

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH JEDBURGH



**Winter
2017-18**

Dear Reader



Winter, a season of shorter days and some would say, of 'darkness'. A time when animals hibernate and perhaps sometimes we feel like following their example! A time when it can be hard for some of us to get around, as night driving and road conditions become difficult.

But these next three months are busy ones for the Church as we move through Advent to Christmas, followed by Epiphany and Candlemas, and on towards Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

Some regular activities may not take place during the winter months (see Noticeboard), but at this time we do need to make sure that no one in our congregation suffers from enforced "hibernation" for whatever reason, and gets left out from our church life together.

Margaret Grover

*During the coming Christmas season may we be blessed
With the spirit of the season
Which is Peace,
The gladness of the season
Which is Hope,
And the heart of the season
Which is Love.*

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the shepherds are back with the flock,
Then the work of Christmas begins.

... to find the lost; to heal those broken in spirit; to feed the hungry; to release the oppressed; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace amongst all people; to make a little music in the heart ... and to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all we do and in all we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins.

Howard Thurman

FROM REV'D ANDREW

So as I type this, it is two months to the day since my induction as Priest in Charge of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh. A short time that has gone quickly but has been full of good things. I have enjoyed the opportunity to gently slide into the life of St. John's and of the town and district. I've enjoyed hospitality with warm generous folk, explored much of the countryside finding your homes and almost got my head into the Scottish liturgy.

Some may be wondering why Priest in Charge instead of the more usual title of Rector. The main reason is that unlike a Rector, I am on a five year fixed term appointment that came about because of the massive step in faith the community of St John's has made to use hard earned savings to employ a priest at 80% of a fulltime stipend rather than the 50% of past years. This is an exciting and brave step to invest capital into a human resource and in ministry rather than squirrel it away for the proverbial rainy day.

So ... what to do with 5 years? It could be tempting for me to relax into a fairly easy life as a country parson, enjoying cups of tea and maintaining church life pretty much as it is. I don't think that this is a just use of your investment or good stewardship of the blessings God has given us. It has become very



apparent that Vestry had much more in mind ... as it should!

The 5 year time frame does come with a sense of urgency about it and has meant that I have moved into discussion and planning of possibilities for ministry much sooner than is usual by a new man on the block. We have a great treasure here at St John's and a wonderful legacy of faithfulness and hard work of previous incumbents. We have a committed group of people passionate about their church and their God. We have strengths in our liturgy, music and in the wonderful sacred space we call home And we have challenges.

At the recent Vestry and Ministry Workshop, I gave feedback from a quick snapshot survey completed by our congregation. Thankfully, of the 37 respondents, the vast majority felt that we have something special to offer, that we have hope in the future and are willing to work towards reaching out to others in service and care. Higher priority was given to

sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to others over the essential tasks of maintaining church life or staying exactly as we are for our own comfort and benefit.

The workshop also gave us a chance to consider what we are currently doing... we realised that it could be a danger that much of our time and energy is focussed inward on those already working from some level of faith and that if we wish to grow we also need to look to ways to move beyond the safe confines of the buildings to share our treasure with the wider community. Obviously there was much more discussed, but for me one of the most positive outcomes was the willingness to embrace 6

choices of healthy churches outlined in the book "I refused to lead a dying church" by Paul Nixon

- Choosing **life** over death
- Choosing **community** over isolation
- Choosing **fun** over drudgery
- Choosing **bold** over mild
- Choosing **frontier** over fortress
- Choosing **now** rather than later

You will hear more from me about these choices, but in the meantime ask a Vestry member or other attendee about the energy and hope this means!!

Andrew

Messy Christmas

A fun all age family celebration of the Birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve @ The Town Hall
Abbey Place, Jedburgh
Sunday 24th December

A Christmas Service presented by Jedburgh Old & Trinity Church of Scotland and St John's Episcopal Church.
Come dressed as your favourite character from the Christmas Story...
...the kids can too!!

6.00pm

Dressagirlaroundtheworld

'Dressagirlaroundtheworld' is a charity started in America in 2006 by a Christian organisation. The charity makes dresses for girls in the very poorest countries in the world and have made over one million dresses for girls in 81 countries. Initially made from pillow cases, this has changed to making good quality dresses and not hand-me-downs.



Many girls live in countries where females have no standing in their societies and are easy targets for trafficking. We want them to know that they are loved by God and are indeed precious. We show them that by making the best dress possible. Village pastors say that the girls who are well dressed are less likely to be targeted by predators because they obviously belong to an organisation.

I enjoy sewing and when a friend told me about 'dressagirlaroundtheworld' I started making dresses and find it really rewarding to know that this will give such joy to one little girl. I send the dresses to a lady in Stockport who is part of the distribution team. The last parcel I sent was going to one of these countries: Malawi, Sierra Leone, Kenya or Uganda.

There are specific instructions about making the dresses. The fabric must be good quality and have no pattern in the material that would give offence in a foreign country. The sewing and seams must be strong enough to withstand harsh washing in rivers and waterholes etc. This may be the only dress this girl will ever have and it has to be one that you would be happy for your daughter or granddaughter to wear. The girls wear the dress with a T shirt and it is also possible to make a T shirt dress for them.

I like to put a handkerchief in the pocket, so if you have any to spare I would be more than grateful!

To obtain more information about the dresses go to

www.dressagirlaroundtheworld

which you will find more interesting, seeing girls wearing the dresses and also the "before and after"

Elizabeth Forsyth



From a hilltop in Somerset in 2003, Richard Fothergill experienced low lying mist clearing in small circles over the landscape revealing the fields and habitations below. This he interpreted as God removing the blindness of people and revealing Himself particularly to those in rural areas of Britain. Small prayerful groups have since developed across the country under 'The Filling Station' banner. The ecumenical meetings are midweek monthly celebrations held in non-church venues for renewal and evangelism. Seating is café style with refreshments available. Worship is followed by a guest speaker, testimony and prayer ministry.

Following months of prayer, Borders Filling Station began about 2 years ago, on the first Monday of the month at the Corn Exchange, Melrose. At present 23 churches are represented by those attending. This is not a church or denomination, but an opportunity to meet fellow Christians from other churches, to build up faith, find encouragement and bring those outside the church to a focused presentation of the faith in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Meetings start at 7.30pm but the hall is open earlier for fellowship and refreshments.

See www.thefillingstation.org.uk

Marion Anderson



THE PRIE-DIEU



Give us, O God, the vision which can see Your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust Your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts,

And show us what each one of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

Amen

COMINGS & GOINGS

There have been a number of 'comings and goings' at St John's recently which should not go without a mention.

At the beginning of September we said "Goodbye" to the Rev'd John Evans and his wife Jean after a period of two years when John had been our Interim Pastor.



We also bade farewell to Elizabeth and Alan Thompson who have moved to Northumberland; Alan was our Treasurer for six years and Elizabeth served on Vestry as well as being a member of the choir.

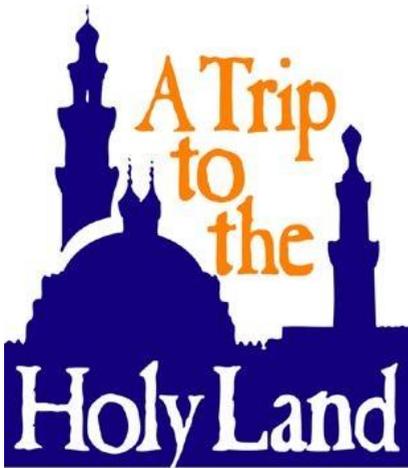


Then it was a case of welcoming Andrew, our new Priest-in-Charge, seen here with the Bishop and some of his new 'flock' after his Licensing Service, and later with the choir.



And we even have a new Treasurer in Liz Kitely, who agreed to pick up the baton from Alan when the church's financial year ended at the end of September.

September was an eventful month!!



Nothing really prepares you for being in the Holy Land. Places you have heard about, read about, sung about and dreamed about all your life – places that seemed almost mythical – are suddenly real.

Israel is a place of contrasts now as it has been for thousands of years. It is a place where different cultures and traditions meet and exist side by side, sometimes peaceably and sometimes not. I was talking with a Muslim friend of mine recently about Jerusalem and how unfair it was that this should be the holy city for all three Abrahamic faiths and how much conflict this has caused over the centuries, to which he replied that perhaps God has given us this city to make us find a way to live together and worship Him in peace – a kind of test, if you will – an interesting perspective.

We flew to Tel Aviv, hired a car and drove north, with Alistair heroically driving an automatic car on the “wrong” side of the road in the crazy Israeli traffic! We visited the ruins of Caeserea, the port city built by Herod the Great and named in honour of

Augustus. It was in Caeserea that God revealed to St Peter that no-one was to be considered unclean and the message of the Gospel was for everyone (Acts 10), and St Paul was imprisoned prior to being taken for trial in Rome (Acts 23 & 24). Little remains of the Caeserea St Peter and St Paul knew, but the stones of the harbour can still be seen, as can the sites of Paul’s trial and imprisonment.

From Caeserea we drove to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Galilee will have changed so much since the time of Jesus, but the lake itself and the hills that surround it will be exactly as they were then. It was extraordinary to think that we were looking at a landscape that would have been familiar to Jesus and the apostles. I sat on the beach reading the Gospel of Mark knowing that the events I was reading about had happened within a few miles of where I was sitting. We visited Capernaum, where the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus preached can be seen under the later Byzantine synagogue. The modern church built over the House of Peter was a bit of an architectural low point but its glass floor allows you to see the remains of the house and a Byzantine church underneath. The fact that so little remains of the first century village is unimportant – that Jesus lived and preached there and chose it for his home and base for his mission makes it special beyond words.

From Galilee our next destination was Jerusalem. You might imagine from the postcards that the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock dominate the skyline but in fact they seemed to be lost in the modern city around them. On our first night we made for the Western Wall,

taking numerous wrong turnings in the labyrinth of narrow streets of the old city. We arrived at sunset and the light on the Wall made the stones appear almost luminous. The areas for prayer for men and women are separate, so we went to our respective sides of the barrier. The Western Wall was a deeply moving place where there was a profound sense of devotion and love of God; it was an enormous privilege to be there. For all that you read in the Hebrew Bible of the importance of Jerusalem and the Temple, being there and experiencing it really brought it home.

From the Western Wall we walked to the Christian Quarter to see the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the site identified by St Helena as that of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Late at night is the time to visit because the queues to visit the Calvary chapel and the tomb of Christ can be very long. As I waited to go into the tomb of Christ I found that all my intentions of praying for a long list of friends and relatives evaporated and the only words I could find were those of the Jesus prayer – “Jesus, Son of God,

Saviour, have mercy on me, a sinner”. It is impossible to describe the experience of being in the tomb itself. Whether it is or is not the actual tomb is completely irrelevant. In that place one is confronted with a profound sense of the over-whelming sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ and the need to respond to that love and to share it with all of humanity.

Every Friday the Franciscans lead pilgrims along the Via Dolorosa. I spent the hour before the Stations began in the Church of St Anne, which is beside the ruins of the Pools of Bethesda. I was reading the Passion and generally getting myself in the mood for the Stations of the Cross when a group of African-American pilgrims came into the church and started to sing the most wonderful gospel music. There I was, trying to feel appropriately sorrowful, and suddenly the church was filled with joy. It was as though God was gently reminding me that the Passion and death of Jesus can only be understood in the light of the Resurrection.

Claire Nicholson



AUTUMN MARKET

With the seasons moving on and the colours changing it was Autumn Market time again. For continuity the Vestry decided to have this event again even though they were without a Rector at the time of planning.

This was our secondary fundraising /public interface event of the year, held at the Church Centre. Whilst slightly trimmed it was still successful, raising around £650. The large raffle, groaning cake stall and soup lunches did particularly well and there was even a queue at one point for seats for the wide choice of delicious homemade soups and traybakes.



A warm welcome was extended to some new faces and visitors to Jedburgh who saw the boards outside. A huge thank you to all the members of the congregation, friends and family for supporting and helping with the event in whatever way they could. And a special thanks to the stallholders and assistants for doing what they do quietly behind the scenes with their usual efficiency.

To quote our new Priest-in-Charge, Andrew Cooper, who was selling raffle tickets like a pro, "Well done Team"!

Any feedback or comments, positive or negative, are welcome—please contact Liz Kiteley or Cathy Lees.

PS - a timely opportunity to remind everyone about the Spring Sale at the British Legion on Saturday 24th March 2018, 10-12pm.

Details in the New Year.



A CHORISTER'S CONFESSION

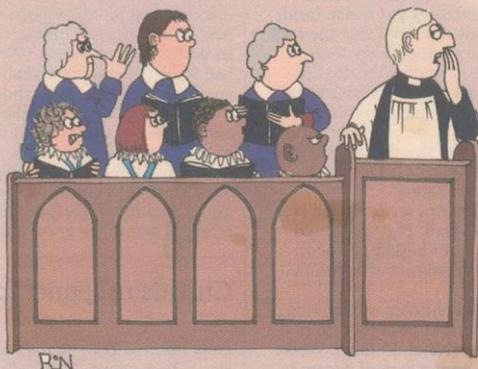
*Almighty and most merciful Conductor
We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep;
We have followed too much the intonations and tempi of our hearts
We have offended against thy Dynamic markings:
We have left unsung those notes which we ought to have sung;
And there is no support in us.
But thou, O Conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers:
Succour the chorally challenged;
Restore thou them that need extra note bashing;
Spare thou them that are without pencil;
Pardon our mistakes and have faith in the hereafter.
We will follow thy direction and sing together
In perfect harmony.*

Many of us will remember saying the General Confession (page 6 in the Scottish Prayer Book), week by week. This version has been pinned up in the Choir Loft for some time for the benefit of choir members!

Perhaps someone could come up with another version suitable for a specific part of our Church Life?



S: Gargoyle's



Gerald announced that the choir would sing the Tedium

Website :
www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk

NOTICEBOARD

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

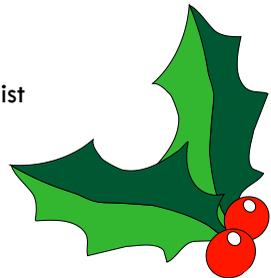
10 Dec 12 noon AGM after the 10.30am service
17 Dec 3:00pm Carol Service, with refreshments in the Centre after

Christmas Eve

24 Dec 6.00pm Combined Churches Christmas Family Service at the Town Hall
11:30pm Midnight Mass (Choral)

Christmas Day

25 Dec 10:00am Communion (sung)
31 Dec 10:30am Feast of St John the Evangelist
7 Jan 10:30am Epiphany
25 Jan 10:30am Conversion of St Paul
4 Feb 10.30am Candlemas
14 Feb 10.00am+6.00pm Ash Wednesday



REGULAR DATES

Seniors Prayer & Praise

2.00pm in Queen's Court on 4th Wednesday each month

Old School Lunch

12.30pm in the Centre on 24 Jan and 28 Feb

Study Group

10.45am in the Centre every Thursday

Sewing Group

10.00am in the Centre on 6 Dec, 3+17 Jan, 7 + 23 Feb

Choir Practice

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

We are always keen to receive articles from you for inclusion in the magazine. The deadline for anything to be included in the Spring magazine is **11th February**.

ann.beck@zoho.com

From the Choir Loft...

The choir has always prided itself on its strong work ethic however it got the impression recently that this was in doubt. In his early sermons Andrew spoke from the middle of the church facing the congregation and then turning to face the choir. We suspect that he could see that some members of the choir were nodding off. So, to ensure total wakefulness, the edict was issued that during the sermon they should fill the front few pews. Sitting at his feet we could give him undivided attention. Now we are wide awake but petrified lest this proximity might lead to searching questions on his text that we couldn't answer. However, the reason given for this change is for Andrew to be able to address all at the same time and we are relieved that our work ethic has not been questioned.

Choir members like to think that they always strive to excel and indeed they are always keen to put in whatever practices are necessary to ensure an impeccable rendering of the music for the day. Sometimes we have made a "snap" decision to practice the anthem in the choir vestry before the service. The result is inevitably ruined by one of the basses becoming entangled in his surplice and needing at least two singers to extricate him. All attempts at harmonious music making are abandoned and we can only hope

that our work ethic, in over preparing the piece, will see us through. It usually does.

Part of the choir's routine has been to process out during the last verse of the last hymn. This entails a major feat in multitasking which has always worried choir members always anxious to do their best. One has to sing the last verse, walking or almost running out, balancing hymn and anthem books, and negotiating the chancel steps by hanging on to a conveniently placed rood screen column. By then all are out of breath and have forgotten the tune and cannot read the words. Thank goodness Health and Safety have stepped in and prohibited this practice and have demanded that the last hymn is sung.

From the choir stalls with processing out thereafter to a suitable organ accompaniment. Relief all round. Likelihood of a nasty accident vanishes and standards in the last hymn will be maintained.

So these changes reflect and support the choir's work ethic and it will support any other changes which are proposed and will also allow it to give of its best.

Gaudeamus



Saint John's Church – Services

SUNDAYS

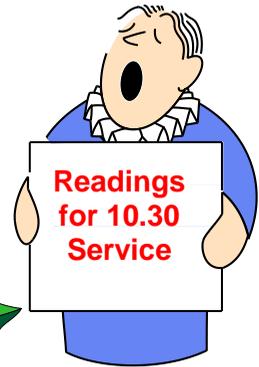
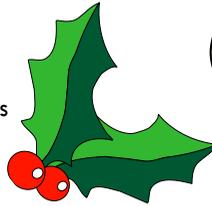
9.00 am Holy Communion 1970 Scottish Liturgy
 10.30 am Sung Eucharist 1982 Scottish Liturgy

THURSDAYS

10.00 am Holy Communion

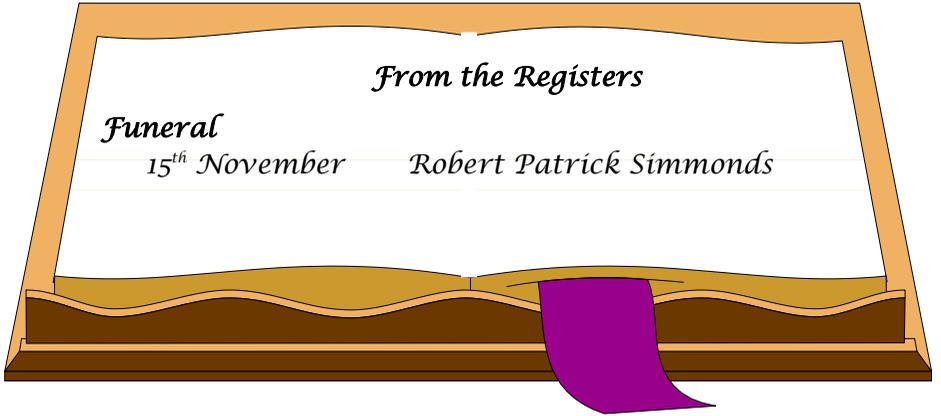
Also Communion on important saints' days

READINGS FOR 10.30am SERVICE



DATE	READINGS
03/12/2017 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
10/12/2017 Advent 2	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
17/12/2017 Advent 3	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
24/12/2017 Advent 4	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
24/12/2017 Midnight Mass (Set I readings)	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)
25/12/2017 Christmas Day (Set III readings)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14
31/12/2017 1st after Christmas John, Apostle and Evangelist	Exodus 33:7-11a Psalm 117 1 John 1 John 21:19b-25
07/01/2018 The Epiphany (transferred from 6/1)	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Eph. 3:1-12 Matt. 2:1-12

DATE	READINGS
14/01/2018 Epiphany 2	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
21/01/2018 Epiphany 3	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20
28/01/2018 Epiphany 4	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
04/02/2018 Epiphany 5 The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24 Hebrews 2:14-28 Luke 2:22-40
11/02/2018 Epiphany 6 Sunday before Lent	2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45
14/02/2018 Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-18 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
18/02/2018 1st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15
25/02/2018 2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38



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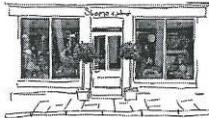
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