, I found that I was not 'journeying' alone - the resident chickens were happy to accompany me! sometimes they make the best spiritual directors!

### **St Andrews**



Upon returning home to St Andrews, a walk into the town centre and past the cathedral ruins once again reminded me of the rich history that is far too easy to take for granted. For centuries, pilgrims have gone to great effort to visit this place of immense spiritual, religious and historical significance. As summer winds down we have more opportunities to explore the theme and the sense of pilgrimage together.

## An Invitation

There are so many interesting, significant and beautiful places around our Diocese that pilgrims had trod before us.

As I have briefly captured a few places in this piece, I want to encourage all of you to consider the places near you and around the Diocese. In keeping with this Season of Pilgrimage, I would like to launch a 'digital pilgrimage' of sorts, capturing places and stories from around the Diocese and within your congregations. What image might represent your own journey and that of your community?

Watch for more nudges about this, but in the meantime, please send me or Eleanor at the Diocesan office photos and stories about what is happening in your congregations and communities, so that others may well be able to venture through our Diocese as 'digital' pilgrims!

By Karen McClain Keefer - Diocesan Digital Missioner

## Glamis Harvest



Harvest Thanksgiving took place in the Chapel of St Michael and all Angels, Glamis Castle on Sunday 3rd October 2021. The offering included a harvest loaf made with wheat grown on the Strathmore Estate and baked by Wendy, the baker at the Castle. Produce, including grapes grown in the Castle gardens was provided by Des, the Head Gardener. Hymns were accompanied by fiddle music played by congregation member, Sandy.

## Forthcoming Events

### Rainbow Table

October 14th, 7.30 - 8.30

St Columba's Church, Crieff. PH7 3EB

Phone: 01764 656222

Website: <http://www.strathearnchurches.org.uk/st-columbas.html>

### Concert at St Mary's, Aberfoyle

October 17th, 3pm - 4pm

Website: [www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk/?page\\_id=124](http://www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk/?page_id=124)

Performance by Wallace Collection

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## WALKING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY



Leprosy can cause nerve damage, leading to loss of feeling in the hands and feet. Without the sensation of any pain, cuts can go unnoticed and develop into ulcers. If left untreated and at risk of infection, the result could be deformity or even amputation.

People whose feet have been damaged or disabled by leprosy can be helped with the provision of Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) shoes. This specialist footwear is made by Leprosy Mission skilled staff and tailored to an individual's needs. So if a patient has lost part of their foot, the sole of one of their shoes can be 'built up' to support the foot while walking. The sandals and shoes have a layer of soft rubber to cushion the foot, and a hard sole to protect it.

Shansunnar began to show signs of leprosy at a young age.

However, by the time she was eventually diagnosed, she had lost all feeling in both hands and both feet.

With no feeling of pain, she was unaware of a small cut in her foot, causing an ulcer to form.

Shansunnar was admitted to hospital to receive ulcer care before receiving protective shoes to prevent further damage to her feet.



### Protective shoes

- Help protect damaged feet and minimise limping with corrective insoles
- Ease the pressure on ulcerated, nerve-damaged, fragile skin
- Prevent new cuts, sores, and infections
- Restore mobility so someone disabled by leprosy can walk, work and take better care of themselves.

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