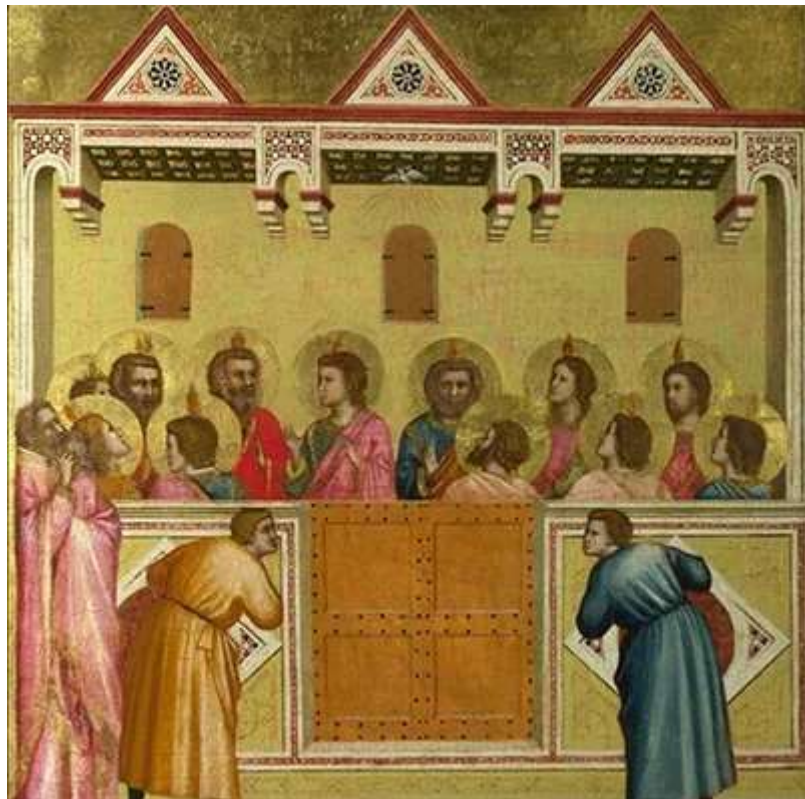


# *May and June 2022*

# 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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Website: [www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk/](http://www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsheleensburgh/>

## Church Group Leaders

Young Church	Samantha (Sammy) Harris	676585
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
Flowers ( <a href="mailto:flowers@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk">flowers@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk</a> )	Andrea Gibson	07414 747246
Chief Sacristan	Carol Parry	678587
Laundry and Soft Fabrics	Joan Sadden	672422
Intercessions Rota	Joan Sadden	672422
Sunday Coffee Rota	Margaret Horrell	676936
BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship Notes) Vacant		
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	Nick Davies	842060
Hill walking and Rambling Club	Gerry Quickfall	679083
Social Committee	John Hanks	675010
PVG Co-ordinator	Joan Thompson	423451
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## Contact People/Organisers

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,

"And then Easter happened. Jesus rose from the dead. The incredible, the unexpected happened. Life triumphed over death, light over darkness, love over hatred, good over evil. That is what Easter means - hope prevails over despair ... Oppression and injustice and suffering can't be the end of the human story, freedom and justice, peace and reconciliation, are his will for us, black and white, in this land and throughout the world. Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, his will for us will prevail, love will overcome hate, justice over injustice and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness".

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu (1931-1921)*

Maybe this year it's particularly important to hold on to Desmond's words, that at Eastertide we celebrate love overcoming hate. Life triumphed over death, love over hatred .... We're recalibrating ourselves to live with Covid; at the time of writing the diabolical war in Ukraine continues and then there is the extraordinary hike in the cost of living across the UK.

I have on my desk the Annual Report & Accounts from Helensburgh & Lomond Foodbank - it doesn't make comfortable reading ! In Nov '21 HLF gave out 186 regular food bags & then this year in March that increased to 260 food bags - moving substantially in the wrong direction ! You then look at the ranking of the world's richest countries & as you'd expect, USA & China are 1 & 2 respectively. The 2 giants are followed by Japan; Germany & then ourselves - just shy of 200 countries in the world & we're in the top half dozen for GDP. Here we are living in this very

## MESSENGER

**May/June 2022**

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### Jul/Aug 2022 Edition

Handing in Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jun  
Publication Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Jun

### Sep/Oct 2022 Edition

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

For an email copy please  
contact the Editor.

### Please send your contributions to: -

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## From the Rector (continued)

rich country and a relatively affluent part of it, watching the demand of our local food bank increase dramatically! We have this in our backyard, but we could name numerous countries around the world where there is gross injustice and invariably, we don't hear about it.

This Easter Season may we hold firm to the Easter message. As we struggle to make sense of what goes on in our world, through faith we've a message of hope - hope prevails over despair.

Anna and I wish you Eastertide blessings in this season of the resurrection.

Love,

Dom Ind, Rector

## Notices

**MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING** The May Coffee Morning will be held at Maureen and Brian Kyles' house, Dolphin Lodge, 2a East Montrose Street, Helensburgh G84 9AB, at 10:30am on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Tel: 672 951

The June Coffee Morning will be held at Ann and Chris Packards' House, Kiloran, 14 Glasgow Street, Helensburgh G84 8EL at 10:30am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Tel: 672 722.  
*Maureen Kyle*

**MOTHERS' UNION** branch will meet in the Church Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am and on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at the same time. See notices for final details.  
*Richard Horrell*

**RAMBLING CLUB** will meet on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at a time and place to be decided for a walk in the Greenock area and on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30am outside St. Michael's for a walk in the Trossachs. (For details see notices in the Hall)

**ECO-CONGREGATION COORDINATOR** Many thanks to Beth Macleod, Ray MacKay and Nick Davies who have kindly volunteered to take over the task of eco-congregation coordination from Margaret Horrell. Thank you, Margaret, for all your efforts over the years in this role.  
*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.

Please see the note about flowers on page 9.

## Notices (continued)

**EVENING PRAYER AT TOWNHEAD FARM** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May there won't be Compline. Instead, we'll have Evening Prayer at 4:30pm at Townhead Farm keeping Rogationtide slightly early.  
*Dom Ind*

**EXERCISE CLASSES**. Anna raised £320 from the exercise class, and it is being divided into 3 - Ukraine, Tricia, and St Michael's.

**MISS BELL TRUST**. We have received a grant of £2,000 from the Miss Bell Trust.  
*Janina Duncan*

**SIDESPERSIONS** At each service sides persons perform an essential role organising the hymn books and service sheets etc. and, especially, welcoming people to the church. The present team have done a great job to keep things going safely during the difficulties of Covid, however now we are back to normal it would be good if more people could join the rota, to act as sides persons about once every eight weeks (if more people join, this would be less often). Full instructions and help to get started will be provided! Please contact me on 678028 or sanders94@btinternet.com if you would like to join the team.  
*Chris Sanders*

**FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE** is holding a series of events on Zoom in May and June. Wed 4<sup>th</sup> May Dr Gill Yellowlees on Talking about Mental Illness; Thu 12<sup>th</sup> May Kathryn Mannix and Rt Rev Richard Holloway present the Malcom Goldsmith Lecture 2022; End of Life Aid Skills for Everyone course takes place between 10am and 12noon on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. See Notices at the back of Church.

## News

This month we have an image of the Pentecost by Giotto for the cover of our magazine. Giotto di Bondone (c. 1267-1337) "The first of the great personalities in Florentine painting was Giotto. Although he affords no exception to the rule that the great Florentines exploited all the arts in the endeavour to express themselves, he, Giotto, renowned as an architect and sculptor, reputed as wit and versifier, differed from most of his Tuscan successors in having a peculiar aptitude for the essential in painting as an art." Giotto was the first of the great renaissance artists, using perspective and realism at a time when the art world was dominated by Byzantine flat and stilted art.  
*Richard Smith, Editor*

## Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and started with prayers.

**RECTOR'S REPORT:** MARION BLAKE Marion's well attended funeral took place that afternoon. It was a fitting tribute to her life and very appropriately accompanied with high quality music and singing. ST MICHAELS SERVICES. In addition to Sunday 10:30am Eucharist we are offering Said Eucharist at 8:30am Sundays and 10:30am on Tuesdays. Choral Evensong 6:30pm 1st Sunday of the month and Compline 7:30pm 3rd Sunday. Overall attendance, though not yet back to pre-Covid levels, remains strong with a steady trickle of new faces. LENT. The Lent group, at a 'manageable dozen', was smaller than previous years but generated lots of good conversation, sharing of ideas and hopefully contributing to everyone's spiritual development. DIOCESE. The new Diocesan HQ is fully established at 49 Cochrane St. People are welcome to drop in for coffee. The Diocesan Council is in transition with a new format for elections. SEC APPOINTMENTS. 2 new Canons have been elected to the diocese: Stephen Hazlett at St Johns Kirkcudbright and Paul Watson at Bishopbriggs. UKRAINE. The tragedy continues to unfold. The most practical assistance we can offer is financial. There are a number of appeals eg; [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk) or [www.unhcr.org/ukraine-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/ukraine-emergency.html)

**FINANCIAL MATTERS:** Current account: £22,911. Premium account: £40,019. We have been left a large legacy of £5,000 from Michael Baker. We are no further forward with the Rosemary Rose legacy as the work on the drainage has still to commence. Contact will be resumed with Prof Rose when the work starts. Annual Church and Rectory insurances were paid at the end of March. The premium was £11,222 but the Hon Treasurer managed to negotiate a reduction of £1,200. We did enquire whether a better deal might be negotiated through the Diocese, but the Diocesan Treasurer confirmed that this was not possible. We were also informed that our current insurer, though apparently commanding a monopoly of specialist church insurance, nonetheless offers a good service. We have had a very generous donation to cover the cost of having the upper hall floor sanded and sealed and this work is now booked to be done the week starting 25th April with the hall convenor's approval. Our gas bills for church heating have increased dramatically; we have been charged an average of £1600 a month over the winter which is financially unsustainable in the long term.

**PROPERTY ISSUES:** DRAINAGE CONTRACT. We are waiting for Kenny Stewart to start the work to improve the drainage in the passageway to the East of the

## Vestry Report (continued)

church. Once completed it should reduce the damp in the crypt. NEW ACCESS TO LOWER HALL. There is a plan to provide a new access door to the Lower Hall from the East passageway, thus avoiding the requirement to transit through the Upper Hall, which is unsatisfactory when it is in use. The original idea was to convert the window at the North end of the Lower Hall but a better option is to reinstate the bricked up door from the landing outside the door to the lower hall. ALTERNATIVE CHURCH HEATING. Information about fitting air sourced heat exchangers to reduce our future dependence on fossil fuels is under investigation; response from contractors has been slow. GAS SUPPLIER. As predicted, our gas supplier, CNG, ceased trading. In anticipation of that, we tried to transfer our gas supply contract to SSE. Unfortunately, all CNG contracts were actually transferred to 'Positive Energy' by Ofgem. This was done without our consent in order to 'ensure continuity of supply'. Positive Energy have therefore legally hijacked our contract, and are charging 59p per unit, 20% VAT and being as difficult as they possibly can about transferring to SSE. Property Manager is doing his best to resolve the issue. CHURCH THERMOSTAT. Following the ECO Congregation survey recommendation, a new thermostat has been fitted in the church so that ambient heating can be set at a slightly lower temperature. In between services the recommended setting is 7°C. This should reduce our heating bill, as will the onset of warmer weather.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:** The appeal letters went out at the beginning of Lent. To date there have been about 40 responses, mostly positive and Gift Aided.

**PANDEMIC:** DIOCESAN GUIDANCE. Most legal restrictions were lifted by Scottish Govt on 21<sup>st</sup> March and face coverings in places of worship ceased to be a legal requirement on 4<sup>th</sup> April. The diocese advises that the extent to which restrictions are lifted is now up to individual churches. Continued emphasis on hand hygiene, adequate ventilation and regular cleaning is recommended, and due consideration to those wishing to maintain social distance during worship is appropriate. Restrictions on use of the Common Cup during Communion is lifted. VESTRY DECISION. After due consideration, the Vestry agreed the following way ahead: (i) Maintain the status quo until face coverings are no longer mandated. (ii) Test congregation interest in reverting to the Common Cup by a show of hands on Palm Sunday. (iii) Assuming sufficient demand, the Common Cup will be offered on Easter day but it will be made clear that it is optional. It remains perfectly acceptable to receive communion in one kind.



## Vestry Report (continued)

**ECO CONGREGATION:** The Vestry decided during the 'Away Day' in January that St Michaels should work towards applying for the Eco Congregation Silver Award by the end of 2022. It was also been decided that an Eco Congregation sub-group would be formed, and volunteers had been called for in the latest Messenger. VSec reported that response had been NIL. VSec therefore volunteered to lead the St Michaels Eco Congregation sub- group, with Reay MacKay; Beth Macleod kindly volunteered to join the group. A measured and pragmatic approach will be adopted, noting that the Eco Congregation Silver Award is not so much about physical eco measures to our infrastructure but more about congregational attitude.

**SAFEGUARDING:** There were no safeguarding issues at St Michaels to report. Joan Thompson reported that diocesan training is underway with the theme: "Let us build a house where love can dwell and where we can safely live" It was observed that the SEC safeguarding organization has grown, rules have become much more complex and intense as the subject has grown in importance. The Vestry thanked Joan for sticking with the challenge in an increasingly demanding business.

**HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE:** Jubilee celebrations take place 1<sup>st</sup> week in June. The plan for St Michaels is to: a) decorate the church appropriately (red, white & blue). b) Concert in the church on Saturday 4th June by the City of Glasgow choir. c) Garden Party in the rectory garden on Sunday 5th June. d) Jubilee Evensong

The meeting closed with the Grace.

**NEXT VESTRY MEETING:** Tuesday 10th May

*Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary*



There is no Mothers' Union report this month but tentative dates for meetings are shown in the Calendar and Notices of the MESSENGER

*Richard Horrell, Branch Leader*



### • The IPCC scientists' 2022 report was produced in April.

(Intergovernmental Panel for Mitigation of Climate Change)

### Meanwhile the Ukraine crisis...

The report stresses the urgency and scale of action needed or the world 'burns' and 'becomes uninhabitable'. The climate crisis may bore, but it is not a slow burn, and delay costs. It's tempting, but closing our ears fuels it – even fuels both crises.

We are urged to hold governments to account and to save carbon ourselves.

Low-hanging fruit for government is improving energy efficiency in transport, buildings and industry. I've heard scant mention of the flip-side - reducing our own demand – changing our behaviour. Perhaps it's a political risk to ask for less consumption when all struggle. But silence fuels the crises too.

Switching to public transport, and using less carbon in any way possible, increases energy security however and 'every fraction of a degree shaved off future warming reduces climate risks, even if the 1.5°C target is missed to stabilise the climate. Surely reason enough to encourage, support & promote each other's efforts?

### • This (25min) podcast yesterday may seem an outlier. –

Private cars aren't public transport - but it follows on from St M's climate discussion and could, on the contrary, prove a practical resource.

### How green is switching to an electric car? A Radio 4 'Sliced Bread' Podcast:-

(Are they the best thing since Sliced Bread? The first real-world test)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00162yr>



### • Beach clean events below can involve all the family and this Channel 4

Unreported World programme on Ghana as fast fashion's dumping ground could also inspire involvement. (Skip the ads.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VC5KYX74AP4>

**Last Sat of each month: April 30th, May 28th, June 25th + 4 more**  
**Beach Clean with Hel Community Council 10:00 am -Meet at the pier.**  
Duration 2 hrs. Equipment provided: **but bring gloves.**



Also **East Bay to Craigendoran** beach cleans:- **Sats Jun 11<sup>th</sup>, 17 Sept at 10am**  
**Meet at East Bay opposite Tesco Garage and bring suitable gloves.**

Even if you can only manage 30 minutes come along, it all makes a difference Organised by Helensburgh Litter Pickers

*Ruth Hanks*

# Christian Aid Week 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May

The story of Jessica Mwedzi, the face of Christian Aid week this year, highlights the plight of women in rural Zimbabwe, most of whom rely on farming for income and food. She is caught between drought conditions that burn her crops during the growing season, and the rising price of food and fertiliser on world markets caused by conflict thousands of miles away. It drives her family into hunger.



What Jessica needs, and many other small-scale farmers need, is some investment, probably on a relatively modest scale, to supply basic irrigation and learn how to change farming practices to grow the sorts of vegetables and other crops that will thrive in the newly harsh climate.

With all this in mind, and with the many other crises and emergencies in countries around the world where Christian Aid works, Helensburgh Christian Aid Week fundraising events will be returning almost to normal this year. These are the main events for the week and beyond.

Saturday 14th May – Christian Aid Fayre, 10am to 12noon in the Parish Church Halls.

Sunday 15th May – Christian Aid Service, 7pm at the URC

Sunday 15th May to Saturday 21st May – House to House delivery only envelopes.

Saturday 21st May – Street Collection

Tuesday 17th May – Schools Football Tournament, 6pm Hermitage Academy.

Sunday 22nd May – Christian Aid Concert

Sunday 26th June – Hymnfest, Parish Church

The long-standing Christian Aid Week swim will hopefully take place this Autumn in the new Helensburgh swimming pool. Volunteers from St Michaels to help with any of these events would be much appreciated, as would plants for St Michael's stall at the Fayre. Thanks.

*John Hanks*

# Jubilee Flowers



Flowers for the Jubilee



As you already know, we will be decorating the church for the weekend of the Queen's Jubilee. As it's a special celebration, we would like to be able to add to our usual flower displays and would be delighted to hear from anyone with ideas and/or offers of help. You can contact me either by email [flowers@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk](mailto:flowers@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk) or mobile 07414 747246. Many thanks, Andrea

# Men's Coffee Morning

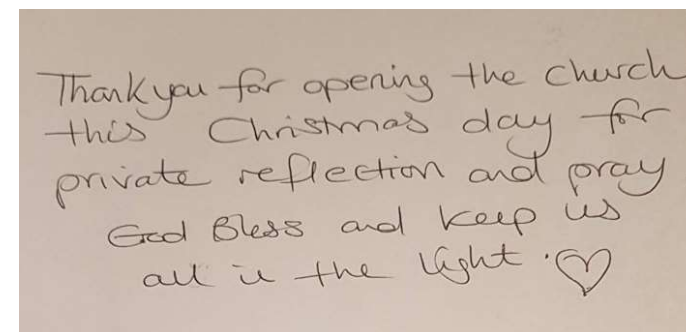
The first Men Meeting Group was held in the Upper Hall on 24 January this year. Fourteen men of our congregation met for Coffee/tea, Cake and Chat. It was pleasing to see some of the newer members of our congregation there as well as those who have been here a longer time. Everyone seemed to enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones and said they would like to meet up again. So, we met again on Monday 21 February and again the feedback has been very positive. It hasn't been possible to fit in a Meeting since, but I am please to say that the next two Meetings are on Monday 9 May and Monday 13 June at 10.30 am respectively. If you need a lift please let me know and I will arrange for you to be collected. Looking forward to seeing you all again!

*Joan Thompson*

*Safeguarding Officer*

# Appreciation

This was left in the church on Christmas Day (Dom found it on Boxing Day) and it was so lovely to know that someone appreciated having an open church during the dark days of lockdown.



*Gerry Quickfall*

## CALENDAR FOR MAY

### **MAY**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – Third Sunday of Easter**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
6:30pm Prayer Book Choral Evensong

#### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Feria**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
7:30pm Vestry Meeting

#### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning at  
Maureen and Brian Kyles' House

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church

#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Feria**

10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
6:30pm Vestry meeting in Lower Hall

#### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

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

#### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

10am-12noon Christian Aid Fayre in  
Parish Church Halls

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK STARTS  
8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
From 1:00pm Scotland's Gardens Scheme  
Open Gardens

4:30pm No Compline, but Evening  
Prayer at Townhead Farm, Helensburgh  
7:00pm Christian Aid Service in URC

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May**

House to House delivery only envelopes

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Feria**

10:30am Said Communion from the  
reserved Sacrament (1982 rite) followed  
by refreshments

6:00pm Schools Football Tournament at  
Hermitage Academy

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Rambling Club Walk in Greenock Area  
(see notices)

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Street Collection

#### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
Christian Aid Concert

#### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Celebration of Ascension Day**

10:30am Said Communion from the  
reserved Sacrament (1982 rite) followed  
by refreshments

#### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
(Blessing for Dom and Anna's 25th  
Wedding Anniversary) followed by special  
refreshments in the Hall  
10:30am Young Church

#### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May – The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth**

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

## /JUNE 2021

### **JUNE**

#### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

10:30am Monthly Coffee Morning at Ann  
and Chris Packards' house

#### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

#### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Flower Festival  
Evening Concert by City of Glasgow  
Chorus

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Pentecost**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
Afternoon Garden Party in the Rectory  
Garden

#### **6:30pm Jubilee Evensong**

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

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

#### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

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

#### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Trinity Sunday**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church

#### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Feast-day of Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691**

10:30am Said Communion from the  
Reserved Sacrament (1982 rite) followed  
by refreshments

#### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

9:30am Rambling Club Walk in the  
Trossachs (see Notices)

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
7:30pm Compline

#### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Feria**

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

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Third Sunday after Pentecost**

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)  
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)  
followed by refreshments  
10:30am Young Church  
7:00pm Christian Aid Hymnfest at  
Helensburgh Parish Church

#### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Feast-day of Irenaeus of Lyons, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, c202**

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





# Christmas 2021 NEWSLETTER

## LINGADZI LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL OPENS 4th JANUARY

In spite of Covid it has been one of the busiest years yet!

We have built:

- four earthbag classrooms, a science lab, male and female and staff toilets with generous sponsorship from the Let's Build Foundation (Norway)
- Jumbo Water Tower built with support from Colchester Centurion Rotary and District 1240

We have:

- secured electricity,
- welcomed new Malawian and UK board members,
- sifted through hundreds of application for the posts at the new school, and made senior appointments,
- gained Malawi government approval,
- started appointing teachers and attracting students,

The new school will become financially self-sufficient within the first 2 years. Meanwhile we have set a target a raising £16,000 in 2022 and a further £10,000 in 2023. To make a donation please go to our JustGiving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/buildingmalawi>

In November, a vast crowd came to Lingadzi to enjoy, sing and dance at a festival celebrating (and advertising) the school. How tame our Blues and Rock in the Garden seems!



THE **MAXIMUM GHETTO FESTIVAL** 2021

## BUILDING MALAWI



Charity Reg No. 1145965  
[www.buildingmalawi.com](http://www.buildingmalawi.com)



Meeting the newly appointed Head, Deputy and Bursar at the December remote board



Congratulations and best wishes for a successful school.

Rex Madalisto Chitekwe: Head



M'balaka Chunga: Deputy



Charity Ndalama: Bursar

To view videos of the school building and Lingadzi in general please go to  
<https://youtube.com/user/buildingmalawi>

## Colchester Centurion Rotary

Once again Building Malawi has been extremely well supported by **Mark Howell** (Past president) and his team from the



Colchester Centurion Rotary Club. Again they ran the (newly built and designed) bar at the Blues and Rock in the Garden. They were generous in match-funding and they also organised a grant for furniture for the Malawi school. At the beginning of the year they were instrumental in finding funds for building the Jumbo Water Tower at Lingadzi. We have continued to be supported by Rotary groups in Helensburgh (Scotland), and Tours (France).



Thank  
you  
Rotary



## TREE PLANTING

Centre manager Henry Sanjani has established a community tree nursery on the site. This year Footprint Digital sponsored 15,000 saplings to add to the 20,000 planted last year. These will be distributed to local schools and community groups during the rainy season (Dec-Jan).



**ASCENT SOCCER** have been back training after the Covid break and have 4 female players in the Malawian national team.



The councillor, District Chief and MP inspecting progress.



Agnes Nthenda education advisor.



Willard Mhone our master builder-in-chief with Henry Sanjani our horticulturist and centre manager.

## Some of the Malawian Team



Eston Mgala, chair of our Malawian Board



Pilirani Kapolo a local head who advises the board.

## School Textbooks

Victor Chibwe, a Building Malawi educational advisor, buying textbooks for the school. Jane and Gerry of **Ardent Recruitment** have sponsored the procurement of these **Thank you so much!**



## Colchester Blues and Rock in the Garden



The socially distanced **Blues and Rock in the Garden** took place in August we raised £5400, not quite the excitement of the Maximum Ghetto Festival! Our generous neighbours organised acoustic music and art for the Sunday pm.. They raised another £900 - brilliant!



Stalwart Chris on the BBQ. With Rachel and John working out the contactless payments.

Thank you party goers, see you next time.

Save the date: **BLUES and ROCK 2 July 2022**



## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

We were glad that we made the decision to reschedule the walk in Mugdock Park from Friday 11th February to Monday 14th February 2022, as 12 of us gathered to enjoy the great outdoors on a gloriously sunny day. Our walk (just over 5 miles) took us around castles and reservoirs, finishing up for light refreshments in Caulders Garden Centre.



On Wednesday 2nd March 2022, 19 of us walked (5.6 miles) around the Buchanan Estate at Drymen to see the wonderful display of snowdrops and we weren't disappointed. The Drymen Arms had kindly allowed us to use their facilities at the start of the walk, so we booked for tea and scones on completion.

The most recent walk took place on Saturday 9th April 2022, starting with a train ride from Craigendoran to Cardross. This walk allowed for 3 levels of difficulty - easy, medium and tough - all starting and finishing at the same point. From Cardross we all walked up to the junction of the Red Road and the Stonymollan Road, then 3 of us took the easy option and a group of 11 followed the route of medium/tough difficulty. Since conducting the recce for this walk there had been more tree felling in the woods around Killoeter Burn which made the going quite difficult and when the group reached the Three Lochs Way path they decided against taking in the summit of Ben Bowie. The medium 7 mile option walk had turned out to be more challenging than anticipated, however, everyone seemed



## ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

(continued)

to have enjoyed the sunshine and wonderful views over the Clyde. The 3 of us who chose the easy route (just over 5.5 miles) were also rewarded with the spectacular views, which was a great surprise as none of us had walked that path before - from the Stonymollan Road across to join The Three Lochs Way path down to Camis Eskin. Although it was a lovely sunny day, we needed to be wrapped up against the sharp wind!

As mentioned previously, 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.

The final details of the walks listed below will be agreed after a recce and promulgated by email, the StM website and via the Sunday Notices.

Walk	Date	Meeting Point and Time
Arrochar area	Wednesday 27th April 2022	St Michael's at 0930
Greenock area	Friday 20th May 2022	TBC
Trossachs	Friday 17th June 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*

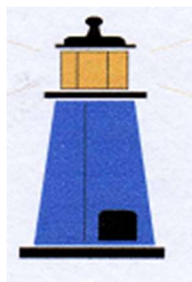
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 1:00pm  
Scotland's Gardens Scheme Open  
Gardens.

Fiona Baker will have her garden  
open for the first time - Hillcroft, Rhu.

Scotland's  
**GARDENS**  
Scheme

## The Beacon Trust

It looks like this is going to be a record year for activity at the Beacon Trust and our new van is getting plenty of use. However, in many ways this is not important, the joy of being part of a small local charity is that you are close to those that you help. The fact that a mother was overjoyed to be able to get two single beds along with a supply of bedding for her two sons is sufficient reward for anyone! Every day that we are open people find things that they desperately need at very low prices.



We gratefully thank all our supporters.

*Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust*

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

*A light-hearted interview with Alex & Heather Steele*

*by: Anna Ind*

Q. Where were you born?

A. Alex – Cambridge; Heather – 'ull

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

A. Alex is December and I am July, so nice and evenly spaced for celebrations

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Alex grew up on the south coast in Christchurch, Dorset, enjoying seaside walks, sea scouts and climbing trees (and occasionally falling out of them). I grew up in Hull, Yorkshire, quite urbanite until I joined the army cadets and developed a love of camping and hill walking.

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

A. We've been married 5 years but have known each other a lot longer. We actually went to the same college but got together reading the same degree at university (Electronic Engineering).

Q. Would you like to tell us a little about your respective families?

A. A couple of generations back the Steeles came down from a farm in North Ayrshire to set up near Saffron Walden in Essex. My father was a sea-goer, with Shell, BP and Chevron, which probably had an influence pushing me towards the RN. The Douglas tribe are a bit of a mystery, though we assume some Scottish lineage there too.

Q. Would you like to tell us a bit about your life and work?

A. Alex is currently on the base at Faslane supporting training, but who knows where next. I'm a researcher at the University of Birmingham, working remotely for the railway research and education department.

Q. How long have you lived in Helensburgh?

A. Heather was away in Japan when I first moved up but I was busy with work and it worked really well for her to be in another country! We had a rental house from 2019 and bought our home up in Shandon at the end of 2020.

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

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

A. We've managed to visit a few places over the years (China, Peru), but not always together (Nigeria, the Falklands). Heather had the opportunity to spend 18 months in Tokyo on a scholarship, and I managed to visit a couple of times. We've developed quite an interest in the country and really appreciate some aspects of their culture.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. We're up and down the hills whenever we can. Heather prefers more suitable conditions than I do (particularly for her trail running) but we generally like being as far into the wild and away as we can. Less adventurous hobbies include the cornet (Alex) and knitting (Heather).

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

A. We would like to try skiing over the next few years.

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

A. I took Russian literature as an extra module at university which sparked a real love of Russian classics - Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Solzhenitsyn and of course Tolstoy. I've managed to convince Alex of their merits too and we'd both recommend War and Peace, though Anna Karenina is easier to get into. In Praise of Shadows by Tanizaki, an essay on Japanese aesthetics, gives some insight into our interest in Japan (if you can get through the first chapter on toilets).

Q. What is your all-time favourite film?

A. There was an adaptation of Anna Karenina a couple of years back now that was really interesting. They made it as though you are watching a theatre production, with choreographed scene transitions where the stage hands come in to change the set over. The rest of the film feels much like any other. Throughout it's just nice to look at and really well done.

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

A. I would like an instrument that I've never learnt to play before and Heather would like earplugs.

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

A. We tend to favour the middle of the north aisle but often move about. Sorry if we sit in your seat!

Q. What is your all-time favourite hymn and why?

A. Eternal Father is the obvious one, it crops up a lot in the Navy and we sang it during our wedding.

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

A. My grandad got it right (Alex). He retired from a job he loved very early in order to go birdwatching, attend jazz concerts and drink wine. He was awarded a 'golden bowsaw' for ten thousand hours volunteering with the conservation of the local nature reserve.

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

## Diocesan Update, an Easter Message from Bishop Kevin...

In the Japanese Shinto religious tradition, if an earthenware pot used for religious observance is broken, that pot must be restored. The pieces are taken and put back together, but into the adhesive is introduced an amount of gold to give it strength. The cracks and the brokenness can be seen; they remain, but the pot is more valuable, is stronger, because holding it together is a golden thread.

This Easter we celebrate the golden thread of God's love which shines through the brokenness of our lives and our world in Hope. The golden thread of God's love which binds us together to strengthen us in the face of fear and allows to know the real Joy of resurrection life which Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us, and the Holy Spirit allows us to share.

The golden thread of God's love that we see shine in Hope is the sure Hope that comes from the knowledge that the sun rises, whether we are always able to recognise that fact or not. At the heart of the resurrection narratives is the fact that Love is stronger than any natural phenomenon we experience, even death itself. The Hebrew concept of Remembrance makes real in this present moment Exodus, Passover that is the concept of Remembrance Jesus used at the last supper. More than memory, but memory teaches much about the nature of God's love when we simply remember those we have known who have died. It is love which lifts the veil between heaven and earth, the golden thread of Hope holds our heaven and earth in the reality of that love, that speaks to us of God.

There is no room for fear in love: we hear that every Sunday. Fear is the most lethal weapon in the world and in our lives. It is lethal because it encourages those facets of our lives that we would rather be without, the questions, the doubts around who I am and why am I the way I am. Why do others seem to have more than me without working for it; why are others stronger, more self-assured, more assertive? The golden thread of God's love runs through that brokenness and reminds us that we are made in God's image to share God's love. The importance of the cross and of the tomb is that Our Lord Jesus Christ

proved that despite failure, disappointment, indeed death itself – we are good enough. Good enough to share God's love; there is no room for fear in that love. In apparent weakness there is strength: I remember saying at the beginning of the pandemic that we closed our church doors not in fear but in LOVE.

That is the true Joy of Love which brings peace, makes resurrection real. Joy is not the absence of pain or suffering, the absence of doubt and confusion. The joy in love is the recognition that Our Lord Jesus Christ in his suffering and death gives us confidence that, made in God's image, we are good enough. God who is love makes something of our pain and guilt and fear and doubt. That is the true joy of love that is of God: it gives us confidence to look for and recognise Hope, the Hope that the sun rises, the Hope that in the cross we may recognise even excellence is not enough, but failure can be redeemed.

*+ Kevin, Glasgow and Galloway*

## READERS' LIST – MAY/JUNE 2022

DATE	8:30am	10:30am	6:30/7:30pm
1 May	Hilary Menzies	John Hanks	6:30pm Maureen McCormick
8 May	Moira Miller	Rebecca Parry	
15 May	Selina McGeoch	Iona Gibson	Evening Prayer 4:30pm at Townhead Farm
22 May	Chris Sanders	Helen Gibson	
29 May	Penny Johnson	Jeannette Scobie	
5 Jun	Carol Annesley	Jane Taylor	6:30pm Maurice Steuart-Corry
12 Jun	Sam Harris	James Ashby	
19 Jun	Nigel Allan	Jill Braid	7:30pm Aileen Cameron
26 Jun	Hilary Menzies	Jo Frain-Bell	

## SIDESPERSONS' ROTA MAY/JUNE 2022

DATE	10:30am	
1 May	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
8 May	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
15 May	Nick Parry	Carol Parry
22 May	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
29 May	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
5 Jun	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing
12 Jun	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
19 Jun	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
26 Jun	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle



## LECTIONARY – MAY/JUNE 2022

Day	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (NRSV)
1 May Easter 3	Acts 9.1-6 Psalm 30.1-5 Revelation 5.11-14 John 21.1-19	<i>6:30pm Easter 2</i> Psalm 116 Exodus 32.1-35 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18
8 May Easter 4 (Vocations Sunday)	Acts 9.36-43 - Psalm 23 Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30	
15 May Easter 5 (Baptism of Oscar Reeve, son of Alan and Emma Reeve)	Acts 11.1-18 Psalm 148.1-6 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35	<i>4:30pm No Compline but Evening Prayer at Townhead Farm</i>
22 May Easter 6 (Rogation Sunday)	Acts 16.9-15 - Psalm 67 Revelation 21.10,22–22.5 John 14.23-29	
29 May Easter 7 (Blessing for Dom and Anna's 25 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)	Acts 16.16-34 Psalm 97.1-9 Rev. 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 John 17.20-26	
5 June Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.26-37 Romans 8.14-17 John 14.8-17	<i>6:30pm Whitsunday</i> Psalm 145 Habakkuk 3.3-19 Acts 2.1-21
12 June Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31 Psalm 8 - Romans 5.1-5 John 16.12-15	
19 June Pentecost 2	Isaiah 65.1-9 Psalm 22.19-28 Galatians 3.23-29 Luke 8.26-39	<i>Trinity 1</i> <i>7:30pm Compline</i>
26 June Pentecost 3	1 Kings 19.15-16,19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5.1,13-25 Luke 9.51-62	



### 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 (Night Prayer) 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

