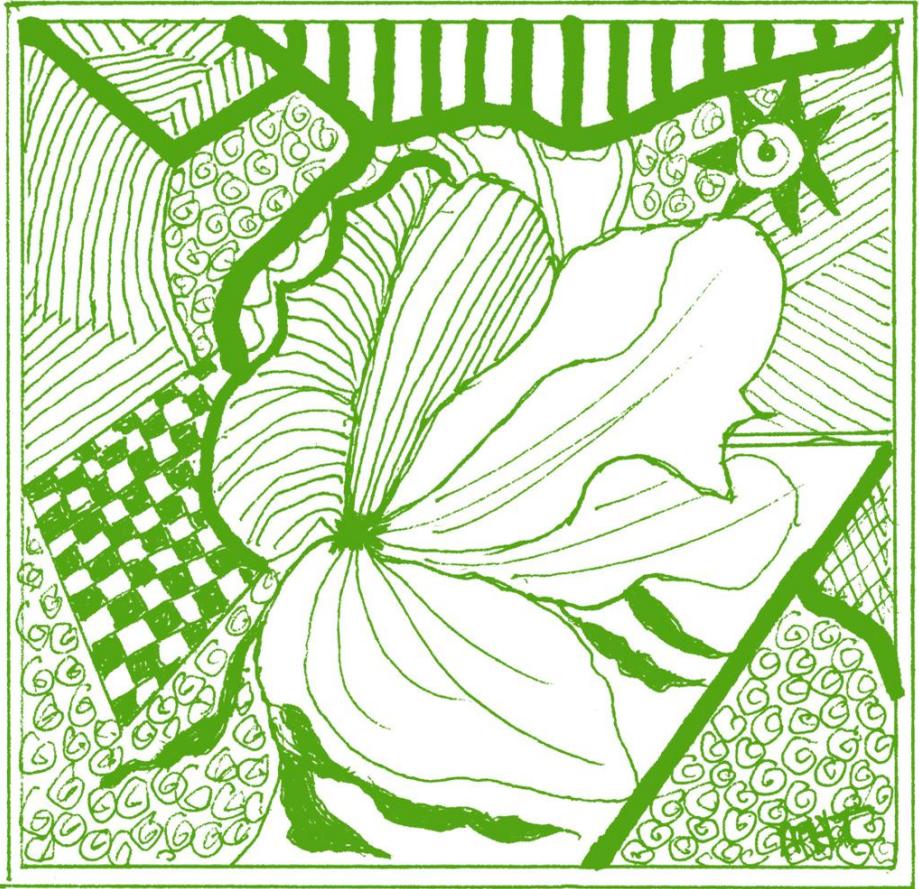


SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH JEDBURGH



SUMMER 2017

Dear Reader

Just like any gardener wishing the seeds sown in the spring will hopefully all do well in the summer and beyond, we too respond with love, care and prayers in the continued planting in the life of St John's Church.

The articles in this edition endeavour to show how our seeds have life and creativity in all our Church activities, for which we give thanks to God.

We also thank Revd John Evans for his interim pastoral message and prayers for St John's as we travel through a fragile and troublesome world.

May our seeds grow and be watered by God.

"Never to run dry."

*M Helen Tyler
Editor*

*Margaret Grover
Editor*

From The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R.Tolkien

"The world is indeed full of peril and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater."



SCHOOL STATIONERY APPEAL

A thank you from Edinburgh Direct Aid

Thank you very much indeed for your recent donation of school stationery to help refugee children from Syria based in the town of Aarsal in Lebanon. This will help us to provide the necessary materials to the schools there and I can confirm that the container with these items left on 12th April. Your support is most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Rutovitz

Chairman, EDA

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

The time will soon come when I must think of a prayer for the people of Jedburgh St John's. It will have to be simple, maybe even slightly silly enough, to be memorable. But it will need explanation; here it is: "I pray you will never run dry."

On the wall of my study there has always been, for over sixty years, a hand-made wooden plaque. It is rather crude and nothing like as stylish as the beautiful crafted works of the wood-workers in St John's! The words have been burned into the wood with a red-hot poker and the whole varnished over. The wood came from a fruit box. The words are from the 40th chapter of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament, and verses 29 to 31. The words that always grip me on the plaque are: "...they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...". Over the years (and I thank God he has given me 83 so far!) the world has seemed to me discouraging, unpredictable and pretty bloody much of the time. The inspired words from that old prophet tell me that in all this mess and sadness, God is the power that will replenish and renew my strength when all my strength is used up.

I can still believe in the reality of God in spite of all the things that have happened to me, my family, the people I care about, and even the people whom I have met along the journey of life. I believe because I have seen God work miracles – not

great miracles like the dividing of the waters of a sea so that thousands of people can cross on dry land; like the raising of a man from the dead, although he has been in his grave for days. Not those miracles, but the miracle that God works by helping ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

I have stood with parents of baby Harvey in the leukaemia ward of Yeovil Hospital. His little body glowing with fever such that he had the appearance of an angel – we prayed, repeatedly, fervently, even desperately. The people in our home churches prayed – we prayed for the miracle that would heal the little body. He died. Was there no miracle for us? Were our prayers just words in a void? Sometimes the miracle is not that the child survives, but the miracle is that the Harvey family survive in spite of the awful strain placed on them by this ghastly event. The miracle is that they go on and affirm life by risking the vulnerability of loving each other, even after they have been so badly hurt by life. And then going on to establish a charity to support the work of looking for means of treating and caring for sufferers of this illness; the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust. (CLIC). The miracle is that the faith of the praying community goes on, through the tears. The faith survives and they continue to believe in the

world and the value of prayer, even when they have learned that this is a world where innocent children die. I have seen miracles like this.

I have seen weak people become strong, frightened people emboldened, selfish and self-centred people become generous and outward looking and caring. A daughter caring for an elderly, frail mother, a young mum lovingly caring for a brain-damaged child, a wife with her husband in a wheelchair for years, and I wonder to myself – where do people get the strength to go on doing that for so long, so patiently, so lovingly? Where do they get the resources of love and loyalty just to keep going? The only answer I can find is on that plaque on the wall, that when we are weary and out of strength, we turn to God and we are renewed so that we can go on running and walking and neither grow weary nor feel faint.

Most people are good, honest, helpful, generous – most work for peace on earth and harmony between the races and nations. Most work to make their communities better places to live in. What difference does a belief in God make, if any? It comes when we have exhausted ourselves caring for the hurt, tired of fighting injustice and cruelty, and feel we have made no difference. Where do we turn for strength to go on giving when we have nothing left to give? Those who do not believe in God, for all that they are good people, believe that strength and love come

from within themselves, so they look deep within themselves for more strength and may well find they have run dry. I believe in a God who is beyond me, a God who renews my strength when I turn to the Lord, who replenishes my capacity to love, to care, to work, who gives me something to carry on and share that strength with others. Another Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah, says he is sad for the person who trusts in himself, who “makes mere flesh his strength and turns away from God.” He likens that person to a bush in an arid landscape. By contrast the person who trusts in God is like, “a tree planted by waters, sending out its roots by a stream. It does not feel the coming of the heat, its leaves are ever fresh.” (Jeremiah 17 vvs 3 ff)

The non-believer who has only himself may be a fine and model citizen, but if he has only himself to rely on, when he exhausts his internal resources, he runs the risk of running dry, like a bush in an arid landscape. But the person who turns to God is like a tree planted by a stream. What they share with those around them is drawn from a source beyond themselves so that they never run dry.

All of us who are trying to build this kingdom of God that Jesus has called us to build, are in the business of giving to others; to care for people, to feel their frustration, anger, sadness, pain, and to do this you need the resources of a faith in God, otherwise you will run dry. If you

spend your love, your strength, your compassion on others and you have nowhere from which to replenish it you will find yourself, one day, empty of strength and drained of love. Life will become more than you can cope with, and you become like Jeremiah's bush in the arid place. But if you learn to turn to God to refill what you are using up; if you let yourself become that channel of peace and love that we sometimes sing about, through which God's

peace, love and healing grace can flow on their way to help others, then your strength will be renewed.

So that is why my prayer, for all of us in the days ahead, is simply this, "I pray that you will never run dry."

May God bless each one of you, those you love and pray for, and stay with you through all the days ahead.

*John
May 2017*

NOTE ON THE VACANCY

Vestry, in the presence of The Dean, interviewed the Bishop's candidate for our vacancy. The candidate was found to be empathetic and sensitive to the needs and challenges of St John's and the community.

Given that this is the Bishop's candidate, it is up to the Bishop to put an offer of appointment to the candidate. The offer would be for a Priest in Charge for a period of up to 5 years. The Priest in Charge would be ministering to St John's, on an 80% stipend. We currently await further news from Bishop John.

*Christine McLachlan
Secretary to the Vestry*

GLEN '17

The Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Week at Glenalmond College

happens each year from 23rd – 29th July when young people and leaders from all over Scotland gather for a week of fellowship, worship, activities, sports and evening events. It is a fun-filled holiday week with a difference.

The young are part of a house group which meet twice a day to discuss study material focused on Bible passages with a theme throughout the week. Each group plan their own worship which they then lead, a different one each evening. Faith is explored with differing views and experiences being encouraged.

The days are also made up of activities taking advantage of Glenalmond's superb facilities which include an indoor swimming pool, sports hall, sports fields, dedicated arts and music facilities.

The Vestry have agreed to sponsor two young people from St. John's to attend this event in the summer, and we look forward to hearing of their experiences in the next magazine.

Christopher and Susanna Yip are busy fund-raising for themselves and we send them 'Good Luck and Blessings from St John's.'

Ruth Johnson

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 10 June

10.00-11.30 am

**Royal British Legion
Jedburgh**

**Cakes, Bric-a-brac, Books,
Raffles, Tombola, Crafts**



**£1.50
ENTRY**

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday we had an Easter party at the back of the church.

We had varied activities such as Easter egg hunting, a quiz about Easter and colouring in pictures. There were about 20 children there and after the activities they were welcomed to have a little snack. At the end they each got a goody bag which had a story about Jesus, a colour-in card, a happy Easter card from The Sunday School team, a colour-in Easter bunny and some small chocolates.

The children had a wonderful time.

I would like to thank Ruth who organized the egg hunt, Susan who helped the children to understand what the pictures meant and my mum Maria for organizing the food & drinks. I would also like to thank everybody who came and everyone who made it successful. Thank you!

Guhrun Yip



JOB VACANT

✝
KEEP
CALM
AND BECOME
ALTAR
SERVER!

Those who were at the 10:30 service on Easter morning will have seen a familiar face in the sanctuary. Rebecca Mark stepped back into her role of Server as though she had never been away; but this should not be expected of her, nor should she feel any obligation to do so on her visits home. She has grown up and moved on and it is up to us to fill the void left behind.

In the spring magazine of 2013, knowing that Rebecca would be leaving for university that autumn, John Grover wrote an article outlining the work of a server and its value to any priest celebrating Holy Communion.

“...The server has been taught to assist the priest by offering the bread and wine, by washing hands and if necessary receiving the collection. After the Communion the server assists with the ‘ablutions’ - that is the cleansing of the chalice and paten - and ensuring that the communion vessels and altar service book are always in the right place. Priests tend to develop their own idiosyncrasies; they may never have been taught to celebrate according to the church in which they are ministering. The server is expected to cope with individual peculiarities and to appear totally calm and unflustered when strange things happen. So when they are taught to serve they learn what is ‘right’ but expect deviations. The essence of a well-trained server is to always give the impression that all is well! If they can look dignified while performing these duties they are a gift to a church and enhance its worship.”

On 17th August St John’s has been asked to host a service for The Guild of Servers. This will be a Sung Eucharist at 7:00pm. Why not come along and chat with servers from other churches to find out more about what it means to ‘Serve at the Altar’?

Let Rebecca have the final word “.....being a server is an exceptionally rewarding role and you will gain many things from it.”

Could this person possibly be you?

BROKE

*The kiss of the sun for pardon
A lunch on the lawn for mirth;
One is closer to God in a garden
Though planting one out costs the earth.*

*One is closer to broke in a garden
Than anywhere else that I know,
And it frequently makes my heart harden
When things I have chosen don't grow.*

*I've planted a whole load of failures
And plants that just won't stay alive,
Like sweet peas and climbers and dahlias
Where other things happily thrive.*

*There's nothing like planting a garden
For making one's soul so content,
But disasters do make my heart harden
When thinking how much I have spent!*

Taken from *Gardening in slippers* by Liz Cowley, with apologies to Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858 - 1932), author of 'God's Garden'.



Website :
www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk

NOTICEBOARD

This magazine is also available on our website, with further information about St John's in Jedburgh.

- June 10th Coffee Morning - 10:00am - Royal British Legion Hall
- June 18th RSCM Music Sunday
- June 24th Birth of John the Baptist
- June 29th St Peter, Apostle
- July 30th 9:30am Sung Eucharist (Combined Service)
- August 6th The Transfiguration of the Lord
- August 13th Feast of Dedication
- August 17th Eucharist for the Guild of Servers 7:00pm

REGULAR DATES

Old School Lunch Club

12:30 pm in the Centre on the last Wednesday each month (*not in July or August*)

Study Group

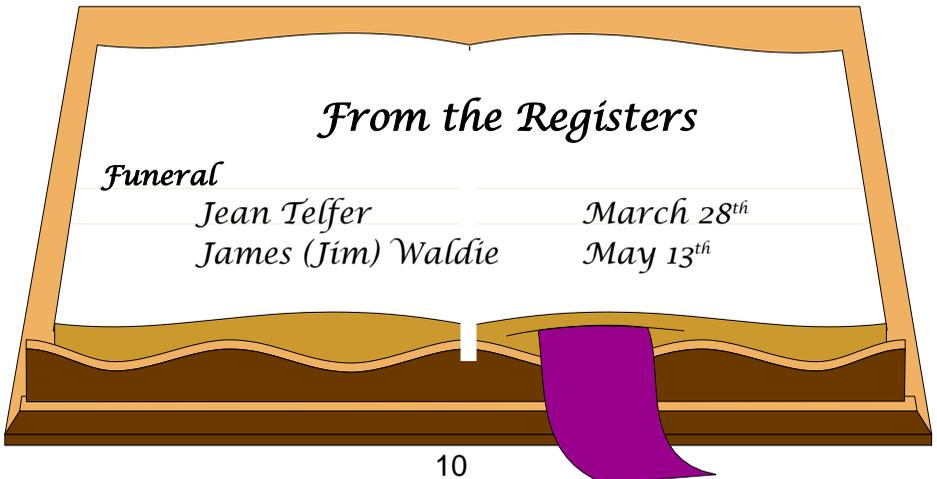
After a break for the summer this will re-start in the autumn.

Sewing Group

10:00 am in the Centre on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month.

Choir Practice

6.15pm in church each Friday. All welcome to join in



ST JOHN'S FINANCES

It may seem strange that at a time when St John's has more money in the bank than at any time in recent memory I should be writing in the magazine asking for more money.

St John's is blessed with members, who not only fund the day to day running, but have on many occasions managed to find additional money for the big things such as the organ, the heating, and repairs to the church fabric.

In addition, we are blessed in that John Evans accepts no fee for all the work he does on our behalf. Therefore, since September 2015 we have not had the cost of a monthly stipend for the rector and in addition we have had the benefit of an income from renting out the rectory. In total this amounts to some £1,500 per month that we have been able to save.

With the possibility of a new rector being appointed we have to consider what our costs will be in future. David Dalglish was paid for 50% of a full-time post, but because he was over pension age we did not have to contribute to a pension fund on his behalf. Therefore, a new rector, even on 50%, would cost us an extra £5,000 per year for pension contribution.

The Vestry have considered the position and would like to use some of our savings to employ a rector for more than 50% to allow for more mission work, in particular with children. It is hoped that we can build a younger congregation to take St Johns forward

into the future. We could for example afford a stipend of 70% or 80% for a limited time, but if this were to be sustained we need to increase our regular monthly income slightly.

We have not asked for an increase in monthly giving for a number of years and I am aware that many people review their giving regularly. However, to secure our finances a small increase to take account of increases in costs over the last few years would help enormously. If everyone gave an extra 10p for every £1.00 they give it would make a big difference to our position. So, could I ask you to consider increasing your giving by at least that amount. If you have a standing order I would be happy to provide a new form. If you have blue envelopes there is nothing to do except increase the amount you put in the envelopes. If you are a UK tax payer then please ensure that you have signed a gift aid form. This increases your donation by 25p for every £1.00 you give, which alone raises almost £5,000.00 a year for us.

Let me know if you have any questions about the finances, or you wish to contribute monthly or with blue envelopes. I would remind you that whichever way you choose to give, you are not committed to a fixed amount, and the Vestry are very grateful for whatever you can give.

Alan Thompson
Vestry Treasurer

THE SPEAKING TREE



The soul that is attached to anything, however much good there may be in it, will not arrive at the liberty of Divine union. For whether it be a strong wire rope or a slender and delicate thread that holds the bird it matters not, if it really holds it fast; for until the cord be broken, the bird cannot fly.

St John of the Cross

When you let go of all tension, fear, anxiety and small mindedness, what dawns in you is freedom, joy and love - life is holy and sacred. Go through it with joy and and happiness sowing the seeds.

MHT

The Prie-Dieu

Sowing Good Seeds

*Make me a good gardener, O Lord.
In the garden of my life,
let me sow seeds of life.
Let my words be good and fruitful.
Let my ideas be sound and fertile.
Let my actions be bright with holiness and
love.
As far as lies within my power,
let me sow seeds of thy kingdom,
and do Thou, O Lord of life and growth,
make them germinate and produce
the promised harvest, O Lord of the Hundredfold.*



Amen

Written by Bishop George Appleton

From the Choir Loft...



Hosanna! Susanna! Welcome to the choir.

Susanna is a valuable addition to the back row of the sopranos where she is learning the ways of the choir as well as an appreciation of church music. She has also drastically reduced the average age of the choir. The spread of ages now runs from over 80 down to 15 which has given us a lot to think about. Are the veterans who are over 80 still able to give a satisfactory performance? Should they be allowed to continue singing? Are their powers on the wane? To settle these questions the younger members of the choir might want to establish an annual test along the lines of the MOT guidelines (Ministry of Theology in our case) in which clear rules are laid down, which are very pertinent in our case, and also lay down etiquette which choirs should observe. The rules are many and varied but in summary the most important that God fearing choirs should observe to determine fitness for purpose are as follows:-

1. Ability to climb the spiral stair to the choir vestry and also to negotiate the chancel steps. Choir members are recommended to wear strong shoes with ribbed soles to avoid slippage.
2. Ability to dress him/her self in the choir vestments unaided inside two minutes as there is frequently time pressure.
3. Proven ability to sprint ten yards to catch up with the precession in or out of the church.
4. Walking unaided to the choir stalls. All walking aids to be left in the porch, preferably padlocked for security reasons.
5. Ability to find one's score, to hold it without tremor, to find the right page and to be able to read it at up to eighteen inches distance.
6. Standing unsupported for long periods
7. Refraining from fiddling with hearing aids to while away the time until the sermon is over.

We would hope that the veterans would pass these rigorous tests for now and would be allowed to sing for another year showing that the gap in ages with Susanna really **doesn't** matter. Hosanna! Praise God that we can all sing together for the moment. The next test will come all too quickly.

Gaudeamus

Saint John's Church – Services



SUNDAYS

9.00 am Holy Communion 1970 Scottish Liturgy
 10.30 am Sung Eucharist 1982 Scottish Liturgy

THURSDAYS

10 am Holy Communion

Also Communion on important saints' days

READINGS FOR 10.30am SERVICE

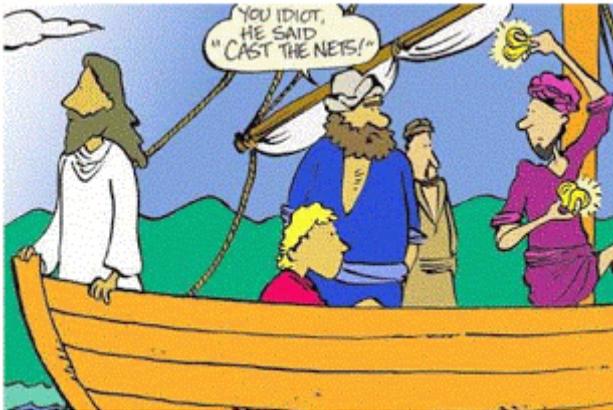
DATE	READINGS
4 June Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30 Psalm 104 Acts 2:1-21 John 20: 19-23
11 June Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20
18 June Pentecost 2	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8
25 June Pentecost 3	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69: 14-20 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39
2 July Pentecost 4	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18 Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42
9 July Pentecost 5	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145: 8-15 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
16 July Pentecost 6	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

DATE	READINGS
23 July Pentecost 7	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
30 July Combined Service Pentecost 8	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 150 Ephesians 5: 15-20 Luke 2: 8-14
6 August Transfiguration of our Lord	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 97 2 Peter 1: 16-21 Luke 9: 28-36
13 August Pentecost 10 Dedication Festival	1 Kings 8:22-30 Psalm 122 Hebrews 12: 18-24 Matthew 21: 12-16
20 August Pentecost 11	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28
27 August Pentecost 12	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20
3 September Pentecost 13	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26: 1-8 Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28

THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saint John the Evangelist

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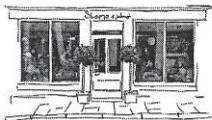
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