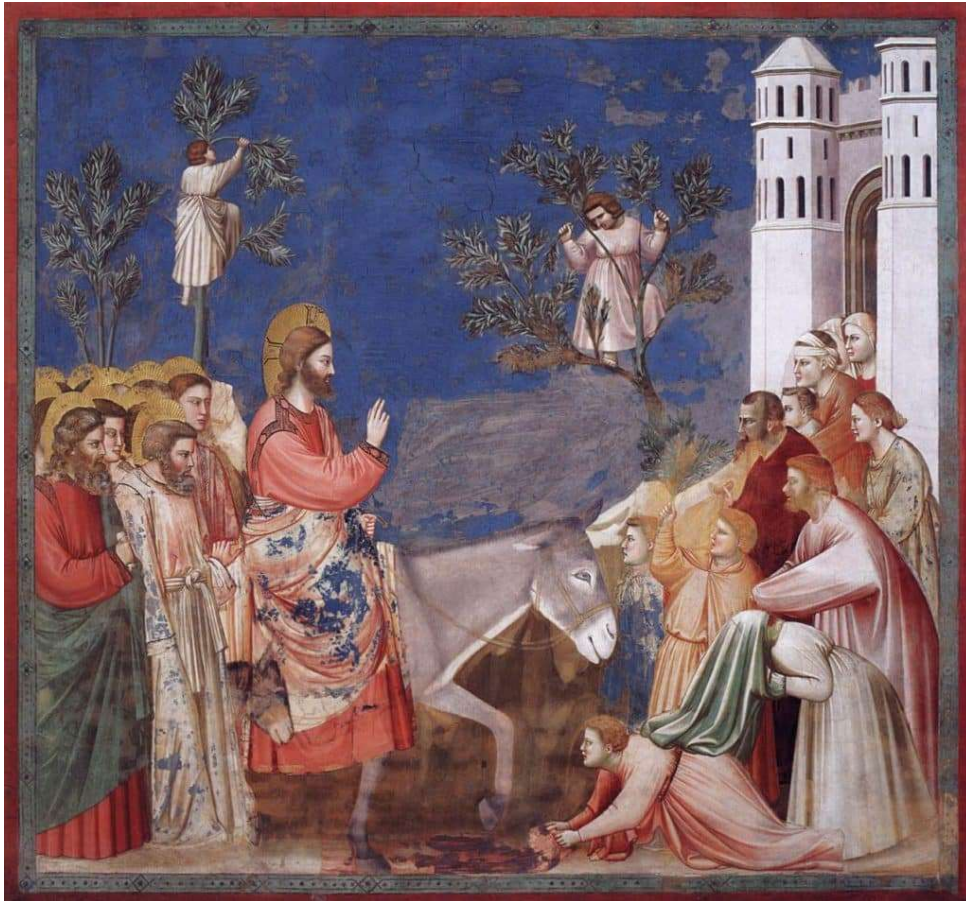


**March and April 2022**

# 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

**The United Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway**

**Bishop: The Rt. Revd Kevin Pearson**

Diocesan Website: [www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/diocese/glasgow)

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### **Contact People/Organisers**

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Crèche	Pauline and Ray Williams	673944
Sidespersons	Chris Sanders	678028
Bellringers	Kitty Fleming	676963
Reading (Lessons) Rota	Nigel Allan	671875
Cleaning Co-ordinator	Barbara Hoey	671718
Visiting Co-ordinator	Sheila Baker	674686
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Intercessions Rota	Joan Sadden	672422
Sunday Coffee Rota	Margaret Horrell	676936
BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes)	Marion Blake	673960
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Richard Horrell	676936
USPG	Marion Blake	673960
Hall Convener	Maureen Kyle	672951
Monthly Coffee Morning Rota	Maureen Kyle	672951
Eco Congregation	Margaret Horrell	676936
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Gerry Quickfall	679083
Social Committee	John Hanks	675010
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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.

## **From the Rector**

Dear Friends,

Easter Day is certainly late this year (Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April) and consequently, Ash Wednesday isn't until the beginning of March (Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March).

Through February our Lent book, Church and Kingdom has been on sale at St. Michael's - £5.00 (book 8 of the Pilgrim course). What it says on the back of this book is: ... we are invited to explore how we can 'follow the way', experiencing Christian faith not just as a set of things to believe in but as a way of life.

Starting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, we will meet in the hall for 5 consecutive Thursday evenings to pray; reflect and debate such topics as living generously and treading lightly on the earth. After 2 years of virtual meetings, it will be good to share again in person! Do collect a book and write your name on the list if you wish to attend.

As part of our Lenten journey this year, we are having our Stewardship Campaign (27<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> April). It takes us from the Sunday next before Lent, to Lent 5, what we used to call (and some of us still do), Passion Sunday. The Gospel for the Sunday next before Lent tells us the story of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28b-36). We are on a mountaintop where the appearance of Our Lord's face is changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. It's a mystical moment and I hope we will approach our Stewardship Campaign as first and foremost being about our spiritual journey.

Please note that we intend to have a full Easter Triduum this year. Starting on 14th April with:

## **MESSENGER**

**March/April 2022**

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### *May/Jun 2022 Edition*

Handing in Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Apr  
Publication Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Apr

### *Jul/Aug 2022 Edition*

Handing in Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Jun  
Publication Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Jun

For an email copy please  
contact the Editor.

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## From the Rector (continued)

Maundy Thursday Evening Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm; Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday at 2.00pm; Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8.00pm.

This takes us back up the mountain with our own journey, ready to celebrate Easter Day in the Lord's Resurrection. Alleluia!

Love,

Dom Ind, Rector

## Notices

**MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING** As a one-off event, the March Coffee Morning will be held in the Upper Hall, with a cake-stall, at 10:30am on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Tel: Maureen 672 951

The April Coffee Morning will be held at Carol and Nick Parry's House, Moorcraft, 24 East Lennox Drive, Helensburgh G84 9JD at 10:30am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Tel: 678 587.

*Maureen Kyle*

**MOTHERS' UNION** branch will meet in the Church Hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am and on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April at the same time.

*Richard Horrell*

**RAMBLING CLUB** will meet on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 9:30am outside St Michael's for a walk at Buchanan Castle Estate in Drymen. (For future walks see notices in the Hall)

**CHRISTAN AID** Quiz Night will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Upper Hall.

*Ruth and John Hanks*

**EXERCISE CLASSES** will continue Wednesday mornings at 11am in the Upper Hall.

*Anna Ind*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place at High Auchensail Farm, Cardross during Lent this year (Please see article below)

*Rosemary Wilson*

**STAMPS FOR SCRIPTURE UNION** Many thanks to all those in the Congregation who have given me stamps over the past year. I'm always happy to receive more, particularly foreign or commemorative stamps. They go to Scripture Union, Glasgow to raise funds.

*Margaret Gilbert*

**JAMES DAVIES RIP.** Thank you for all the messages of support following the death of my brother James in January. Your thoughts and prayers meant a great deal.

*Nicholas Davies*

## Notices (continued)

**ECO-CONGREGATION COORDINATOR** The SEC encourages us to be 'Eco aware'. We need a volunteer to replace Margaret Horrell on the Helensburgh & Lomond Eco Congregation Committee. We also need someone to co-ordinate our efforts to achieve our Eco-Congregation Silver Award. Would anyone be interested in taking this responsibility on? Volunteers report to VSec.

*Nick Davies*

**QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS**, weekend of 4/5 June: Saturday/Sunday Flower Festival; Saturday evening Concert by the City of Glasgow Chorus; Sunday afternoon garden party in the rectory garden; Sunday evening Jubilee Evensong

*Dom Ind*

**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Richard Smith is seeking help in preparation and printing of the MESSENGER, weekly service sheets and notices, so that a second person will be aware of and able to take over in the event of illness, holidays and the like. Computer and printer are available in the Lower Hall.

*Richard Smith*

## News

This month we have an image of the Entry into Jerusalem by Giotto for the cover of our magazine to celebrate Palm Sunday.

*Richard Smith, Editor*

## Stations of the Cross

Following on from last year, we are planning to set up ten of the Stations of the Cross on the level areas of the garden, easily accessible for all ages.

We are in the process of finding artists to do representations of each station in their own style, and their own choice of subject. If anyone in St Michael's community feels inspired to take part in this, please contact Rosemary Wilson on 01389 841297 as soon as possible. We plan to have it during the last 4 weeks of Lent, and to share it with the other local churches who so kindly supported the Open Doors Fayre.

We are approaching each church so that they can choose dates when it would suit them to come. If you have any ideas to contribute, they would be most welcome.

Further details will be put on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

*Rosemary Wilson*

# Vestry Report

The first meeting of 2022 took place on 11th January and opened with prayers.

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS** were elected as follows: Honorary Treasurer – Janina Duncan. Property Manager – Reay MacKay. Vestry Sec – Nicholas Davies. It was emphasized that none of these appointments should be regarded as permanent and that ex officio members should feel able to pass on their responsibilities at an appropriate time.

**RECTOR'S REMARKS:** IMPACT OF PANDEMIC. The Rector reported that he has been taking communion to an increasing number of people in their homes, reflecting their unwillingness and loss of confidence to venture out. This has both mental and physical impact (eg loss of mobility).

CONGREGATION. Although we have sadly lost some members of our congregation, new people have appeared and we are a growing congregation, in contrast to many churches.

CHRISTMAS. We had a successful set of Christmas services. The 9 Lessons and Carols (with a reduced choir forced upon us by Govt covid regulations) was recorded. The Christmas Eve Eucharist was well supported, The Saturday Christmas Day service less so. Christmas 2022 falls on a Sunday which will be better.

CHOIR & MUSIC. Choir numbers fluctuate and the time commitment puts many people off. We simply need to be flexible. We remain very fortunate indeed to have the support of no less than 3 supremely talented organists.

OTHER CHURCHES. Revd David Young retired from Helensburgh Parish Church on 30th January, to join the RAF after 7 years in post. Recruiting his replacement will be a challenge. In the SEC, All Saints Bearsden is starting an Interregnum, and St Brides Hyndland will commence an interregnum from the summer. We should remember all these communities in our prayers.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN. We had agreed to run our Stewardship campaign during Lent.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:** We have £21,336 in the current account (boosted by Gift Aid income of £16,670), £40,018 in our Premium Account. The Reports from the Eco-Congregation consultant into Church and Rectory Heating cost £440. We have received a generous £500 bequest from Michael Wilson. Our finances are healthy but we have the £10,000 insurance bill to pay in March.

# Vestry Report (continued)

**PROPERTY ISSUES:** The ECO CONGREGATION CONSULTANT'S REPORTS on the church and rectory heating had been circulated. The vestry will need to decide the way ahead. The recommendations include: Use zero carbon electricity suppliers (we can transfer when current contract expires). Consider Air Sourced heat exchangers (our gas-powered boilers are relatively new, efficient and should last another 10-15 years at least. Changing might be a longer-term consideration and grants might then be available). c) Reduce the church ambient temperature from 10 degrees to 7 degrees. (A new thermostat making this possible is on order, once installed we can experiment with settings, having regard to the minimum temperature to keep the fabric dry and the organ in good shape. The Rector will still turn it up for services). Consider Solar Panels. (will be difficult given our listed building status, but St Andrews church in St Andrews has installed these despite listed status. The Property Manager is in touch with them to see if there are lessons to be learned). Install / improve insulation and double glaze where possible. (The rectory is entirely single glazed. Double glazing will be very expensive but there are some windows where double glazing might pay dividends. Fixing the Upper Hall sky light glazing to be investigated).

DAMP IN THE BASEMENT We have always had a damp problem in the outside walls of the staircase and in the crèche area of the basement. We have been given a bequest which we have decided to spend on redecorating the basement and creche area, but first we need to cure the damp. The first step in the process is to install a field drain around the outside perimeter of the church foundations which discharges into the stream on the East side of the church. A contractor has been appointed.

RECTORY GUTTERS. Although the gutters have been cleared out by a contractor there is still a problem in one area.

UPPER HALL. Mark Duncan arranged replacement curtain rails and Patrick and Jenny Trust kindly supplied and hung the new curtains. Notice Boards are being refitted by Derek Spall. To save money we will prepare and reseal the upper hall floor using hired sanding machines operated by a volunteer working party. Hall Convener will be consulted regarding the timing.

PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS. The latest guidance from the diocese had been received just before Christmas. Evidence since then indicates an improving situation. The Vestry agreed that continued mask wearing in church, good hygiene, test and trace, encouraging regular lateral flow testing and sensible social

## Vestry Report (continued)

distancing should remain in place at St Michaels.

**SAFEGUARDING.** There were no safeguarding issues to report but concern remains for those still isolated and suffering consequent mental and physical effects. As a series of 'Men's Day' social gatherings has been scheduled.

**VESTRY AWAY DAY.** There is not always time to discuss issues fully during vestry meetings so a trial Vestry Away Day session was held on Saturday afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> January in the Upper Hall. Summary of issues discussed reported separately.

**LINGADZE ACADEMY.** The need is for books with a fairly short timescale. Pandemic restrictions preclude a fundraising evolution just now. We are in partnership with the Rotary and it was agreed that if necessary we could make a donation from church funds which will be reimbursed by means of a fundraising event in the future.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

**NEXT VESTRY MEETING** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

*Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary*

## Vestry Away Day

The Away Day was chaired by the Rector and attended by 8 Vestry members, the Lay Reader, the Lead Organist and the Stewardship Convener. We started with an Opening Prayer and the meeting lasted 2 hours, covering 4 topics. This is a note of the main issues discussed.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:** The Stewardship Campaign 27 Feb – 3 Apr this year. Stewardship reflects our Christian discipleship and commitment to Christ. It can be financial but can also be giving of our time to the church. St Michaels has been fortunate to have received good financial support over the years and we are quite well off compared with many churches. Nonetheless our expenses are significant as we have to meet our Quota, the Stipend, maintain and heat our listed church and maintain the rectory. It would be good to encourage as much giving as possible by standing order which allows us to claim Gift Aid (£16,000 last year). It would also be good to appeal for more volunteers to give of their time to help out with duties such as sidesmen, coffee rota etc. It was agreed that a 'light' approach is appropriate on this occasion, taking the form of a letter to each member of the congregation.

## Vestry Away Day (continued)

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** The church halls have been redecorated to present a more modern feel. The Upper Hall now has new curtains and the notice boards are replaced. The floor resealing will be done by a volunteer work party around Easter. We have a plan to correct the damp problem in the basement/creche area by improving external drainage using the 'Rosemary Rose' legacy, then it will be redecorated. A better access to the Lower Hall will be achieved via a better lit external passageway to the East of the Church and through a new door to be installed in the North wall of the Lower Hall, thus avoiding the need to go through the Upper Hall. **ECO-CONGREGATION:** The SEC requires us to be 'Eco Aware' and a briefing was given in the requirements of the Eco Congregation Silver Award (We already have a Bronze Award). The criteria are listed in 4 broad areas: General aspects/Spiritual living/Practical living/Global living. To achieve the award, evidence of commitment has to be demonstrated by the entire congregation. It was agreed that St Michaels will apply for a Silver Award later this year. We will need to appoint a programme co-ordinator and we will have to convince 2 Assessors who will visit at a pre-arranged time. We need a volunteer to take over from Margaret Horrell as our representative on the Helensburgh & Lomond Eco-Congregation. **HEATING SURVEY REPORTS.** An Eco Church consultant visited before Christmas and has submitted reports on the church & halls and on the rectory. Recommendations are both short and long term and include consideration of improved insulation, double glazing, solar panels and possible alternative heating systems.

**IT WAS AGREED THAT:** (a) Vestry will seek to nominate a rep for the Helensburgh and Lomond Eco-Congregation Committee. (b) It is unfair to expect the Property Convener to take sole responsibility for implementing the Heating Survey recommendations. A sub-committee of the Vestry will be appointed to assist the Property Convener and produce a phased plan for vestry approval. (c) St Michaels will apply for an Eco Congregation Silver Award by the end of 2022. Congregational 'buy in' will be required.

### PASTORAL CARE:

Restrictions imposed because of the pandemic have left some members of the St Michaels community becoming increasingly isolated. Human beings thrive on social interaction. Existing links within the congregation with people looking out for each other are important. The Rector, Lay Reader and Sheila Baker have each worked to keep in touch. Bible Group and similar groups will restart soon. The possibility of running 'The Pilgrim Course' during mid-week evenings was



## Vestry Away Day (continued)

discussed. All these things are effective, but what more can be done? (a) The first 'MEN'S GROUP' events have taken place. (b) COFFEE AFTER SERVICES has recommenced, which is a valued opportunity for social interaction. (c) EASING OF PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS should enable our social programme to recommence. (d) Every member of the congregation could be encouraged to make contact with someone isolated. 'Look out for each other'. (e) The delivery of 'The Messenger' affords an opportunity to knock on the doors of the isolated. We might formalise this by sharing out delivery in local areas. (f) What lessons have we learned from lockdown?

**DIRECTION OF TRAVEL:** The Rector started by reminding us that Christianity is the biggest and fastest growing religion in the world, however it is in decline in Northern Europe especially in national churches. In the UK the independent evangelical churches are doing well. In the Anglican church, the 'Evangelicals' are flourishing and the Medieval Cathedrals offering traditional Book of Common Prayer worship are doing well. Parish churches with one minister running 3 or 4 churches are struggling. In Scotland the Church of Scotland is in some difficulty, reflected in Helensburgh where the parish church is about to lose its Minister, while there are question marks about Rhu & Shandon. Bethesda and the Baptists are flourishing, however. St Michaels' strength is in offering a highly liturgical, sacramental Anglican package in the reformed tradition, something unique and distinct.

WHAT DO WE DO WELL? (a) Strong attendances - we are seen as the 'Anglican Cathedral of Argyll'. (b) Music, choir supported by excellent organists and a fine organ. (c) Choral Evensong and Compline which is unique in our area.

OTHER ISSUES WERE RAISED: (a) Should we offer a non-Eucharistic service? Might be attractive to the young who are put off by formality. (b) Will we bring back the early morning Eucharist? Will re-start on Sundays in Lent, 0830. (c) Ecumenism. Has been a challenge locally but the interregnum in the Parish Church may present an opportunity. (d) It was agreed that this had been a useful exercise. For consideration in the future, we might debate the challenge of being a Christian in a secular society where standards of morality have changed.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

*Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary*



As we are now in a new year, Mothers' Union is looking towards the future with fresh vision, the goal for 2022 is Transformation - now! We have been challenged to transform ourselves personally and spiritually, to live out our faith, transform the churches and communities we work with and transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21<sup>st</sup> century life. Our branch will endeavour to do all we can to respond to this challenge.

At our February meeting, following the hymn 'All things Bright and Beautiful' accompanied by Joan Thomson and prayers, members brought examples of tangible biblical texts and we had a broad range of items from lilies, honey to garlic. Harriet Ndlovu also shared experiences of her time as an asylum seeker in Scotland plus the good news that at last she has been granted permission to work.

Our March meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Upper Hall. Our April meeting has been changed to avoid Easter week and will now be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am in the Upper Hall.

*Richard Horrell, Branch Leader*



It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the state of the environment and wonder what we can do about it. There are quite a few relatively small changes that can be made which will help improve the environment. One simple change could be the choice of Cleaning Products! Most cleaning products are contained in single use plastic and contain chemicals which are harmful to humans and toxic to the environment. I have not suffered from dermatitis since I changed over to Eco brands. "The hands that do dishes—"so the advert went was misleading at best. Eco products are sometimes difficult to find in supermarkets as they are often not in a prominent position on the shelves.

Shopping is another area in which we can make a difference by avoiding pre-packaged food. Choosing the local fishmonger, greengrocer, butcher and refill shops over the supermarket. Using recycled toilet rolls and kitchen rolls instead of the big named brands, saves trees the big carbon absorbers. Where possible choosing organically produced food and of course Fair-Traded goods.

*Ann Packard*

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH

### **MARCH**

#### ***Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Feast-day of David, Bishop, Patron of Wales c601***

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

followed by refreshments

7:30pm Vestry Meeting

#### ***Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday***

09:30am Rambling Club – Drymen

Buchanan Estate Walk

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

7:30pm Said Eucharist (1982 rite) with imposition of ashes

#### ***Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March***

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning in Upper Hall with Cake Stall

#### ***Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March – First Sunday of Lent***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

#### ***Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Feast-day of Edward King, Bishop, 1910***

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March***

10:30am Mothers' Union meeting in the Upper Hall

7:30pm Lent Course 1

#### ***Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Second Sunday of Lent***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

7:00pm Ecumenical Evening Prayer at St Aloysius Church, Rose Street, Glasgow

#### ***Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Feria***

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March***

7:30pm Lent Course 2

#### ***Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Third Sunday of Lent***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)

followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

7:30pm Compline

#### ***Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – The Annunciation***

10:30-11: Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March***

7:30pm Lent Course 3

#### ***Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

#### ***Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Feria***

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March***

7:30pm Lent Course 4

## /APRIL 2021

### **APRIL**

#### ***Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

#### ***Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Feria***

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April***

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning at Carol and Nick Parry's house

7:30pm Lent Course 5

#### ***Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Palm Sunday***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

#### ***Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday of Holy Week***

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday***

7:30pm Sung Eucharist

#### ***Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday***

2:00pm Solemn Liturgy

#### ***Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Holy Saturday***

8:00pm Easter Vigil

#### ***Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Sung Eucharist (1982

Rite) followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

7:30pm Compline

#### ***Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April***

No Eucharist

#### ***Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April***

10:30am Mothers' Union meeting in the Upper Hall

#### ***Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)***

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

10:30-11:15am Young Church

#### ***Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Feast-day of St Mark the Evangelist***

10:30-11:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)

followed by refreshments

#### ***Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April***

11:00am Exercise classes in Upper Hall

#### ***Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April***

7:30pm Christian Aid Quiz Night in Upper Hall

## Property Matters

We should all have fitted new radio linked fire, smoke and Carbon monoxide alarms in our homes by 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. The rectory has been done.

A contract has been let for the installation of a field drain to reduce damp in the lowest part of our Church, the crèche and staircase.

I have been trying to get permission from the Local Authority planners to convert a window in the lower hall into a door and window. However, Howard Young, the Chief Planner, has not yet responded to my requests. I will keep pressing him.

As you all know, energy costs have gone through the roof. The Church already has an 'Eco Congregation' initiative in place to reduce our Carbon Footprint. We have had a report prepared by Andrew McOwan, which has given us advice as to how we should go about that. We are looking at insulation, solar panels and air sourced heat exchangers. These are all expensive items and will probably not be affordable unless we can get grants or soft loans. I am happy to do the hardware side, but I would like help on the Grant side. If anyone out there could help, that would be great. The Government is already planning on handing out money.

We have been running the heating in the Church at a minimum of 10 degrees. Dom tweaks the thermostat on Saturday so that the church is comfortable for Sunday Service and turns it down again afterwards. The result of this policy is that the walls are not damp and the area round the Lectern is not speckled with paint that has fallen off the ceiling. The Organ will last longer. However, Andrew McOwan has advised us that we could run at a minimum temperature of 7 or 8 degrees and achieve the same result. Unfortunately, the thermostat only goes down to 10 Degrees, so I have asked Fusebox to fit a new thermostat.

*Reay Mackay*

## St. Michael's Photo Gallery

Now that we have new boards in the church hall, we are tidying up the photo gallery. This gallery has proved to be helpful to all of us who have a problem remembering names! We would like to encourage people to have a new photo where they no longer have their spouse, or where their children have grown up, & all new church members are welcome to request a photo. When photos are removed, they are all preserved in a special album in the choir vestry.

If anyone would like a photograph, please contact Sue or James Ashby after a church service, or phone: 675541.

*Sue and James Ashby*

## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

The rambling club ended the year with the annual 'walk off the turkey' on 28th December 2021 in glorious sunshine around Highlandman's Road. Sadly, due to the post-Christmas COVID restrictions we were unable to enjoy the planned refreshments at Elizabeth's - thank you to Elizabeth for offering her hospitality.



Our first walk of 2022 was along the Peninsula on a fairly damp Friday 14th January 2022, so we didn't see any of the splendid views from the trig point and unfortunately, due to the social distancing restrictions the post-Christmas Dinner in the evening had been

cancelled. Thank you to Julia for making all the arrangements with the Commodore and organizing all the refunds.

Unfortunately, the recent bad weather forced the postponement of the next walk in Mugdock Park, and this is now scheduled for Monday 14th February 2022.

Due to other commitments, it has not been possible for the Committee to meet and discuss a program of future walks, however, we do still hope to achieve this in the near future.



So, for the moment the walks will be arranged one month ahead. We are attempting to organize the walks on different days and if someone is unable to join us on a particular day it might be possible to do the same walk on another day - please just ask.



## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

(continued)

Walk	Date	Meeting Point and Time
Drymen Buchanan Estate Approx. 5.6 miles Duration 2.5 hours (not including any picnic time, if desired) Mostly good tracks and tarmac, but some wet sections at the farthest reaches. Some short and gentle inclines up and down, but mostly flat.	Wednesday 2nd March 2022	St Michael's at 0930

Please note if any details have to be changed everyone on the mailing list will be emailed and we will endeavour to promulgate the final details on the StM Website and on the Sunday Notices. Please contact one of the Committee if you would like to be included on our email list or have a suggestion for a particular walk.

The STM Walking Group Committee:

Pete Ashton - [pashton19@outlook.com](mailto:pashton19@outlook.com) - 07749 820789

Julia Gourd - [jfg20@outlook.com](mailto:jfg20@outlook.com) - 07742 397251

Geoff Mason - [geoffmasonry@outlook.com](mailto:geoffmasonry@outlook.com) - 07527 398319

Gerry Quickfall - [trevgerry@talktalk.net](mailto:trevgerry@talktalk.net) - 07870 681363

*Gerry Quickfall*

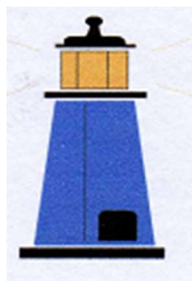
## The Beacon Trust

You might be surprised to learn that we are preparing for spring at the Beacon Trust even when the weather outside is cold and wintry. However, our volunteers have been spring-cleaning the shop in preparation for the world at large to be inspired by the change of season to clear their homes of unwanted possessions. This is our lifeblood and enables us to continue supplying those who cannot afford to buy new.

To date this has been our busiest year ever and our van has been kept busy delivering and picking up around the town. Our fund-raising continues and we have reached £14,500 of the total of £16,794 required for the new van – so our final goal seems to be within our grasp.

We gratefully thank all our supporters.

*Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust*



## Men's Coffee Morning



*Margaret Wardil*

## Who's Who? - In the Pew!

*A light-hearted interview with Michael and Marion Blake*

*by: Anna Ind*

Q. Where were you born?

A. Marion in Dulwich, South London; Michael somewhere in West London

Q. When is your birthday – day & month only? (Star sign)

A. Michael's on 7th March (Pisces); Marion's on 20th June (Gemini).

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Marion in South London; Michael in Oxfordshire, then Gloucestershire.)

Q. How long have you two been married and where did you meet?

A. Since 1964 — 57 years. We met in the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London (Hunter Street) where we both worked.

Q. You have 3 sons, would you like to tell us a little about them?

A. Chris, our eldest, is the Principal Oboe in the Ulster Orchestra. Julian and Jonathan are twins; Jon is a GP, and Julian has an online business.

Q. I know you're retired; would you like to tell us a bit about your life and work?

A. Michael studied science and anthropology at Cambridge, moving into research for his PhD in primate biology with Dr John Napier in London — at the Royal Free Hospital, where he met Marion. We then spent three years in Brisbane, where Christopher was born; then back in UK with Unilever Research near Bedford. After five years he was appointed Lecturer in Information Science at Strathclyde University.

Q. How long have you lived in Helensburgh?

A. 47 years.

Q. Do you like travelling? If yes, where is your favourite place?

A. We have been to every continent except Antarctica, mostly on walking or opera holidays. We rarely return to the same place so have no favourites, but one of the most memorable

## Who's Who? - In the Pew! (continued)

*was a Ramblers Holiday in north Pakistan around Peshawar and the Karakorams in 1991, when it was safe to travel accompanied by an armed guard!*

Q. I know you belong to the Rambling Club; do you have any other hobbies?

A. *Yes, we go to concerts and opera; we both have sung in choirs all our lives. Marion belongs to a book group, and Michael dabbles in photography. We both enjoy our garden.*

Q. Is there any activity you've always wanted to try, but have never had the opportunity?

A. *Yes, Marion would have liked to try skiing, and Michael windsurfing...*

Q. What is the best book you have ever read?

A. *Michael enjoys reading increasingly, currently The Mirror & The Light. Marion likes long books eg War and Peace.*

Q. What is your all-time favourite film?

A. *We don't go to films much but do enjoy a good play....*

Q. What is the nicest/most unusual gift anyone has ever given you?

A. *A new bike with a 3-speed for my 13th birthday. Marion remembers a beautiful silk blue dress made by her mother, a Bond Street tailoress...*

Q. If you were stranded on a desert island and could have one luxury item, what would it be?

A. *For Marion, box sets of Italian and German operas, and for Michael a set of church bells would be nice.*

Q. How long have you been coming to St. Michaels and what do you like about it?

A. *Since coming to Helensburgh in 1974; Marion's brother Bob, a priest in England, wrote to the Rector introducing us, so no escape!*

Q. Where do you sit in the church and why?

A. *In the choir!*

Q. How long have you sung in the choir?

A. *We joined St. Michael's choir as a family (three boys) in 1977 (boys were paid a shilling a week in those days). We left when the boys voices broke, and Michael and I re-joined around 2000 when reinforcements were needed. In the meantime, we sang in the Oratorio Choir for twenty years. We've been singing in choirs together for fifty years, Marion also sang in her school choir for six years.*

Q. Who would you say has been a great inspiration in your life?

A. *Our Rector and his wife in Brisbane, inspiring us spiritually and as new parents.*

Q. If a genie granted you one wish, what would you wish for?

A. *Worldwide instant elimination of the pandemic. Michael would also like perfect hearing.*

Q. Is there any other trivia I haven't asked which you'd like to add?

A. *Can't think of one just now, thanks.*

**WATCH OUT - NEXT TIME IT COULD BE YOU!!!**

## Hedgehogs

Hello, I'm a volunteer Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species. How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the UK. There are many reasons and it's sad to think of such a fate for this prickly little God's creature. Here are ways to help:

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Create a wild corner
3. Make your pond safe with a ramp
4. Clear away netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



What's a Hedgehog Highway? Since they travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate, a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let them pass through. Ask your neighbours to do the same! If you spot a hedgehog when driving at night, & can't stop in time, try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where least likely to be harmed. You can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/website>, which has resources to make your garden, neighbourhood and Parish hedgehog-friendly zones.

*Moira Grant, Falkirk*

## Ecumenical Evening Prayer



In honour of St John Ogilvie and other witnesses of faith at St Aloysius Church Rose St. Glasgow on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7pm. With Church and Civic Leaders, St Mungo Singers, Musicians and drama by Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project portraying the life of St John Ogilvie.



All Welcome.



## St Michael's Quiz & Diary Dates



# Quiz night

### • Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm St Michael's Upper Hall

Light-hearted & very social inter-church quiz for a good cause. **It can**

**only be a WIN-WIN for St M's...** We won last time – (Bob was phenomenal) - but if we don't this year we don't host it next!

**All abilities**, (and senior moments) welcome...

**Sustenance**: tea, coffee, juice and bickies

**Raffle**: donations please

**Please contact**: Ruth or John e: [ruth.hanks@talk21.com](mailto:ruth.hanks@talk21.com) m: 07870131506, then come along and join a table of 3 or 4. Family and friends welcome too. Let us know if help with lifts is needed.

**Entry donation** £2 for CA.

- **Christian Aid Fayre Sat 14<sup>th</sup> May 10-12 Helensburgh Parish Church Main Hall**
- **Christian Aid Service Sun 15<sup>th</sup> May details to follow**
- **Christian Aid Week 5th-21st May**
- **Concert for Christian Aid Sun 22nd May in the evening HPC**
- **Hymnfest for CA Sun 26th June 7pm HPChurch – part of the Sunday @ Seven series.**

**More detail will be posted in church and on St M's website and Facebook page. Or please ask. Your support with these events would be invaluable!**



Ruth & John Hanks  
St Michael's CA Reps  
Helensburgh Christian Aid Committee

Driveway plant sales worked well during lockdown, and the committee hope these might be continued during the summer in different streets. Please consider if you might have enough surplus plants to hold a small sale or to do so with a neighbour.

## READERS' LIST – MARCH/APRIL 2022

DATE	8:30am	10:30am	6:30/7:30pm
6 Mar	Nigel Allan	Jeannette Scobie	6:30pm John Sadden
13 Mar	Liz Sanderson	Jane Taylor	
20 Mar	Sam Harris	James Ashby	7:30pm Jill Braid
27 Mar	Hilary Menzies	Jill Braid	
3 Apr	Selina Mc Geoch	Jo Frain-Bell	6:30pm Csaba Barthos
10 Apr	Chris Sanders	Michael Blake	
17 Apr	Penny Johnson	Alex Laing	7:30pm Margaret Gilbert
24 Apr	Nigel Allan	Chris Packard	

## SIDESPERSONS' ROTA MARCH/APRIL 2022

DATE	10:30am	
6 March	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing
13 March	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
20 March	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
27 March	Nick Parry	Carol Parry
3 April	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
10 April	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
17 April	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
24 April	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing



## LECTIONARY – MARCH/APRIL 2022

Day	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (NRSV)
Wed 2 March	Ash Wednesday Liturgy Book	
Sun 6 March Lent 1	Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Psalm 91.1-10 Romans 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13	6:30pm <i>Lent 1</i> Psalm 119.1-16 Genesis 37.1-11 Luke 17:20-37
Sun 13 March Lent 2	Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 Psalm 27:9-17 Philippians 3.17-4.1 Luke 13.31-35	
Sun 20 March Lent 3	Isaiah 55.1-9 Psalm 63.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9	<i>Lent 3</i> 7:30pm <i>Compline</i> John 1:35-51
Sun 27 March Mothering Sunday	Exodus 2.1-10 Psalm 34:11-20 Colossians 3.12-17 John 19.25b-27	
Sun 3 April Lent 5 (Passion- tide begins)	Isaiah 43.16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3.4b-14 John 12.1-8	6:30pm <i>Lent 5</i> Psalm 119.145-160 Exodus 9.13-35 John 12.1-11
Sun 10 April Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 31.9-16 Philippians 2.5-11 Luke 19:28-40	
Thu 14 April	Maundy Thursday Liturgy Book	
Fri 15 April	Good Friday Liturgy Book	
Sat 16 April	Easter Vigil Liturgy Book	
Sun 17 April Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.15-25 1 Corinthians 15.19-26 John 20.1-18	<i>Easter Day</i> 7:30pm <i>Compline</i> John 20:19-23
Sun 24 April Easter 2	Acts 5.27-32 - Psalm 150 Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-31	



### Service Details

#### **Sunday**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 Rite)

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

6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month  
7:30pm Compline on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month

#### **Tuesdays**

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

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

