

***July and August 2020***

# THE MESSENGER



***The Magazine of  
St Michael And All Angels  
Episcopal Church, Helensburgh  
[www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk)***

# ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WILLIAM STREET, HELENSBURGH

Charity Registered in Scotland SC006468

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Ask how to join or help. Perhaps bring new ideas for new activities You will be welcome. Please let the editor know if any changes are needed.

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# From the Rector

Dear Friends,

I thought it might be helpful to say a few words about the Eucharist, as I know for many this is a great loss in our Covid world. Most of us will be familiar with the teaching that it's our 'duty' to receive Communion regularly, especially at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. So far we've missed two of those in 2020 and this is how we are responding. At the moment there appear to be five approaches by way of responding to our current predicament of not being able to physically gather round the Lord's Table.

## 1) Celebrating alone / watching

Some priests have been presiding at the Eucharist alone, watched by their congregation via live streaming or at a later moment if recorded. However, when it comes to distribution, only the priest receives the bread and wine. Anglican teaching is that there should be communicants other than the priest at every celebration of the Eucharist.

## 2) Remote Holy Communion

This is when consecration is believed to come from priestly intention rather than physical proximity to the elements. Worshippers at home indicate their participation before the service begins and at the appropriate time they place their bread and wine in front of the screen. The priest then consecrates all that s/he intends to consecrate. NB CoE current guidance: Participants in a streamed service of the Eucharist should not be encouraged to place bread & wine before their screens .....

## 3) Joining in

## MESSENGER

July/August 2020

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### *Sept/Oct 2020 Edition*

Handing in Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Aug  
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### *Nov/Dec 2020 Edition*

Handing in Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct  
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For an email copy please  
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## From the Rector (Continued)

This is similar to the above but with a substantial difference - still with bread & wine but not regarded 'consecrated'. The intention by the priest isn't present - this is deemed acceptable by some Anglican bishops, so long as the following is adhered to.

a) No firm impression should be given that the bread & wine at home is consecrated.

b) This is provisional and exceptional for this period.

c) The practice would normally cease when it is possible to come together again face to face.

### 4) Fasting from the Eucharist

This is what the title says - we fast from the Eucharist. Many Piskies are doing exactly this but there is a suggestion below which might help with the fast.

### 5) Agape meal

This may be particularly attractive to those fasting from the Eucharist - a Love Feast / Agape Meal. The great advantage is that any Christian may conduct the service & again the emphasis is that this isn't a Eucharist. It is lay led for lay people, to be celebrated at home - a Christian fellowship meal, recalling meals Jesus shared with his disciples.

The good news is that in July I'd expect churches in Scotland to be open for private prayer. How we do corporate worship is another matter & with that you may wish to reflect on the above. As your rector, I continue to pray for you all, particularly those of you who are still shielding & are the most vulnerable in the community.

Love

*Dom Ind, Rector*

## News

Well! Another month has gone past in lockdown, but signs are appearing of a slow easing of restrictions. However, it still looks like we will not be having full public worship during the currency of this edition. In the meantime, we have lots to look forward to in our church. On 1<sup>st</sup> July Bishop Kevin will take up his post as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. We can expect some changes to the leadership at that time, and I would ask everyone to pray for him as he translates from Argyll and the Isles. There is lots in this edition from the diocese and our new Bishop as well. Wishing you all a lovely summer.

*Richard Smith, Editor*

# Notices

**MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING** There will be no coffee mornings during the months of July and August. Let's hope for something in September. *Maureen Kyle*

## Vestry Report

Due to the virus hiatus the Vestry has not met since March 3rd. It seems unlikely the vestry will be meeting for a while yet. Issues that the vestry will be considering over the coming months are:

**RE-OPENING THE CHURCH.** The vestry will need to agree plans for church re-opening, initially for private prayer if appropriate and later for communal worship. At the time of writing we await Scottish Government's announcement on implementation of Covid 19 Phase 2 relaxations which we must respect. The SEC will be issuing instructions for us to follow and it is clear that any return to something like normality is going to be a long process.

**FINANCES.** Janina reported: "we have £40,012 in the premium account and £9,740 in the current account.

"I recently paid £2,000 to Contraflow and £1,000 to the Beacon Trust and had nice thank you letters from Paul Allen. Our cleaning ladies are starting back on 3rd July and on Maureen's recommendation I have asked them to clean the church instead of the halls until we hear when the hall lets might start back."

**CHURCH HEATING.** The vestry will be considering the best setting for church heating over the winter (assuming we have resumed communal worship by then). It would be good to maintain the building at around 12°C all week, as recently recommended by the diocesan architect, which we are advised would help to dry out and preserve the structure. On the other hand, experience of energy expenditure indicates that this will be significantly more expensive because of the way building loses heat.

The plan will be to conduct some controlled experiments with the heating settings when the weather brings cooler temperatures.

**QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW.** We are due a 'Quinquennial Review' this year. This is currently planned (coronavirus restrictions permitting) on 24th July. Our infrastructure looks to be in good shape so hopefully there won't be too much expensive follow up work identified....

*Nick Davies, Hon. Secretary*



I hope that all members in our Branch are continuing to cope with the restrictions placed on them during this Covid 19 lockdown and here are some brief notes from a Diocesan Trustees meeting that I attended virtually recently.

Mothers Union is planning to work across dioceses and to potentially access funding from external sources to support the following tasks:-

Supporting members to rebuild their confidence to leave home and continue to contribute to projects when the lockdown restrictions start being lifted

Targeting groups that may have been overlooked in the crisis including refugees and asylum seekers, people affected by Modern Slavery and homeless women, prisoners and their families.

Support of Family Contact Centres.

Supporting the issue of mental health and the issue of bereavement.

Whilst ongoing projects that MU is involved in at diocese level will continue, the aim in the future is to seek direction for potential programme areas that MU has existing strengths in and which could be developed into something on a larger scale.

Mothers' Union are delighted that Midday Prayers and wave of Prayer will now be included as an option on the Church of England Daily HOPE phone line.

As the majority of Mothers' Union members are not connected to the internet or have weak internet connections, they will now be able to listen in fellowship to our prayers which unite our movement and it's 4 million members every day. We hope that it will help relieve some of the loneliness and isolation they are feeling at this time.

The Daily HOPE phonenumber is free and available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 (for Mothers' Union midday prayers please press option 4 and then option 8)

If you have online access, please do join us daily at 12:00 (BST) on our Facebook page for our Midday Prayers

I hope that in the future we will be able to connect with at least some of our branch members using virtual means like Zoom as we remain unable to meet any other way.

*Richard Horrell, Branch Leader*



Last year on the eve of the September UN Climate Action Summit, young women and men around the world mobilised by the millions and told global leaders: “You are failing us.” They are right. The science is undeniable, and, in many places, people do not need a chart or graph to understand the climate crisis. They can simply look out of the window. Climate chaos is playing out in real time from California to the Caribbean, from Africa to the Arctic and beyond. Those who contributed least to the problem are suffering the most. If our world is to avoid the climate cliff far more action is needed to heed the call of science and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030; reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and limit temperature rise to 1.5° C by the end of the century. Young people, the UN - and a growing number of leaders from business, finance, government and civil society. In short, many of us are mobilising and acting.

Recently I took part in a webinar where speakers from all over the world were launching 'Jubilee for the Earth'. From 1st September to 4th October we are encouraged to celebrate the Season of Creation. One of the speakers was from Tearfund which is 50yrs old this year. There is some useful information on their website:

[https://www.tearfund.org/en-SC/about\\_you/action/the\\_world\\_rebooted/](https://www.tearfund.org/en-SC/about_you/action/the_world_rebooted/)

VERTICAL FARMING: welcome to the future of agriculture....It sounds like the stuff of fantasy- but many scientists now believe that crops grown in high-tech, multi-storey containers could help us solve many of the world's biggest problems, from climate change to loss of biodiversity. In Dundee David Farquhar has a tall windowless shed where a light breeze keeps the air fresh, a heating system keeps the temperature constant and it never gets dark. Each plant in racks that lie, one on top of the other, stretching far above his head. The light is purple, sometimes pink and sometimes 'white' with the green taken out, as plants reflect green light. It takes a lot of energy to replace the sun so that means the crops worth growing are currently limited like baby greens, micro greens and salads. These are plants that are physically light, so need little sun to build biomass, and also perishable so have high wastage if not grown locally. It is not just in Dundee there are vertical



farms all over the world. Some supply salads to airlines, some grow herbs for restaurants and in Singapore there is even vertical fish farming, a multi-storey car park. Take away soil, take away weather and extraordinary things can happen. Yes, staple crops are not there yet but strawberries are approaching economic viability. Vertical farmers are already trialling potatoes so you never know what you might find in a local supermarket sometime soon.

*Margaret Horrell*



#### End of Year Youth Worker Report 2019 – 2020

ASSEMBLIES. This year we led assemblies in Rhu, Luss, JLB, Colgrain, and Hermitage Academy. Hermitage Primary asked me to do one Assembly and to speak at their Christmas and Easter services instead. Unfortunately, this year we did not manage to arrange suitable dates with Arrochar Primary. With Rosneath, Kilcraggan, Garelochhead and Cardross we face the issue that they have a minister in monthly taking assemblies, so they are not looking to have us in as well. We currently do not take assemblies in Lomond, St Joseph's or Parklands.

SU GROUPS. Cardross – Elizabeth Stewart and Christine Galloway continue to run this group in Cardross Primary on a Monday lunchtime.

Colgrain – Brian Titchener, Ken Newberry and Wendy White have been running the group on a Tuesday lunchtime with Sheena Thorn being added to the team during the year. Ken, Brian and Wendy have expressed a wish to retire and have others take over the group, we are still struggling to find new team.

JLB – Allen Farrell and Helen have been running the group and this year moved it to a Thursday lunchtime. An increase in numbers was seen with around 14 young people over the year settling down after Christmas to a solid group of 7.

Hermitage Primary – Helen stepped back this year and the group was run by Audrey Maguire, Patricia Lawson, Joan Young and Rhona Black who worked in



pairs alternating to run the group throughout the year. Helen has joined occasionally with the group meeting on a Tuesday lunchtime. The group started well with numbers in the high twenties at the beginning and by March had dropped down to an average of 8 young people.

Rhu – Helen, Jan Mansfield and Lili Hunter continued to run the group on a Monday lunchtime with numbers this year averaging around 11 young people with 16 coming over the course of the year.

Lomond – Elizabeth Stewart and Violet McLatchie continued to run this group on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Hermitage Academy – The group was relaunched this year by Helen and Rhona Knight meeting on a Wednesday lunchtime in the Assembly Hall at the same time as Chaplaincy café. Numbers varied over the year with an average of 8 young attending but occasionally having 13 young people there.

WEEKLY GROUPS. The Tribe – Meeting on a Tuesday night with Clive Charters and Helen in Helensburgh Baptist Church for those P6-S1. The group has varied in size over the year from 4-10. When meeting in person we had on average 6 young people attending.

From 31st March we have been meeting online via zoom. Clive and Helen have met with 5 young people most weeks for mixture of teaching (kept to short 15-minute session), catching up with the young people and playing some games.

The Well – meeting on a Monday night in Bethesda Christian Fellowship for those S2-S4. The group has on an average week 7 young people attending with 3 others on the outskirts of the group.

Since Monday 23rd March the group have been meeting online using zoom and Elizabeth Stewart has been able to join us for this group. We have been continuing our study of the prayer course, along with hosting a murder mystery.

16-20 – This group has been meeting on a Thursday night in Helensburgh Baptist Church and when there is a full house, we have 6 in attendance. We have had a few visit during the year. Due to studying this group can be quite hit and miss with numbers. Since 26th March we have been meeting online via zoom and had a pretty constant attendance rate. We've been continuing the prayer course online and also held a murder mystery evening together.



Something Special – We launched a monthly after school group for P4/P5 on the first Wednesday of the month in Bethesda. A team of four leaders headed this up Helen, Marion Farrell, Maureen Pawson and Elizabeth Finney. There has been a slow uptake to this group, with unfortunately the day/time clashing with many dance/swimming/sports groups. However, we have had six young people come along who have really engaged and enjoyed what we do.

With lockdown occurring we missed April's session, so for May Helen recorded a mini session involving craft, story and introduction etc. This was posted live on facebook and packs were sent to the young people with their worksheet and craft items. This will happen again in June.

Chaplains Café – The café this year was held in the Assembly Hall on a Wednesday at the same time as the SU group. The chaplains were on a weekly rota with me helping set up and take down each week. We average around 30 young people coming along each week (not including SU Group).

YEARLY EVENTS. Christmas Unwrapped – we hosted Christmas Unwrapped in Helensburgh Parish Church, Rhu Parish Church, Cardross Parish Church and Arrochar Primary. Hermitage Primary were able to join us for the first time this year due to their musical production moving to the spring. We received positive feedback from many of the schools involved.

Easter Code – we had planned to host Easter Code in Helensburgh Baptist, Rhu Parish, St Margaret's, Cardross Parish and Garelochhead Parish Churches. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus situation these had to be cancelled. We had made a few changes in response to school feedback. So, we had established a connection with the Navy Chaplaincy team who gave their support and permission to enable us to use St Margaret's for JLB which would have saved their extra-long travel time. We also were using Helensburgh Baptist as a base point in the town as Churches had expressed that they did follow up teaching based on visiting a Church building and so we thought it might be helpful to host Christmas and Easter in different Churches so they could see different types of Churches.

Seaside Special – we held both morning and afternoon sessions in Helensburgh Baptist Church using SU material Desert Detectives in the morning and Absolutely Everything in the afternoons with our P7-S3 group. We had 53 attending in the



morning and 14 attending in the afternoon sessions. With a team of around 30 adults and young leaders helping over the two sessions.

Peninsula Holiday Club – we used the SU Mega Makers material and hosted the week event in Garelochhead Parish Church. With the Sunday Service and BBQ also being held there this year. Once again, we had good numbers attending with the Church paying for a bus to transport children from further round the lochside each day being used well.

Soul Survivor – we attended the final Soul Survivor at Lendrick Muir with leaders being Helen, Ben Mansfield and Clive Charters. We took 17 young people with us and it was a great 5 days with relationships deepened between the group and with God.

OTHER. We attended Powerpoint throughout the year with numbers varying however there is still a core of young people keen to attend.

We held our second 24 hr prayer room with real positive feedback again and it was encouraging to see a good number of young people coming along after school to pray as well.

We hosted another light party, where we saw around 50 people attending the evening held at Helensburgh Baptist Church. It was great to see a number of new families join us in this. Helen wrote individual invites to all those who had attended Seaside Special to invite them along.

I made a visit to almost all of the Churches who support the project in the area over the year to update them on the work the project is currently doing. A few we still needed to visit as we were unable to pin down a date with the relevant Minister. We were well received in each Church and I found it helpful to be able to be around after the service to speak with individuals and answer some questions.

Overall, I think it has been a good year with Contraflow seeing young people choose to follow Jesus, deepen their faith, and make bold steps in sharing that faith with others. We've seen our groups change and develop with 16-20 and Something Special starting, and the SU group at Hermitage Academy restarting. However throughout it all we've seen God at work and kept him central.

*Helen Buchanan*

# CALENDAR FOR JULY

## JUNE

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Feast-day of Peter and Paul, Apostles**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Feria**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
7:30pm Vestry Meeting by Zoom

## JULY

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Fifth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Feria**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Sixth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Feast-day of John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Seventh after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Feast-day of William Wilberforce, Social Reformer and Anti-Slavery Campaigner, 1833**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Eighth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July – Feria**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

## AUGUST

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – Ninth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August – The Transfiguration of the Lord (transferred)**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – Feast-day of Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
10:30-11:15am Young Church  
10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
\*No Evensong\*

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August – Feast-day of Clare of Assisi, Religious, 1253**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

# /AUGUST 2020

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – Eleventh after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
 10:30-11:15am Young Church  
 10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
 \*No Evensong\*

## **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August - Feria**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
 10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Twelfth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
 10:30-11:15am Young Church  
 10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
 \*No Evensong\*

## **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Feast-day of Ebba of Coldingham, Abbess, 683**

9:15-9:45am Church Prayer Group  
 10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Thirteenth after Pentecost**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)  
 10:30-11:15am Young Church  
 10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982)  
 \*No Evensong\*

\*Change of Timing\*

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** As at date of production of this edition, Scottish Government and the College of Bishops have instructed that all SEC churches shall remain closed. The above calendar is dependent upon an end to this closure.

If this closure is not lifted, then Sunday services are available online from the Bishops at 11am on Sundays and from St. Michael's website on Sunday Evenings. Weekly sermons from the Rector and the weekly service sheets are available online on St. Michael's website.

# **From Bishop Kevin**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well and that this lockdown is not too difficult for you, your families, and friends.

I am very disappointed and sad that the pandemic means that Elspeth and I have not been able to move to Glasgow and Galloway in May as was planned. As you know, the enthronement service at the cathedral was arranged for 4 July and that too has had to be postponed. I will however take over as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway as planned on 1 July and we will move to Glasgow as soon as we possibly can. We are so sorry not to be able to meet you all face to face at the moment, and we are very much looking forward to the time when we can do so, and to visiting you all in your churches. I would like to thank everyone in the Diocese who has been so helpful and supportive thus far, especially all the office staff, the Synod Clerk, and the Diocesan Secretary, Treasurer and Surveyor.

I have often been asked what my Strategy for the Diocese and my Mission Plan is. I attach my reflections and thoughts as I move towards the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

After years of putting magazines together for congregations. After years of writing the Rector's letter and being told my efforts were worthy but a little dull. After years of finding theological articles of real depth and historical articles of real interest. After years I realised as I was leaving my last congregation what the choir really wanted came under the generic heading – Gossip. So here it is...

Having been born and brought up in the North East of England, Sunderland to be precise, I came to Edinburgh Theological College in 1976. My first degree was in History at Leeds and the attraction of Edinburgh was partly to come North properly, having gone south for my first degree.

During my time at Coates Hall I did get to know a former Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, Francis Moncrieff, who was later a part of my reason for coming back to exercise ministry in Scotland. After College and the University of Edinburgh, I returned to the Diocese of Durham to serve my curacy in a mining village called Horden, at that time in the middle of the extensive Durham coalfields. I am the only member of the current College of Bishops to have been trained in and by the SEC.

Towards the end of my curacy, I was invited to become Chaplain to the University

## **From Bishop Kevin (continued)**

of Leeds, where one of my next-door neighbours was David Jenkins. As I was beginning to explore returning to a congregational ministry, +Richard Holloway asked me to come to Edinburgh to rescue St Salvador's Stenhouse, opposite the prison and in the middle of a social housing scheme. The congregation and building had been established by Francis Moncrieff for whom +Richard and myself had enormous respect. Time is too short for me to tell you of the burglaries, bricks through the windows, youth drugs project and endless efforts to raise money through jumble sales, tombolas and fetes. It was all great fun and the Holy Spirit moved among us.

During my time there, I met and married Elspeth at St Salvador's. We often thank God that the congregation just allowed us to be ourselves and were never intrusive while being totally supportive, the SEC at its best.

At that time, I also became part time Diocesan Director of Ordinands for Edinburgh and then Provincial Director of Ordinands, appointed by the Primus +George Henderson. To illustrate how things have changed, I can tell you that the Primus's advice was not to put too much effort into selection and recruitment because the SEC 'is finished'. He was part of a generation who had lost confidence in the church. The situation is now the opposite as many of us realise just how rich the sacramental life of our churches is. We have confidence that God is with us, that the Holy Spirit is moving among us and we are saying by our faithfulness – we have an experience of the living God. That confidence is what I personally know, and experience and it is a confidence shared by the present College of Bishops and I believe, the Province.

Despite being Provincial Director of Ordinands and doing some, what would now be called, transitional ministry, I decided I wanted to return to having my own congregation and so I moved to St Michael and All Saints, Edinburgh. My intention always was to give up the vocational discernment work, but the Vestry were paid for my PDO time and so who would turn down a new Rector with a dowry?

Faithfulness is often interpreted as preservation, as keeping things as they always have been. My first years in the new charge were not always easy as we sought to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in changing patterns and gender of ministry. I was probably the last Rector in SEC to have to deal with protests in the street. Fortunately, the worst was during an outdoor procession and so we just sang louder!

## **From Bishop Kevin (continued)**

God is with us in so many ways we do not always realise. The years in Edinburgh, on reflection, were full of interference by the Holy Spirit. Students who were musicians came to sing with us, then found faith with us, made their home with us. Students came from the Theological Institute, spent time with us – I often wonder what happened to Kelvin Holdsworth.....

When I arrived in the congregation there seemed a lot of elderly people and when I left sixteen years later, there seemed a lot of elderly people and a lot of younger people and children.

And I was still trying to give up vocational discernment work. The regular meetings I had with the College of Bishops on vocation, meant I gained an invaluable sense of the Province and its potential through the Bishops and visiting every Diocese. The visiting was curtailed when I became Dean of Edinburgh but that brought new challenges and new insights into Diocesan and Provincial life.

Then on to Argyll and the Isles. Fortunately, I love the sea and have enjoyed rough crossings in choppy waters. That could be the subject of many a sermon, but it has just been a fact of life for the past decade. It has been such an exciting time working with the Diocesan officers, the clergy and all the people to make real the building of the kingdom of God with limited resources, small scattered congregations, and vast distances. This we did together because of the commitment, energy, enthusiasm and faithfulness of the clergy and laity who recognise and know that God is with us.

Having limited resources I knitted our own Mission programmes: 'Building the Vision' was like sending out a knitting pattern for a balaclava, and when we met at the Diocesan Conference Day it was inspirational and great fun seeing what could be done with a balaclava. It is a great privilege to be a bishop and to be a small part of so many congregations where the Holy Spirit moves and encourages and blesses our efforts and vision.

The privilege of being Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway is indeed a challenge, but God is with us. I ask you all to pray for me and for Elspeth as we prepare to move. If you were to ask me what I need most as I become Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, I would say I stand most in need of God's gift of Wisdom. Please pray that God will grant me Wisdom.

May God bless and keep you

*+ Kevin*

## **From Bishop Kevin (continued)**

### **REFLECTIONS/ MY MANIFESTO FOR THE DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY**

Dear Friends,

**I believe in God.**

**I believe in the Scottish Episcopal Church.**

**I believe in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.**

And that is why I have responded to what I believe to be God's call discerned with and through the College of Bishops, to come to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness is my strategic plan as I move to the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Faithfulness is an old fashioned word but at the electoral synod meeting, attended by the whole College of Bishops, during the group work it was the word faithfulness, that summarised my experience of that group and the whole electoral process in Glasgow and Galloway.

Faithfulness of the people who turned out for electoral meetings on a Saturday. Faithfulness they described in how, often, small congregations meet on Sundays for worship. Faithfulness they described as their experience of God. Faithfulness of God shown in their yearning to be better disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ and to live ever more closely with Him. Faithfulness to share their real experience of knowing, feeling, God is with us.

God's faithfulness to us we see in the life, death, and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They crucified Jesus, all that is worst in human nature, jealousy, anger, revenge, certainty, they combined to kill Jesus who showed the full potential of the love in which we recognise the image of God in and with us. The women laid Jesus in the tomb, the place of darkness, failure, disappointment, to prove God is with us in love in our darkest places, whether we recognise that fact or not, even when we feel God is absent and ask "Where is love?". God is with us in the question, the doubt. Whatever faith is, it is not certainty. Paradoxically, faithfulness teaches us to embrace the questions and the doubts, to have faith in those questions and doubts.

Faithfulness is expressed in our life together as the Scottish Episcopal Church. We



## **From Bishop Kevin (continued)**

have a rich experience of prayer, worship, the sacramental life, intellectual rigour and debate, fearless engagement with culture. Faithfulness has been our experience during the COVID pandemic. The faithfulness of our clergy and laity who have worked so hard to sustain worship, the sacramental life, to prove God is with us, through computers, and tablets, and phones.

Faithfulness to love, to God who is love, as it was in love that we closed the doors of our churches, not in fear of the virus. God is with us; we continue to pray. And as someone famous said, our streets are not empty, they are full of love in small acts of kindness, consideration, generosity and faithfulness.

Perhaps the pandemic has brought us resurrection, we can leave behind the tomb of cynicism. We now recognise that there are nurses and carers who cherish their patients, knowing that their touch may be the last. Doctors who carry their patients in their hearts. Teachers who want their pupils not only to learn but to flourish. Priests who say their prayers and serve others because they are faithful. The people on the check-outs in our local supermarket faithfully, patiently, explaining that it is not rationing, we are simply being asked to make sure there is enough for all. That is the front line, it is dangerous.

The cynic is the person who is determined never to be disappointed again. Jesus' resurrection proves God is with us in the tomb of fear, disappointment and loneliness and love bursts out of the tomb of cynicism.

God is with us in Faithfulness. God's faithfulness to us, which is my experience of God. And our faithfulness to God which is my experience of Glasgow and Galloway. Faithfulness which I pray I may show to God and to the Diocese through:

Encouragement, energy and enthusiasm: Faith is so exciting; faithfulness is the Diocesan hallmark, let us encourage each other as I visit congregations and clergy.

Experience: let us look at our strengths, how do we, have we, will we, experience God. Let us move nearer to God together in faithfulness to God and one another.

Effecting: Building the Kingdom of God through faithfulness is our aim and our purpose. That means we do not focus on age, numbers of people in church, money, or lack of it. We will build the Kingdom of God, who is love, through faithfulness. We will build and grow because God is with us. We will all be able to say when asked why we go to church, faithfulness will say: "Because there I have an experience of the living God."

*+ Kevin*

## And a message from Elspeth

I am looking forward very much to meeting you all, to joining you in worship and to visiting your churches. I am very sad that the Covid-19 restrictions have delayed our move to Glasgow and Galloway. I hope it will not be too long before we can move house and meet you all, even if we have to keep two metres apart!



I am also looking forward to being back in Glasgow again and to getting to know the Diocese better. I lived and worked in Glasgow for four years after finishing my PhD degree, and again for two years later in my career, and I have very happy memories of my time there. My mother was born and brought up in Helensburgh and throughout my childhood we often visited my Scottish Granny there. It will be good to be back in the West.

I was born and brought up in Durham and then went to University in Edinburgh for my first degree in Planning and my PhD which focussed on the Economic Development of the Scottish Highlands and Islands and on strategic planning. My first job was in Strategic Planning with the City of Glasgow Council. I then moved to the Scottish Development Agency and had several roles with them, first in Glasgow in Corporate planning in Bothwell Street, then in Edinburgh in Business, setting up a regional office in the Borders and then back to Glasgow as Head of Rural Development. When I met and married Kevin, I moved to be Head of Economic Development for the City of Edinburgh Council.

I then had a big career shift as I wanted to use the skills and experience, I had gained in another area that mattered to me more personally. I was Macmillan Cancer Support's Director for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for 10 years. I then moved to my present role as Chief Operating Officer for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

As we begin to meet you all: two quirky things to tell you. Firstly, we decided I would keep my own name when I married Kevin so don't be confused if you hear someone asking who Dr Atkinson is. Secondly, I have been a vegetarian since I was a student, but Kevin is most definitely not!

I very much hope that we can meet soon

*Elspeth*

## From Beverly-Ann Leatherby

May I firstly thank everyone at St Michael's who have supported me in my illness over the past three years. The kindness and prayers have been a great comfort.

Margaret Gilbert has been on several occasions to our house to give me communion and at the same time I have been able to catch up on church matters. Hopefully once the virus has abated I will again be able to attend the Tuesday morning Service. Sadly my immune system is low and it is always a worry that I will catch an infection so a Service where the congregation is smaller is ideal.

I know Nick and Jane Davies very well from the Royal Navy and of course Nigel Allen, who is eager to introduce my husband James and me to the Rector Dominic Ind. Hopefully that will be sooner rather than later.

I would be very grateful if you could arrange for copies of the Messenger be sent to me online. I do enjoy reading them.

Kind regards

*Beverly-Ann Leatherby*

## Social Programme 2020

The following programmed events are currently suspended and will only take place if Scottish Government guidelines as well as instructions from the College of Bishops allow.

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Church Barbecue	lunchtime	Nigel Allan, 20 Millig Street
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival Exhibition		St Michael's Church

*John Hanks*

# ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

## WALKS JULY/AUGUST 2020

**AT PRESENT NO WALKS ARE ALLOWED. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAILS FOR DETAILS OF WALKS WHEN THESE RESUME.**

The walks will generally start at 9am but sometimes may start either earlier or later depending on the individual walk. Please ensure you read the information from the leader that will be circulated before the walk and will also be displayed in the church hall one week prior to the walk. If you need any further information on a walk please get in touch with the named leader.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Sue Ashby, Pete Ashton, Maureen Douglass and Geoff Mason

## **House Communions**

House Communions are suspended at present. Please watch the website for details when they resume.

*Richard Smith*

## **The Beacon Trust**

I don't know, if like me, when you talk to friends and family on the phone just now, you find it difficult to answer the question, "what news do you have?" Like the imaginary job applicant in the future who was asked what he was doing in the gap in his CV in 2020 and explained that he spent the time washing his hands. Sadly, our shop remains closed and our van is unable to pick up and deliver household goods. As soon as we are permitted, we will recommence our operations; I believe that many people have been spring-cleaning and reorganising their homes during lock-down so we should have plenty of surplus furniture etc, to pick up. There certainly remains a need in the community for low cost home furnishings. We thank you all for your support and look forward to more normal times.

*Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust*



## **READERS' and SIDESPERSONS' LISTS**

Readers' and sidespersons' rotas will be circulated as soon as the church re-opens.

*Richard Smith*

## LECTIONARY – JULY/AUGUST 2020

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Eucharist (NRSV)</b>	<b>Evensong (KJV)</b>
5 July Fifth after Pentecost	Zechariah 9.9-12 Psalm 145.8-15 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19,25-30	<i>Trinity 4</i> Psalm 23,25 Joshua 24.26-end Acts 8.26-end
12 July Sixth after Pentecost	Isaiah 55.10-13 Psalm 65.8-13 Romans 8.1-11 Matthew 13.1-9,18-23	<i>Trinity 5</i> Psalm 33,36 1 Samuel 2.12-21 Acts 9.32-end
19 July Seventh after Pentecost	Wisdom 12.13,16-19 Psalm 86.11-17 Romans 8.12-25 Matthew 13.24-30,36-43	<i>Trinity 6</i> Psalm 37 1 Samuel 4.1-18 Acts 11.1-18
26 July Eighth after Pentecost	1 Kings 3.5-12 Psalm 119.129-136 Romans 8.26-39 Matthew 13.31-33,44-52	<i>Trinity 7</i> Psalm 41, 42 1 Samuel 11.14-12-end Philippians 1
2 August Ninth after Pentecost	Isaiah 55.1-5 Psalm 145.14-22 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21	<i>Trinity 8</i> Psalm 44 1 Samuel 15.1-31 Philippians 2
9 August Mary Sumner Day	Proverbs 24.3-4,12-14 Psalm 119.9-16 Hebrews 13.1-5 Luke 11.9- 13	<i>Trinity 9</i> Psalm 48,49 1 Samuel 17.1-11,32-54 Philippians 4
16 August 11 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Isaiah 56.1,6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11.1-2a,29-32 Matthew 15.21-28	<i>Trinity 10</i> Psalm 55 1 Samuel 24.1-25.1 Colossians 1.1-23
23 August 12 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Isaiah 51.1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20	<i>Trinity 11</i> Psalm 70,71 2 Samuel 1.17-end Colossians 1.24-2.15
30 August 13 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Jeremiah 15.15-21 Psalm 26.1-8 Romans 12.9-21 Matthew 16.21-28	<i>Trinity 12</i> Psalm 73 2 Samuel 12.1-23 Colossians 3.1-17



## **Service Details**

### **Sunday**

8:00am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite) followed by refreshments  
*Crèche and Young Church*

### **Tuesdays**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite) followed by refreshments

For dates of services please see Diary (Page 10) inside

