

July and August 2022

THE MESSENGER



**The Magazine of
St Michael And All Angels
Episcopal Church, Helensburgh
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

Clergy and Staff

Rector:	The Revd Dominic Ind The Rectory, 16 William Street, Helensburgh G84 8BD 01436 670297 rector@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Lay Reader:	Kevin Boak, 38 West Dhuill Drive, Helensburgh G84 9AW 676852 reader@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Secretary to the Vestry.....	Nick Davies The Copse, Donaldson's Brae, Kilcreggan G84 0JB 842060 vsec@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Treasurer.....	Janina Duncan Deepdene, 119 West Clyde St. Helensburgh G84 8ET 0741 256 7154 treasurer@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Property Convener.....	Reay MacKay 21 Campbell Street Helensburgh G 84 8BQ 675499 property@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk
Stewardship Convener.....	Jane Davies 842060
Lay Representative.....	Richard Horrell 676936
Children & Vulnerable	Nick Davies (Temporary) 842060
Persons Protection Coordinator	protection@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

Email: info@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk

Website: www.stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk/

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

Church Group Leaders**Contact People/Organisers**

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 (flowers@stmichaelhelensburgh.org.uk)	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	Michael 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 (Temporary)	Nick Davies	842060
Magazine Editor	Richard Smith	831644
Website	Jo Scott	01389 849145
Facebook	Aliet Ray-Pelt	07943 516611

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,

I've just put out the glass bin on the pavement to be emptied tomorrow morning - it was heavy! Heavy because of the volume of Prosecco bottles - to my mind that's the way a church bin should be!

We've had a number of celebrations in the last couple of months. On 15th May we welcomed Oscar Reeve into the Church (baptism). Alan and Emma brought a good crowd with them and they returned to St Michael's where they were married (2018) and their first son, Thomas baptised (2019).

Anna & I marked our Silver Wedding Anniversary (married at 22, Park Circus, Glasgow on 19th May 1997) which we marked overseas but when we came home, we celebrated with the community - Michael Webb came up from the Lake District to do the honours.

Most recently we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee giving thanks for the Queen's 70-year reign (Queen's Accession - 6th February 1952). Amongst other things we had a garden party - a glorious afternoon with a long table overflowing & quite a crowd!

These events matter in the life of the Church. First and foremost, we gather to worship Almighty God but we're human (!) and there's the very important business of acknowledging these key stages in our lives. Ultimately it is to give glory to God & it is an offering of thanks.

To be able to party well is important and at St Michael's we enter into that in a wholehearted fashion! May our glass bin be full reflecting our joy as Christian people - celebrating around a table in church as well as in the garden. Wishing you all a wonderful summer. Love,

Dom Ind, Rector

MESSENGER

July/August 2022

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For an email copy please
contact the Editor.

**Please send your
contributions to: -**

Richard Smith
21 The Soundings,
Clynder,
Helensburgh G84 0QL
Tel: 01436 831 644
richard.jianping@hotmail.com

Notices

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING There will be no monthly coffee mornings in July and August. *Maureen Kyle*

MOTHERS' UNION There will be no branch meetings during July and August. However, Mothers' Union members may be interested in attending the 10:30am service on Tuesday 9th August when the church will celebrate Mary Sumner Day to remember the life and work of the Mothers' Union founder. On Saturday 13th August at 11am the Mothers' Union Festival Service will take place at St. Ninian's, Pollokshields. *Richard Horrell*

RAMBLING CLUB will meet on Friday 8th or Saturday 9th July at Greenock Cut Visitor Centre at 10:00am for a walk in the Greenock reservoir/Cut area and on Thursday 11th August at 9:30am outside St. Michael's for a walk in the local area. (For details see notices in the Hall)

PVG CO-ORDINATOR - The PVG co-ordinator operates on behalf of the Vestry to ensure that we look after vulnerable children and adults in accordance with the law and SEC policies. Mrs Joan Thompson has retired from the role and so we need a volunteer to take over as the St Michaels PVG co-ordinator. Volunteers please report to Vestry Secretary. *Nick Davies*

BRF CO-ORDINATOR If anyone would like to take over the ordering and distribution of The Bible Reading Fellowship notes, I would be glad to hear from you. Tel. 673960 *Michael Blake*

SCOTTISH GARDENS SCHEME A big thank you to Sheila and Fiona Baker for their hard work in opening their gardens and giving us donations of £200 Sheila and £454.45 from Fiona. *Janina Duncan*

PHOTO GALLERY We continue to try to update the photos in the Hall. Please contact James and Sue Ashby after church, or by phone on 675541, for new photos and any changes. This aide memoire is greatly appreciated by old and new members alike. *James and Sue Ashby*

SIDESPERSONS 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*

News

Our cover image in this edition in the season after Trinity is meant to symbolise perichoresis, as explained by Revd. Canon Robin Paisley, when he led our worship and preached to us on 12th June. Perichoresis is the fellowship of three co-equal Persons perfectly embraced in love and harmony and expressing an intimacy that no one can humanly comprehend. The Father sends the Son (John 3:16), and the Spirit proceeds from the Father and was sent by the Son (John 15:26)—another example of perichoresis, with the result that God's people are blessed.

May you have joy and many blessings this Summer at the start of the season of Trinity. *Richard Smith, Editor*

Vestry Report

The Vestry met on 10th May starting with a prayer.

RECTOR'S REPORT: KEVIN & JOY BOAK. Kevin and Joy plan to move South in the Autumn for family reasons. Kevin and Joy do a huge amount at St Michaels; they will be very much missed. Adjustments will be necessary to cover the very many activities for which Joy and Kevin currently take responsibility. As a start, the Rector is giving up his voluntary responsibility as national chair of the Riding for Disabled (RDA) which takes up a great deal of time, also stepping down from his post as Mothers Union diocesan chaplain. This will enable the Rector to back-fill some of the activities currently done by Joy and Kevin. EVENING SERVICES. The system of Choral Evensong 1830 1st Sunday of the month and Compline 1930 3rd Sunday seems to be working well. The choir at Evensong is enhanced by local volunteers who enjoy singing the office and the service seems to attract visitors. We have had up to 30 in the congregation and a Choral Evensong liturgy booklet has been introduced. EUCCHARIST. The re-introduction of the Common Cup at Eucharist has proved quite popular with an estimated 75% accepting communion in 2 kinds. It is stressed that it remains an individual choice; communion in one kind is perfectly acceptable. 'Intinction' is not encouraged for hygiene reasons. ECUMENICAL. Ecumenism has not been strong amongst the clergy of Helensburgh recently, but changes in personnel seems to be triggering a bit of a welcome revival. The appointment of a Minister at Helensburgh parish church will be significant, noting that the Church of Scotland is short of ministers. DIOCESE. Revd Mark Goodman has taken over at St Columba's Largs. Meanwhile All Saints Bearsden has started a period of interregnum, and St Brides Hyndland will start an interregnum in the summer. East Kilbride Cambuslang is losing Revd Paul Fletcher who is emigrating to Australia. We should remember these communities – and

Vestry Report (continued)

Helensburgh parish church – in our prayers. UKRAINE. The tragedy continues to unfold and doesn't look like ending any time soon. The best thing we can do is to pray for a just peace and to give financial support. St Michaels raised £375 from our Lent Fast and from the keep fit class. MALAWI. The Lingadze Academy project is going well; even small financial donations go a long way in Malawi. We have earmarked a further donation of £750 to be paid from church funds and recompensed through a future fund-raising event.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: BALANCES: Current account £18,974. Premium account £40,022. EXPENDITURE Our most recent large bills were for the annual Insurance bill at £9,963 and gas consumption which was £4989 for a 3 month period. INCOME Our income remains steady. We received a grant of £2,000 from the Miss Bell Trust. The STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN brought some positive results – a number of people have increased their monthly giving and £2,555 in cheque donations has been banked. It was also a useful exercise in checking contact details. Thank you to Jane Davies (Stewardship Convener) for all her hard work. The UPPER HALL FLOOR RESURFACING is complete and looks really good. The cost was covered by a very generous donation. LEGACY. We received a cheque of £5,424 from the Rosemary Rose legacy to cover the cost of the improved drainage at the side of the church. With the remaining funds from the legacy, we hope to refurbish the crypt/lower hall area, including a new external access door. If funds allow, we would then like to redecorate the stairwell and tidy up the kitchen area. CHARITABLE GIVING from church funds. After discussion, the Vestry decided to donate £4,000 to local causes from church funds, to be disbursed: £500 to Robin House; £1,700 to Contraflow; £1,000 to The Beacon Trust; £800 to Helensburgh Food Bank. Noting the increased demand on the Food Bank it was further agreed that the Harvest Festival collection will go towards the Helensburgh Food Bank. It was reported that each of the above local causes have gratefully acknowledged and appreciated our support.

PROPERTY ISSUES: DRAINAGE CONTRACT. Work on the field drain round the foundation of the lower hall/crypt area has been completed; this should significantly reduce damp penetration. Discovery of an existing drainage pipe into the burn saved us having to excavate the wall and reduced the bill by £200. NEW ACCESS TO LOWER HALL. We are proposing to build a new access door to the lower hall at the bottom of the stairwell (where there is an old door bricked up). This will remove the need to go through the upper hall to reach the lower hall. ALTERNATIVE CHURCH HEATING. Enquiries regarding alternative church heating continue. The UPPER HALL FLOOR has been sanded and treated to a high standard.

Vestry Report (continued)

We have been supplied with a tin of recommended cleaning substance. The contractor has recommended that we brush the floor regularly to keep it grit free and wash it once a month.

ECO CONGREGATION. The Vestry confirmed the decision to work towards an Eco Congregation Silver Award, pursuing a pragmatic approach. We will attempt to persuade and educate the St Michaels community. An 'Eco-Congregation' area of the upper hall notice board has been instigated. We might put up an 'Eco suggestion' of the month – or week. The first draft of a St Michaels church plan to reduce our carbon footprint will be produced shortly and it will be important to credit ourselves with steps already taken. For example, we recently fitted a modern condensing heating boiler. We have installed a better church thermostat which minimizes boiler usage between services. We installed LED light bulbs in the church some years ago. In discussion it was suggested we might make

our church planting schemes more 'bee friendly'. The Vestry considered an Eco Questionnaire kindly offered by Richard Horrell as used by Greenbank Parish Church. It was agreed that St Michaels might use something similar, but less intrusive and more educational.

SAFEGUARDING: There were no safeguarding issues at St Michaels to report. Sadly, Joan Thompson has retired from the post as the St Michaels Vulnerable persons co-ordinator. In thanking Joan, the Vestry agreed that she will be a hard act to follow, noting the considerable effort Joan has dedicated to the job. The Vestry Secretary has temporarily taken on the role pending a suitable volunteer coming forward. The meeting closed with the Grace.

NEXT VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday 5th July

Nick Davies, Vestry Secretary

Safeguarding

As you know, Joan Thompson has retired as our PVG Co-ordinator. Until we find a volunteer to take over, I am the (temporary) St Michaels PVG Co-ordinator, which is a responsibility discharged on behalf of the Vestry. I have been checking the SEC rules and guidance and I thought it appropriate to remind the Vestry that: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. (so it helps if we all know what to do in the event of an incident!); Abuse or inappropriate behaviour might have taken place elsewhere but come to light in a church context (eg a child disclosing abuse at home); Below is a useful SEC summary of good practice. The same guidance applies whether it is vulnerable adults or children. Hopefully we will never need it. But it is seamanlike to be prepared.

Nick Davies

Scottish Episcopal Church

Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Church

A Summary of Good Practice for Paid & Voluntary Workers



The Scottish Episcopal Church recognises the special status of all vulnerable people, particularly those who, because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, infirmity or ageing, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, or more vulnerable to being abused than persons who are not so affected. Because of their vulnerability, such people will be awarded special protection. They are to be respected as persons in their own right, created and loved by God. We, therefore commit ourselves to take all steps within our power to keep vulnerable people safe from harm and from an abuse of trust.

Policy Statement, General Synod June 2006

YOU MUST ...

- treat all vulnerable adults with respect
- promote a safe environment and encourage others to follow your example
- ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during your organisation's activities with vulnerable adults, or at least that you are within sight or hearing of others
- respect a vulnerable person's right to personal privacy
- encourage vulnerable people to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- be aware that even caring physical contact with a vulnerable person may be misinterpreted
- recognise that special caution is required in moments when you are discussing sensitive issues with vulnerable adults
- operate within the Church's Code of Good Practice

Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the Church (continued)

YOU MUST NOT ...

- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with vulnerable people
- allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour
- make suggestive/derogatory remarks or gestures in front of vulnerable people
- jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- exaggerate or trivialise abuse issues
- show favouritism to any individual
- rely on your good name or that of the Church to protect you
- believe "it could never happen to me"
- take a chance when common sense, policy and practice suggest another more prudent approach

WHAT TO DO ...

If a vulnerable person discloses to you abuse by someone else:

- allow him or her to speak without interruption, accepting what is said, but do not investigate
- alleviate feelings of guilt and isolation, while passing no judgement
- let them know you are glad they have shared this information with you
- advise the person that you **must** pass on the information

If you suspect a vulnerable person is being abused, emotionally, physically or sexually:

- report the matter to your Church Co-ordinator or Diocesan Protection Officer, your Priest or the Provincial Officer

If you receive an allegation about harm or abuse:

- immediately tell your Church or the Diocesan Protection Officer, your Priest or the Provincial Officer
- try to ensure that no-one is placed in a position which could cause further harm.

In all cases:

- record the facts and report these to your PVG Co-ordinator, your Priest and/or the Provincial Officer
- you must refer; you **must not** investigate

General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church: Scottish Charity Number SC015962



Eco Congregation Scotland was founded in 2001 and registered as a charity in 2010. It is a movement of Scottish church congregations of all denominations, committed to addressing environmental issues through their life and mission. The Eco Congregation Vision is for a Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

There are 3 strands of activity:

- Spiritual living.
 - Making the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith.
- Practical living.
 - Taking practical action in the church and in the home to reduce our environmental impact.
- Global living.
 - Influencing attitudes and taking action in the local or global community on issues like climate change. (This does not include gluing ourselves to the M8 or deflating other people's SUV tyres!)

Currently St Michael and All Angels Helensburgh is a BRONZE Award Eco Congregation, but we hope to qualify for a SILVER award by the end of 2022. This will require the interest and commitment of all of us.

We cannot individually change the world. But we ought to try and do the little things as individuals and in our own lifestyles to reduce pollution, to minimise our carbon footprint and to improve the environment for the benefit of future generations. Here in St Michael and All Angels we do not want to patronise or preach at everyone regarding eco-friendly behaviour. Instead, we aim to share eco-friendly information and ideas so that we are all better informed and therefore able to do our bit to preserve our part of the planet.

Nick Davies



Very many thanks to everyone who helped with Christian Aid week and the quiz in so many ways. The delivery only envelopes have proved a success, and we may be able to expand the areas where we deliver to in future years. The return from all the envelopes delivered around Helensburgh has, so far, totalled £1705. The envelopes also provide an online giving link, and it should soon be possible to determine the amount raised in this way.

The grand total raised so far this year is about £6,000, less than at this stage of the year previously, although there are a few more events to come as follows,

- Afternoon Tea on Friday 9th September in the Parish Church Hall
- Possible Autumn date for the CA Swim in the new swimming pool.
- 300,000 steps Challenge to all members of the congregation – a joint target (hopefully) as part of the Autumn KiltWalk, thus qualifying for the Hunter Foundation 50% top up.

A good model for plant sales has emerged for anyone who has a WhatsApp Street group. Lay the plants out on the drive and message all your neighbours to come for a look. Irresistible to most Helensburgh residents! Another variation could be a street coffee & cake invitation with a donation to CA.

Breaking News: All the plants donated by the congregation were mostly sold at the Grand Fayre. The remainder were passed on to a sale like this. Everything has been sold now & the proceeds gone to Christian Aid making a combined total of £400.

Ruth and John Hanks

JESSICA'S STORY You may have noticed that the publicity for this year's Christian Aid week was all about 'Jessica's Story' and the plight of small-scale farmers in Zimbabwe. Jessica's story is a story of drought, hunger, and a constant struggle for survival. But the message was that Christian Aid stands with these women in its work with partners on the ground and its advocacy for climate justice.

Five years ago my daughter, Kiri, spent six months working with Oxfam in Zimbabwe. Even when Mugabe was in power Oxfam had an office in Harare, although at best its activities were tolerated and more often ignored by the government. The plan was that Kiri would help in a push to encourage small scale farmers in their quest for the government to honour a commitment to spend ten percent of national income on agriculture made with other African countries under the 2014 Malabo Declaration. I've just read one of the reports she wrote at

the time, and it resonates so closely with the story that Christian Aid is trying to put across this year.

Most small-scale farmers in Zimbabwe are women – the men tend to look for work in the cities. They must both feed their families from the land and earn enough to reinvest in the business. Even five years ago, before the effects were being talked about so much, maize, which had been the staple crop for decades was under severe pressure from drought brought on by a combination of one of the strongest El Niño episodes on record combined with climate change. In Zimbabwe, the rainfall patterns have shifted. The growing period has shortened by months. Plants germinate and then wilt because of mid-season dry spells, so farmers must replant

often multiple times.

Commercial seed companies sell hybrid maize seed which has a good yield only in perfect growing conditions but, anyway, needs significant amounts of fertiliser, one of the world commodities surging in price just now. The Zimbabwean government concentrates its agricultural spending on subsidising maize prices which is a short-term solution with electoral benefits.

Aid agencies such as Christian Aid and Oxfam try to support alternative strategies. One good example is community seed banks which allow farmers to diversify away from maize to small grains and legumes, like sorghum, millet, and cowpeas, often reviving old and forgotten varieties that are better adapted to dry conditions. A diverse range of seeds maturing at different times in the year is a better bet in the face of climate uncertainty. There are many other similar initiatives although few receive much outside support and often there is opposition from commercial or governmental interests.

The picture appears complicated and somewhat depressing. The already difficult task of achieving development goals, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger by 2030, has been massively disrupted by the climate crisis. Val Brown from Christian Aid Scotland, speaking at the CA concert last month, said of the climate crisis, 'forget making poverty history, this could make poverty permanent'. It is important, therefore, that amongst all the other crises the message of 'Jessica's Story' is not overlooked. It is a simple but powerful story of how the most vulnerable are at the most risk. It is also, perhaps, a warning that eventually there could be consequences for all of us.

John Hanks



Platinum Jubilee Concert



CALENDAR FOR JULY

JULY

No Evening Services in July

Sunday 3rd July – Feast-day of St Thomas, Apostle

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

Tuesday 5th July – Feria

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

Thursday 7th July

No Monthly Coffee Morning in July

Friday 8th or Saturday 9th July

Rambling Club Walk in Greenock
Reservoir/Cut (see notices)

Sunday 10th July – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
10:30am Young Church
Tuesday 12th July – Feria
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
6:30pm Vestry meeting in Lower Hall

Sunday 17th July – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
10:30am Young Church
Tuesday 19th July – Feast-day of Gregory and Macrina, Teachers of the Faith, c394 and c379
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments

Sunday 24th July – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
10:30am Young Church
Tuesday 26th July – Feast-day of Anne and Joachim, Parents of Mary, Mother of the Lord

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

Sunday 31st July – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

AUGUST

No Evening Services in August

Tuesday 2nd August – Feria

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

Thursday 4th August

No Monthly Coffee Morning in August

Sunday 7th August – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)
10:30am Sung Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
10:30am Young Church
Tuesday 9th August – Feast-day of Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 Rite)
followed by refreshments
Thursday 11th August
9:30am Rambling Club Walk - Local Area

/AUGUST 2021

Friday 12th August

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

Saturday 13th August

11:00am the Mothers' Union Festival Service at St. Ninian's, Pollokshields.

Sunday 14th August – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday 16th August – Feast-day of Mary the Virgin

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

Sunday 21st August – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Said Eucharist (1970 rite)
10:30am Said Eucharist (1982 rite)
followed by refreshments
10:30am Young Church
1:00pm Barbeque at Nigel Allan's house and garden at 20 Millig Street.

Tuesday 23rd August – Feast-day of Bartholomew, Apostle

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

Sunday 28th August – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday 30th August – The Beheading of John the Baptist

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

Change of Timing

Health Screening

In my Pensions Newsletter there was an interesting article regarding Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening. A simple test available to men over 65, which takes about 15 minutes, to check if you are at risk from AAA. At 65, men are contacted to offer them this test, but older men may not be aware of this service. It involves an ultrasound scan, similar to that used for pregnancies. The scan will show if the aorta (the largest artery in the body) is showing signs of swelling, which could lead to rapid blood escape into the chest. Swelling takes many years to become serious, but can be detected at a very early stage. The link contains the details of the service in Scotland:

<http://www.healthscotland.scot/health-topics/screening/abdominal-aortic-aneurysm-screening>

Trevor and I weren't aware of this check but hope that he receives a letter inviting him for one this year. A quick survey of Trevor's golf partners indicated that it wasn't common knowledge.

Gerry Quickfall

Platinum Jubilee Flowers



Platinum Jubilee and Pentecost Reflection

Pentecost 2022, celebrated on June 5th was a red-letter day, both in the liturgical sense that it is one of the most important church festivals in the calendar, but also because we marked the amazing Platinum anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's long reign with a long weekend of special events across the nation and Commonwealth. Who would have thought in 1952 when Elizabeth II acceded to the throne that she would still be monarch seventy years later? The year 1952 was the dawn of a new Elizabethan Age, full of excitement and optimism, though with a nation still recovering from the shadow of the Second World War, economic devastation, rationing and a reappraisal of Great Britain's standing in the world. While still one of the great powers at the end of the war, sheer national exhaustion saw the Empire gradually disband, to be replaced by the Commonwealth. How much has happened since then! Churchill was prime minister in 1952, while a further thirteen (including two women) have served in that office. We have seen the Berlin Wall erected and demolished, the demise of the Soviet Union, the growth of the EEC, EC or EU, which we successively joined and then left, the Northern Ireland Troubles and the creation of devolved government. Men have been to the moon and we now live in the digital age. In the 1950s around 700,000 toiled in coal mines, on which we were dependant for heating, electricity generation and rail transport. We are now moving in a greener direction.

Throughout all these changes in society, the Queen has been a constant. Did you know that of a UK population of around 67 million, 58 million have known no other monarch? While some of the more senior members of our church still have vivid memories of King George VI, or even George V, this is a dwindling number in society as a whole. Both Joy and I had a grandfather born in 1890, one living until 1959 and the other until 1980. They each lived through the reigns of six monarchs, yet no one now younger than seventy has known another king or queen. This stability has been a huge reassurance over seven decades, but time moves on and our allotted spans of life eventually draw to a close. Over the Jubilee weekend no doubt Her Majesty would have had Prince Philip much in her mind, her loyal husband and companion from 1947 until last year. While the nation rejoiced at this great achievement in reigning for seventy years, exceeding George III (sixty years) and Queen Victoria (sixty-four years), there is a sense we will not see another like anniversary. We therefore give thanks for our Queen, not least for her Christian faith that has been the bedrock of her character and outlook on life, and which she always references in her Christmas broadcasts. We thank God for her example of humility and steadfastness.

Platinum Jubilee and Pentecost Reflection (Continued)

Part of the mystique of the monarchy has been the successful way in which the Queen has projected that sense of 'otherness' – of being someone above and apart, while never being aloof – in an age where deference is largely a thing of the past. Despite the rapid changes in society, where money, celebrity and notoriety have largely overtaken the entitlements of birth, the Queen has maintained a quiet dignity and earns continuing respect.

This brings me to the other anniversary we celebrated on that red-letter day. The Church calendar gives us an annual cycle or framework around which we can enhance our understanding of God and His dealings with humankind. The Bible is the sourcebook of this revelation, and we see in the Old Testament the 'otherness' of God in the creative act of the Trinity in bringing the universe into being. We read of the creation and then the fall of the first humans, as sin tarnishes the perfection of what God intended. We see the chasm that sin opens up in what should have been a close relationship between creator and created, and the long story of the chosen people of God shows this fractured relationship stumbling along, with the promise made that God would send His Son to enable us to relate to God in love rather than fear. The Incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas, shows the divine stepping down into our human world, taking on our form and understanding and sympathising with all our weaknesses. In April we observed Holy Week, culminating in the sacrificial death of Jesus, the Son of God, on the cross on Good Friday. As Paul writes in Philippians chapter 2, Jesus came down from the royal throne of heaven, emptying himself, becoming human to take on the lowliest of positions in society, that of a slave. He was steadfast and utterly obedient to his heavenly Father, to the point of dying for the sins of each one of us. The tearing of the Temple curtain on Good Friday represented the opening of the way into the Holy of Holies, giving us access individually to the heavenly throne through prayer. Then on Easter Day, we celebrated the Resurrection as Jesus triumphed over the power of death, thereby sealing the completion of the restoration of relationship.

Paul goes on to describe the exaltation of Jesus as he returned to his rightful place in heaven – which we observed towards the end of May with Ascension Day, and the worship and obedience due to him. This 'otherness' of Jesus has been restored, but with an important qualification. In theological terms we would wrap up this idea of difference in thinking of the divinity of Jesus as Son of God, yet becoming human, all embraced in his holiness. But the astonishing thing when we look at our reading from Paul's letter to the Romans is that Jesus did not retire to heaven, salvation accomplished, only to leave us still at a distance. This is where

Platinum Jubilee and Pentecost Reflection (Continued)

the importance of Pentecost emerges, as we realise it was not really a one-off event. Yes, it was a dramatic birthday launch for the Church and the work of the Holy Spirit was seen in widespread form for the first time, but it becomes personal when we read what Paul says. The Holy Spirit continues to come anew in the world and in the lives of every Christian.

When the Holy Spirit comes to someone when they commit their lives to Christ, we do not remain with the status of slaves to fall back into fear, uncertainty, superstition or vague hopes. Instead, we are made adopted children of God, with all the privileges of becoming heirs of God. God's perfect plan for creation is restored, the relationship fractured by sin has been bridged by Jesus' death and resurrection, and we have been given the Holy Spirit as proof we now inherit the promises of God. This includes the promise made to the disciples in the gospel reading from John chapter 14 that the Holy Spirit would come on them (and us) in such power, their prayers would be granted in ways beyond imagining.

I began this reflection by thinking of the faith and constancy of Her Majesty the Queen that we celebrated over the special Platinum Jubilee weekend. We thought of her 'otherness' and the respect in which we hold her, as citizens of her United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, within the greater Commonwealth. Then we have thought how astonishing it is at Pentecost that God treats us as royalty when we become the children of God! At present, we have dual citizenship as loyal subjects to the Queen, but also remembering our place in God's Kingdom and a seat reserved at the heavenly banquet.

POSTSCRIPT: 1977 was the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee and a memorable celebration of a monarch who had already made her mark on history. It was also memorable for Joy and I, as we married in September of that year. We little thought forty-five years on we would be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, or that by then we would have two daughters and two grandsons, with another grandchild due in September. In that time we have lived in multi-cultural Southall, Penzance at the western tip of Cornwall, the Roman city of Bath in Somerset, and ten fulfilled years in Helensburgh. Our daughter Rachel has lived with us temporarily on two occasions while we have been here in Helensburgh and was married at St. Michael's in May 2021. She and Ben are now living in Darlington and it is their baby expected in the autumn. Joy and I feel the time is right to move south to be closer to them, and also to our other daughter Sharon, son-in-law Scott and grandsons Callum and Noah who are in London. We will leave with many happy memories of Helensburgh and our friends at St. Michael and All

Platinum Jubilee and Pentecost Reflection (Continued)

Angels, regrets at leaving such a beautiful area, but anticipation for what God has in mind for us in a new area and church.

We pray for health and long life for Her Majesty, and we pray we may all continue faithfully as God's royal children, empowered each day by the Holy Spirit.

Kevin Boak, Lay Reader

ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB



Due to the changeable weather (no surprise there!) we ended up completing two local walks in May and June. The first was on Wednesday 27th April 2022 from Arrochar to Tarbet on a scorching hot day, which allowed for an amazingly clear view of the magnificent Ben Arthur. Having

all started out together we split into two groups to finish the walk. One group continued towards Loch Lomond for a longer more strenuous walk taking in fine views of Ben Lomond and the rest of the group headed down towards Tarbet finishing at the Slanj for our refreshments. As this was a linear walk, once everyone was at the Slanj we were able to retrieve cars left at the Three Villages Café in Arrochar. It is useful to note that the Three Villages Café carpark is open to the public with an honesty box – recommended

£1 per hour or £5 for all day, this is a much better option than the carpark opposite the start of the Cobbler walk.

Our second walk was a very leisurely one around Ardmore Point on Friday 20th May 2022, along the newly refurbished pathway which despite heavy rain the previous few days was extremely dry – well done to the Helensburgh and District Access Trust! Excellent refreshments were taken in the Ardardan Tea Room on completion. This walk had been decided at short notice as the



ST MICHAEL'S RAMBLING CLUB

(continued)

programmed walk around the Greenock reservoir/cut would have been too wet underfoot; hopefully we will be able to complete this walk in July or August.

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
Greenock reservoir/cut	TBC (probably 8th or 9th July 2022)	Greenock Cut Visitor Centre at 10:00am
Local area - Potential for lunch somewhere on completion	Thursday 11th August 2022	St Michaels at 09:30am

Please note if any details have to be changed everyone on the mailing list will be emailed and we will endeavour to notify the StM Website and the Sunday Notices.

If you would like to be included on our email list or have a suggestion for a particular walk, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

The STM Walking Group Committee:

Pete Ashton - pashton19@outlook.com - 07749 820789

Julia Gourd - jfg20@outlook.com - 07742 397251

Geoff Mason - geoffmasonry@outlook.com - 07527 398319

Gerry Quickfall - trevgergy@talktalk.net - 07870 681363

Gerry Quickfall

Who's Who? - In the Pew!

A light-hearted interview with Margaret & Norman Wardil

by: Anna Ind

Q. Where were you born?

A. *Bellshill Hospital, Lanarkshire*

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

A. *12th October - Libra*

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. *Cambuslang, Lanarkshire (it is still outside the Greater Glasgow Boundaries).*

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

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

A. 53 years, we met at Hairmyres Hospital, where I was a student Nurse in the same year as Norman's Sister.

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

A. I am an only child, my father worked for the same company for 56 years (he was in the Royal Navy during the second world war), my mother was a window dresser for a large department store in Glasgow. Norman has a Sister (she is a trained nurse and midwife). Norman joined the Merchant Navy as an Engineer Apprentice and has been involved in the Marine Industry most of his life. All our parents were from large families so we still have cousins scattered around the world.

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

A. I trained as a General Nurse and a week after I passed my Finals I got married. I did a little nursing afterwards, then I joined Norman and sailed with him on and off for the next 5 years, until I became pregnant with our first daughter. Norman got a shore job and we lived near Biggar for the next few years until our second daughter, Fiona, was about 5 months old then we moved to Tring. Norman's office was Central London but he travelled frequently all over the UK and abroad, sometimes for weeks at a time. We did travel with him occasionally and met some interesting people who worked in the Marine field. When the children were both at school I got a job as a Nurse with a Charity Trust that operated a row of Alms Houses, owned by the Rothschilds, initially for their estate workers when they retired. My one claim to fame was I was paid directly by the present Lord Rothschild and met him and his sister Miriam (I had to report to her directly every month) and I met them several times (I wasn't sure whether to curtsy or not.) My job as a nurse to the residents developed as time went on and when the cottages were renovated, I had to go to all the site meetings as the resident representative, even inspecting the roof spaces etc., hard hat was required. I wish I had written a book as each day brought new challenges, a stolen car allowed to run into a bay window, blocked drains etc. The residents were such interesting characters, especially Raymond who had been butler to Lord R, he had also worked in Buckingham Palace and Balmoral. What the Butler saw now that would be telling!!!! When we both retired, we moved to Helensburgh. Our daughters remained in England when we moved North, they are both married, Anne, the eldest lives in St Albans Herts. She works for a city bank as an Executive Assistant. Fiona lives in Berkhamsted and has a daughter, Agatha, who is nearly four years old. Fiona works for the NHS as Deputy Director for Environment.

Q. What brought you to the area and how long have you lived in Helensburgh?

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

A. We looked at many places to retire to, we searched from Dumfries and the Ayrshire coast to Pitlochry and the Fife coast. During our search we came to Helensburgh as we already knew Ann (now Packard) and the late Norman Purdy who had lived in Tring and had moved some years before. I fell in love with Helensburgh, Norman took a bit longer. We have lived here nearly 19 years.

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

A. I have done a lot of travelling, mostly with Norman when he was sailing with the Merchant Navy. I think my favourite place is right here in Bonnie Scotland.

Q. Do you have any hobbies?

A. I used to enjoy walking with my dog. I love listening to music, singing, reading and gardening. I am also a member of the Arts Society and the U3A.

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

A. Tennis but never seemed to have the opportunity, I might have been good at it.

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

A. Jane Ayre closely followed by Wuthering Heights.

Q. What is your all-time favourite film?

A. The Sound of Music.

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

A. A Toby Jug, Norman found it in a Charity Shop, My mother had this Toby Jug, it was on display all the years I was growing up, when my Mum died I put it in a prominent place in my home, unfortunately it got broken. We hunted for another one for years. He bought it for the princely sum of £1!!!

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

A. Loads of Tea.

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

A. Nearly 19 years. I enjoy the Service, the Responses and receiving the Sacrament weekly. The Church community is very supportive.

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

A. Near the front so that I can hear better.

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

A. "What a Friend we have in Jesus". It was my Mum's favourite, she requested it to be played at her funeral.

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

A. A couple I knew who went to the Methodist Church in Tring where I was a member, Barbara and Frank. Here in Helensburgh Rosemary and Michael Wilson.

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

I have been so blessed there are also many others.

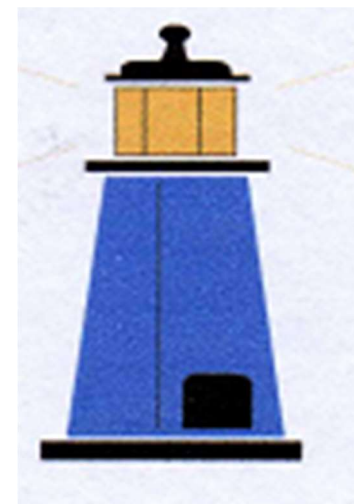
Q. If a genie granted you one wish, what would you wish for?

A. *If it does not sound too trite, that every human being had a personal relationship with God.*

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

The Beacon Trust

This is going to be a very difficult year for many people with rapidly rising prices and family budgets under pressure. Charities can ease the pain to a small extent especially for those that are most vulnerable. At the Beacon Trust we have always been able to come to the aid of families who face severe problems if their fridge or washing machine breaks down or who are in need of basic household goods. On top of this we are now working with the Helensburgh and Lomond Food Bank to bring food supplies down from their warehouse store in Churchill to the Community Hub and out to their branch in Rosneath. This makes good use of our new van and the energies of our volunteers. It is such an encouragement to see local volunteers cheerfully working together with the aim of improving the lives of others. We gratefully thank all our supporters who help make all this possible.



Paul Allen, The Beacon Trust

Social Programme 2022

Nigel Allan has kindly offered to host a barbeque at his house and garden at 20 Millig Street on Sunday 21st August starting at 1pm.

John Hanks

Jubilee Flowers

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Jubilee. It was looking even more beautiful than usual. If anyone is interested in joining us for Harvest, please let me know – newcomers are always welcome.

Tel 07414 747246.

Andrea Gibson

READERS' LIST – JULY/AUGUST 2022

DATE	8:30am	10:30am	6:30/7:30pm
3 July	Moira Miller	Michael Blake	*No Evening Services in July and August*
10 July	Selina McGeoch	Alex Laing	
17 July	Chris Sanders	Chris Packard	
24 July	Penny Johnson	John Hanks	
31 July	Carol Annesley	Rebecca Parry	
7 August	Sam Harris	Iona Gibson	
14 August	Nigel Allan	Helen Gibson	
21 August	Hilary Menzies	Jeannette Scobie	
28 August	Moira Miller	Jane Taylor	

SIDESPERSONS' ROTA JULY/AUGUST 2022

DATE	10:30am	
3 July	Nick Parry	Carol Parry
10 July	Chris Packard	Ann Packard
17 July	Chris Sanders	Linda Sanders
24 July	James Ashby	Sue Ashby
31 July	Gerry Quickfall	Alex Laing
7 August	David Sheen	Barbara Hoey
14 August	Chris Sanders	Jacky Sherwood
21 August	Brian Kyle	Maureen Kyle
28 August	Nick Parry	Carol Parry

LECTIONARY – JULY/AUGUST 2022

Day	Eucharist (NRSV)	Evensong (NRSV)
3 July St Thomas, Apostle	Habakkuk 2.1-4 Psalm 31.1-8 Ephesians 2.19-22 John 20.24-29	*No Evening Services in July and August*
10 July Pentecost 5	Deuteronomy 30.9-14 Psalm 25.1-9 Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37	
17 July Pentecost 6	Genesis 18.1-10a - Psalm 15 Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-42	
24 July Pentecost 7	Genesis 18.20-32 Psalm 138 Colossians 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13	
31 July Pentecost 8	Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23 Psalm 49.1-9 Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21	
7 August Pentecost 9	Genesis 15.1-6 Psalm 33.13-22 Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16 Luke 12.32-40	
14 August Pentecost 10	Jeremiah 23.23-29 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11.29 – 12.2 Luke 12.49-56	
21 August Pentecost 11	Isaiah 58.9b-14 Psalm 103.1-9 Hebrews 12.18-29 Luke 13.10-17	
28 August Pentecost 12	Sirach 10.12-18 Psalm 112.1-9 Hebrews 13.1-8,15-16 Luke 14.1,7-14	



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 1st Sunday in the month
7:30pm Compline (Night Prayer) on the 3rd Sunday in the month

Tuesdays

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

For dates of services please see Diary (Page 12) inside

