



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh

MAGAZINE



Winter 2019-20

St John's — A community of welcome in the Borders

Dear Reader

In changing and somewhat unsettled times, there is a certain sense of relief that some things, at least, remain predictable. The seasons of the year follow one another in a regular pattern as does the Church's year, and so we can find a sense of 'stability' in a rather unstable world.



We take a look back at the colourful days of autumn when we gave thanks for the bounty and beauty of the earth, and anticipate the coming of the Christ Child and all that means for us.

Centuries ago, when such things were not uncommon, comes a story of some monks who were facing the destruction of their monastery and their way of life; two of them who worked in the monastery garden were asked how they would manage when everything they held dear was taken from them. Their response was *"We shall just keep tending the roses."* Not a bad idea when one feels inadequate to cope in unsettled times.

A verse from 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' that is rarely sung now has these lines

*"Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks
And Christmas comes once more."*

The Magazine Team wish you a joyous Christmas



FROM FATHER ANDREW

Well its been a very up and down ride for me this year. As I write it is exactly 12 months since I was admitted to hospital for tests and then the diagnosis of Burkitt's Lymphoma. Then the long months of winter with its rounds of chemotherapy and recovery and the Stem Cell Transplant. The beginning of Spring saw me emerge from the cocoon of hospital into the care of family and friends for a slow recovery. While not a wildly hot or sunny summer it was good to feel the sun on my face and gentle breezes. September and a quick trip back to Australia for my mother's funeral... always a mixed blessing of mournful loss but of rich family time and the making of new memories. And then back to Scottish Autumn.... And a body without accumulated antibodies that meant man-flu for six weeks and even a trip back into the BGH for tests.



Through all of this most of the time I can muster up a positive attitude and occasionally a bit of a sense of humour, but I have of course had my moments. Sometimes it can be easy to fall into the trap of pessimism about life the universe and everything when one's energy is low and vulnerability is high. Likewise, a cheery blind optimism doesn't necessarily take into account the very real challenges we all experience. What has sustained me, apart from the many acts of loving kindness and service, many prayers and opportunities to get outside and see the sky, is the Christian hope I encounter in the scriptures. Hope is quite different to optimism. Hope acknowledges the imperfection of life but believes that there is a way through. Hope allows us the sense that God is with us in the valley of tears or the oncology waiting room and shares our pain with us. Hope is the ability to see the face of God in the darkest of places and in the simplest of ways.... A smile, a touch, a caring gesture, a prayer....

As we move through the season of Advent to Christmas, we do so with the echo of the Easter message still in our ears. The days are shorter, nature draws into itself, the dark gets darker.... But there on the darkest of nights Hope is born. Jesus never promised that we would not have dark nights.... What he did promise is that God will be with us and together we can prevail.

May your dark nights be warmed and brightened by the glimpses of God to be found all around. May you have hope and may you be content.

Fr Andrew

TRINITY DENTAL CLINIC

In the summer magazine we were able to give an up-date on the progress of the Dental Clinic set up in Liberia by Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes over the past couple of years. They are supported by SIM (Serving in Mission). In November we had the opportunity to meet them and hear directly about their life and work and challenges they face.

Ruth Johnson organised an afternoon at her home, Lantonhall, where a good number of folk gathered and listened in fascination as Grace and Simon, talking in turn and with the aid of a video, explained about the conditions under which they live and work, the poverty in the country, the lack of dental care and also the good results that are being achieved in the clinic.

The clinic and their accommodation is in a fenced compound but open to the sea where the beach is covered with litter, and as the weather is hot and humid all is not as idyllic as it might sound! The accommodation is basic; electricity is expensive so air-conditioning is used sparingly; the climate also means that all metal equipment rusts very quickly.

There are several surgeries in the Clinic but Simon is the only qualified dentist although another dentist flies in to help with difficult cases if necessary; trainees do extractions (!) and Grace trains the nurses. Patients come from all over Liberia as there are very few dentists in the country and others charge more than they do.



From what we heard it was obvious that both Simon and Grace enjoyed their work despite the challenges it brought, and the gratitude they felt for the support they had from a number of sources was equally obvious. We have been supporting them

annually as part of our Planned Mission Giving. That day a cheque from Vestry was handed over with a donation from those present. Thanks were also expressed to Ruth for organising such an interesting afternoon and providing a splendid tea.



LAURIE MACLENNAN

My mother died on 25th September. She had been a long-standing member of St John's, but became increasingly frail and was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. She was a member of the vestry, ran Traidcraft for several years, helped with the Summer fairs and Spring coffee mornings and with the monthly lunches, and she enjoyed singing with the choir. She was on the Chaplaincy team at Borders General Hospital, where she visited patients in the stroke ward every week. She also lent a hand in establishing a newsletter for the Borders Volunteer Centre and was always keen to help people and to be useful.

My mother once wrote a piece in this magazine on the theme of courage. This was a quality she admired, and one she certainly showed in her life. As a student, she had heard a lecture by J M Barrie on this subject at St Andrew's University, and she still had a bound copy. My mother experienced many difficult circumstances in her life, including bringing up two children alone after early widowhood, and she always met them with courage. She believed in laughter and joy, and would always make the very best of every situation – a quality shared by many of her generation.

She had a strong faith, and the priest who gave the sermon at her funeral spoke not just of her life with us, but of the life my mother has now, in all its glorious fulfilment of Christ's promise. My mother made real friends at St John's and was valued for who she was. We never know the effect of our welcome to newcomers in church, but it is often far-reaching. At St John's, my mother felt that she had come home.

Johanna MacLennan



November 2019: A Day in the Life of Jed Churches Foodbank JUST A TYPICAL FRIDAY...

9.10am Referral designated urgent from Duty Social Worker in Kelso. Single mum with four kids (two under 5s), two cats and three guinea pigs. In Jed itself. DSW suspects no food in house for at least 24 hours. Concern that Mum may have been getting by on minimal food for some time. Problems with Universal Credit (UC) underlying issue.

11.30am Call from Domestic Violence Service alerting us of a planned flight to safe house on coming Monday. Mum plus two teenage kids, all vegan, one gluten free. Family need all toiletries and sanitary

11.45am Shop for the urgent referral. Cannot use 'standard' prepacked food bags for Refuge family, owing to special dietary requirements, so do some advance shopping for them, too.

Note large 'dent' made in petty cash by need to buy baby-care items, baby milk, pet food and pet bedding plus almond milk etc – items which we buy as and when required, not standard stock. Collect dry and tinned goods plus household items from Foodbank

store. Drop off and label GF and vegan items ready for following week.

12.30pm Make delivery to family referred by DSW, during work lunch break of duty Foodbank volunteers. 'Signpost' various other appropriate support services to Mum. Provide listening ear for 30 mins. Learn that Mum has been surviving on mainly tea, toast and biscuits for about a month.

2.45pm Receive duplicate referral for today's DSW family from health visiting team. Explain action already taken. HV agrees to visit family in the coming week.

4.00pm Receive urgent referral from CAB re pensioner with large dog. Client may have alcohol problem. Location is in Crailing.

4.20pm Receive urgent referral from Drugs and Alcohol Team re young single male, recently rehoused. No money due to UC delay. Client has minimal cooking facilities or skills – microwave, kettle, toaster. No fridge or cooker. Location is Newtown St Boswells.

5.30pm Shop for afternoon referrals. Collect dry and tinned goods plus household items from Foodbank store.

7.00pm Make deliveries re afternoon referrals. (Volunteers donate petrol required.)

9.00pm Pick up late referral from DSW in Kelso re young man unexpectedly 'home alone' due to Dad's emergency admission to hospital. Client lives in St Boswells, has mild learning difficulties, age is late teens. As

cannot deliver food parcel until Saturday morning, negotiate with DSW for them to fund and organise takeout food delivery for client tonight.

A day on Foodbank duty is rarely dull!

(All personal details changed to protect identities)

For further information on the work of Jed Churches Foodbank, please speak with Ann Beck or Adam or Fee Bolam-Peel.



BOB

Eva Macdonald has asked us if we would pass on her thanks to all who have supported her during the past weeks and months. And so, on her behalf, **"Thank you"** for your sympathy to her on Bob's death, and your care of them both over the period before that, when life was difficult for them. May we all continue to show that loving care to Eva as she starts a new chapter in her life.

Much will have been said about Bob and his life here in Jedburgh, but for us, at St John's, he will be remembered for his presence Sunday by Sunday; from time as a choirboy he became the choir's fiercest critic, bemoaning the choice of hymns sung nowadays ... usually with a wicked twinkle in his eye.

May he rest in peace



AUTUMN EVENTS



At St. John's we do not see many weddings, so it was a joy when Melissa and Richard chose to celebrate their Marriage here.

The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion and the September weather smiled on them as they shared their happiness with their families and friends.

At the beginning of October, following the pattern set last year, we held a special service to mark the Feast Day of St Francis (4th Oct) together with our Harvest Thanksgiving.

The first half of the service concentrated on St Francis and the assortment of pets that came to be blessed; dogs predominated and although they had never met before were very well behaved particularly six perfectly trained spaniel gun dogs who gave an impressive performance of obedience. Another 'star' was Flick, a 15 year old Harris Hawk who spent the time sitting impassively on





her owner's wrist, well away from Henrietta Hen in her covered basket, but occasionally eyeing up a cat in the opposite pew! Then there was Finn, a Norfolk terrier puppy who was co-opted to play the part of a wolf in Fr Andrew's telling of a legend about St Francis.

After the animals had collected around the altar and been blessed, the remainder of the service was devoted to giving thanks for the fruits of the harvest and the beauty and riches of the world in which we live. The church was beautifully decorated, as always, and the Harvest Gifts were not traditional fresh produce, but reflected the needs of today and were to be given to the Food Bank.

HALLOWEEN IN THE HIGH STREET

Double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn and caldron bubble! Witches, warlocks, ghosts and ghoulies all appeared in Jedburgh High Street on 31st October for Halloween. There were a handful of hardy souls from St John's on that cold Thursday night outside Cullen Kilshaw's offices handing out sweets and interactive booklets for the children, to remind them of the Christian origins of the feast of All Hallows.



The evening started rather quietly, then gathered momentum as the night progressed with more dishevelled characters displaying a variety of realistic bleeding cuts and wounds. We ran out of booklets and



sweets within the hour, even though the biggest crowds were slightly higher up the High Street.

St John's was well represented by our banner and tabards, and we were kindly given a donation into our bucket.

On the whole, it was again a very positive exercise with a lot of friendly conversations. It may have been cold, but at least the rain stayed away: if there's one thing sadder than a three-foot zombie it's a wet three-foot zombie!

Cathy Lees

The Prie-Dieu

Almighty God, help us we pray, in the bustle of today, to draw aside and think of your great gift to us, your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born to help us to know more of your love.



Then, in quietness, may we too hear your words of peace to men of goodwill. Help us to do what we can to extend your kingdom of peace, throughout all the world now and always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Website :
www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk

NOTICEBOARD

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

8 Dec 12 noon AGM after the 10.30am service
15 Dec Christmas Market in the High Street
22 Dec 3:00pm Carol Service, with refreshments in the Centre after

Christmas Day

25 Dec 10:00am Family Sung Eucharist
29 Dec 10:30am Feast of St John the Evangelist
5 Jan 10:30am Feast of the Epiphany
2 Feb Candlemas
26 Feb 10.00am Ash Wednesday



REGULAR DATES

Old School Lunch 12.30pm in the Centre on 29 Jan and 26 Feb
Sewing Group 10.00am in the Centre on 4, 18 Dec, 15 Jan, 15, 19 Feb
Choir Practice 6.15pm in Church each Friday. All welcome to join in
Messy Church 1-3:00pm at the Kenmore Hall on 1st Friday each month
Vestry Meetings 17 Dec, 21 Jan, 18 Feb



COME AGAIN?

The sound system at St John's should make it possible for everyone to hear. There are three loudspeakers – two facing the congregation and one facing the choir – and a number of fixed and mobile microphones.

The system is also fitted with a hearing loop. Most hearing aids have a “loop” setting, which lets the user hear the sound directly from the hearing loop rather than through the loudspeakers, with much less background noise.

A few reminders for those who lead and read during services:

- Even with a microphone, you need to speak more clearly and more slowly than in normal conversation, and a little louder.
- Don't forget to move the lectern microphone in front of your mouth if the previous speaker was taller or shorter than you.
- If you do not speak into the microphone, loop users may not hear you at all.



- If you wear a mobile microphone, it's important to switch it off when you are not speaking.

A few reminders for listeners:

- Sitting nearer the front makes it easier to hear what's going on. It also encourages the leaders and readers.
- If you use hearing aids that do not have a loop setting, or you are not sure if that setting is activated, the Audiologist at Borders General – or your private dispenser if you bought your own hearing aids – will be able to help.
- Free lip-reading classes are available in the area, run by qualified tutors, many of whom also have hearing loss. Margaret Taylor attends a weekly class in Kelso, which she says is useful and enjoyable, and she will be happy to advise.

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

08 Dec 19 Advent 2	Isaiah 11:1-10 Ps 72 Rom. 15:4-13 Matt. 3:1-12	26 Jan 20 Epiphany 3	Isaiah 9:1-4 Ps 27 1 Cor. 1:10-18 Matt. 1:12-23
15 Dec 19 Advent 3	Isaiah 35:1-10 Ps 146 James 5:7-10 Matt. 11:2-11	2 Feb 20 Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)	Malachi 3:1-4 Ps 84 Heb. 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40
22 Dec 19 Advent 4	Isaiah 7:10-16 Ps 80 Rom. 1:1-7 Matt. 1:18-25	9 Feb 20 Epiphany 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a Ps 112 1 Cor. 2:1-12 Matt. 5:13-20
25 Dec 19 Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7 Ps 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	16 Feb 20 Epiphany 6	Ecclus 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-8 1 Cor. 3:1-9 Matt. 5:21-37
29 Dec 19 John, Apostle & Evangelist (from 27/12)	Exodus 33:7-11a Ps 117 1 John 1 John 21:19b-25	23 Feb 20 Sunday before Lent	Exodus 24:12-18 Ps 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matt. 17:1-9
05 Jan 20 Epiphany (from 6/1)	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ps 72 Eph. 3:1-12 Matt. 2:1-12	26 Feb 20 10.00 am Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Ps 51 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
12 Jan 20 Epiphany 1 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9 Ps 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matt. 3:13-17	1 March 20 Lent 1	Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Ps 32 Rom. 5:12-19 Matt. 4:1-11
19 Jan 20 Epiphany 2	Isaiah 49:1-7 Ps 40 1 Cor. 1:1-9 John 1:29-42		

TODAY

Today may there be peace within.

*May you trust that you are exactly where you
are meant to be.*

*May you not forget the infinite possibilities
that are born of faith in yourself and others.*

*May you use the gifts you have received and
pass on the love that has been given to you.*

*May you be content with yourself, knowing
you are a child of God.*

*Let this knowledge settle into your bones and
allow your soul the freedom
to dance, to sing, to praise and to love.*

St Teresa of Avila

LIZ KITELEY

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