

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Christ Church, Dalbeattie



Issue 1

July/August 2014

Sunday Services

June

29 June Peter and Paul, Apostles 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

July

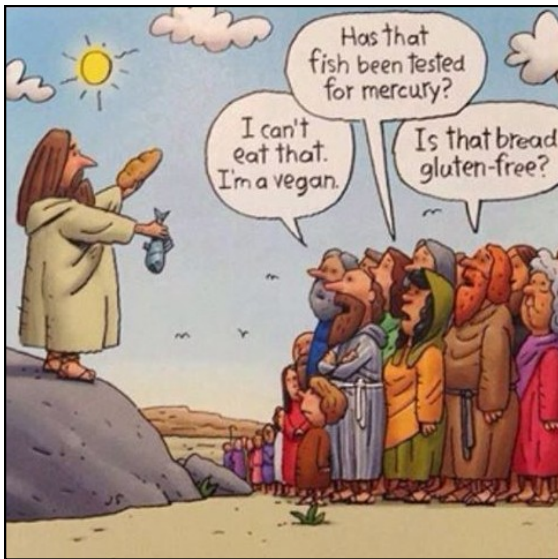
| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 6 July | Second Sunday after Trinity | 8.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | Third Sunday after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Taize Service |
| 13 July | Fourth Sunday after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 20 July | Fifth Sunday after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 27 July | Sixth Sunday After Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |

August

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 3 August | Seventh Sunday after Trinity | 8.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evening Service |
| 10 August | Eighth Sunday after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 17 August | Bartholomew the Apostle | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 24 August | Tenth Sunday after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |
| 31 August | Eleventh after Trinity | 10.30 a.m. | Sung Eucharist |

Midweek Services

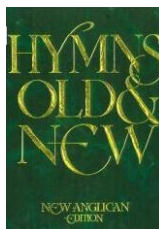
Thursday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion



If Jesus tried to feed the 5000 today!!!

Copied from the Facebook page of

Dalbeattie Parish Church



Have you a favourite Hymn?

As a regular feature for future magazines could you contribute a short piece on 'My Favourite Hymn'?

From the Registers

Funerals

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 16 December 2013 | Catherine Hanbury |
| 7 February 2014 | Mary Gemmell |
| 11 February 2014 | James Kennedy |
| 21 February 2014 | Jean Smith |
| 13 March 2014 | Leonard Coolican |

Weddings

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 23 May 2014 | Brandon Arily & Lucy Roberts |
|-------------|------------------------------|

Dear Friends

As Scotland approaches the referendum on independence this coming September, each of us is having to consider which way we shall vote. It would be beyond impertinent for me to suggest that anyone might vote in a particular way but, such is the importance of this issue, not only for us but for generations to come, that I solemnly urge everyone to consider the issues at stake and cast their vote. At the special request of the Diocesan Council, Bishop Gregor's charge to Synod in March offered a helpful theological background, and it can be read on the diocesan website (www.glasgow.anglican.org). My concern here is, firstly, to encourage engagement with the process and, secondly, to begin to prepare the ground for what comes after the votes are counted.

When the sun comes up on 19 September, the winners and losers will have to face each other and we shall all have to face the rest of the UK when, whatever the result, the relationships between us will have changed for ever. Nevertheless, we shall all have to continue to occupy the same small island and we shall have to find a new *modus vivendi*.

To that end, Action of Churches Together in Scotland held a Lent Course, based on the four virtues inscribed on the mace of the Scottish Parliament: justice, wisdom, compassion and integrity - the premise being that these traditional virtues will need to be nurtured in the new political settlement. Two ecumenical study groups have been using this material as an aid to how we address the issues.

Recently, though, I had a conversation with Michael Lloyd, the local silversmith who made the mace, and he now wishes he had inscribed a fifth virtue on it: courage. For, surely, courage will be needed by us all to face a future in which many of the existing political and social certainties will have given way to well, who knows what?

And to the list of virtues I would add a sixth: grace - not to be assumed, but to be prayed for. Grace to embrace those who oppose our own view, who are suspicious of our motives, who feel excluded, who fear for the future. Only by the grace of God, that free gift personified in Jesus Christ our Lord, can we hope to find the wisdom, justice, compassion, integrity and courage that will be required to build our country's future.

Yours in Christ's service,



The Mace of the Scottish Parliament

Our New Magazine

In response to popular request the Vestry has agreed that a new format magazine be produced. Our website and Facebook page are very popular but, of course, these are not accessible to everybody.

We want the magazine to be a publication that informs, entertains and reaches out into the Community. The magazine will grow and change in response to the input from the Congregation. This is your magazine do let us know what you think about it; what you would like to see included. How often do you think it should be produced bi-monthly or quarterly? As a tool of outreach to our members who cannot get to the Church it is thought 10 issues a year could be good; December/January; then monthly to July/August and monthly to November.

It is planned to have the magazine ready two weeks before the cover date to ensure that events at the beginning of the month are not missed.

Ideas and comments already received: include

- ⇒ Reports of very special events ; including Diocesan events
- ⇒ Reports of Theological Reflection Meetings
- ⇒ Short bio on Church members
- ⇒ Items of local Interest
- ⇒ Churches we have visited whilst on holiday
- ⇒ Book reviews
- ⇒ Favourite Hymns
- ⇒ Congregation to be informed about everything connected with the running of the church.
- ⇒ Availability of keys for the Church when locked. (Contact the Vestry Secretary in the first Instance.)
- ⇒ Faith building articles of all sorts

Ideas and comments can be forwarded to Muriel Palmer (Editor) by leaving a note at the back of the Church or by e-mail (angela.242@btinternet.com).

Copy for the next Newsletter is required by **3rd August 2014.**

DO NOT FORGET THE SUMMER SALE AT COLVEND VILLAGE HALL



Wednesday, 30th July 2014

10.00 a.m. to Noon

Raffle, Tombola, Crafts, Plants, Home Baking & Preserves

Entrance £2.00 to include Refreshments



The Way Ahead

The story to date:

Bishop Gregor has convened a series of meetings to which the Office Bearers of the four stipendiary Stewartry Charges were invited. They are the Lay Representative (Edith Thorp); the Honorary Treasurer (Llyn Glendinning) and the Honorary Secretary (Muriel Palmer). The purpose of the meetings was to identify a way-ahead for when the Stewartry is in double vacancy at the end of August.

To cut a long story short three viable options were identified. At a meeting of the Congregation held in February; the Christ Church Congregation indicated that their preferred Option was Option 3.

Option 3 proposes that St Ninian's, Castle Douglas and Christ Church, Dalbeattie be linked in a new charge. And, that Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Gatehouse of Fleet stay as they are but with financial support from the Diocese. After the Rev Cutler's retirement at the end of August a new Rector will be advertised for these charges.

On **22nd June, 2014**, at a Special Meeting of the Congregation, we are to be asked if we agree to the proposal that we be linked with St Ninian's, Castle Douglas. On the **29th June, 2014** the Congregation of Castle Douglas are to be asked if they agree to being linked with Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

Bishop Gregor is to be notified of the results and he will then arrange to visit the respective Vestries.

Edith Thorp, Llyn Glendinning and Muriel Palmer

Craft & Chat Group

Miranda Brignall

Having said goodbye to Helen we began meeting at 3 Blair Street. We were very pleased with our efforts at the Christmas Sale and, since then, we have been working very hard for the Summer Sale at Colvend. We would love to get more members, to help increase the variety of crafts we do; most of it is done in our own homes and then brought to the next meeting. Enthusiasm is just as important as ability. We shall have one more meeting, on July 10th at 2pm, before the Colvend Sale; all are welcome.

A huge thank you to our regular members - it is amazing how much craftwork can be achieved by a small group of enthusiasts.

We look forward to seeing you all at Colvend on July 30th.

VESTRY UPDATE

Lay Chairman's Report

from Keith Dennison, Rector's Warden

Since the Rector left and following the last AGM the Vestry has been very busy working on your behalf. Canon D Bayne as Priest in Charge is the Vestry Chairman and I was elected Lay Chair.

Not only have we been concerned with the weekly running of Christ Church but we have also been developing two core MAP projects. This includes improvements to the lighting, a new notice board and an full community audit. It has been rewarding to see the latent gifts and talents of our Vestry members coming to the surface. As a team we work well together.

As you will appreciate many unseen problems have occurred in the structure of the building, including the preservation of the Pollock window and the ingress of water into the tower. These latter two problems have now been resolved. The lighting improvements and a new notice board will follow shortly.

We were delighted to finally rent out the Rectory after much hard work by an enthusiastic and willing team of volunteers.

Obviously the future of Christ Church has been uppermost in our thoughts and I hope that many will come to the Special Meeting on 22nd June and vote on the proposal that we become linked as a new charge with St Ninian's, Castle Douglas. By the time you read this the most important decision we will probably ever make will have been made; hopefully ensuring our future.

Lay Representative's Report from Edith Thorp

Meeting of the Regional Council at Gretna on the 6 May, 2014

The meeting opened with the Service of the Word. The Spirituality Group had been invited to make a presentation. Divided into small groups Maureen Russell asked us to consider two sets of questions. The first session looked at how we thought about prayer and spirituality in relation to God, self, and others; the second looked at the emotions - through the scriptures, how does one deal with emotions, how to develop a spirituality that embodies the whole person and that of others. Challenging questions that took some teasing out.

Various information was reported on: The meeting to discuss the future of the Galloway charges; the future way forward for those in the healing ministry; Growth Strategy money not available for building projects under Canon 35. The question was asked if any money was left over at the end of the year, if it could be used for building projects which were part of the Strategy. Some leniency may be possible it was thought; the Province was in conversation with regard to same-sex relationships. Three meetings to be held in different parts of the diocese at some point; St John's Dumfries in its second year of the Growth Strategy, will be focusing on hospitality as its major goal; Journeying towards Death (19/20 August) at Elshieshields - Linda/Edith to attend, along with Oonagh Dee.

Treasurer's Report

from Llyn Glendinning

Over the past six months we have carried out necessary major repairs to the Church, Rectory and Hall. These have been costly and despite not having had a rector's stipend to pay we are running with **a deficit** of almost **£3,000** in this Financial Year. This cannot continue and I ask you all to reconsider your weekly or monthly giving.

Property Convenor's Report from George Sims

The **tri-annual inspection** of the Electrics has been carried out by Lotus Electrical; unfortunately work needs to be done in order for the electrics in the Church to be passed. The **Quinquennial Inspection** of the Church Buildings is to be carried out in August. The work on the Tower continues. A new internal door has been fitted in the Church Hall.

Christ Church Hospital Bags Jenny Edkins

I am sure you all know that Christ Church have been donating bags for emergency toiletry use at DGRI for many years. We did have a very kind letter back thanking us for our efforts of last year. It was addressed to Mr and Mrs Edkins, primarily because Richard called the Department to organise the Drop Off of the finished bags, but the thank you was for us all.

We had a nice couple of hours packing the bags, it is amazing how quickly this is done between all of us, then enjoyed a cup of tea, mince pies, and Pat's shortbread for afters! 100 bags were donated mainly to A & E, but we have been informed that they do go to other departments as well.

I am busy collecting items to make up the bags for this year which will be made up some time end of November. The items we most need are soaps, then flannels, toothbrushes and combs. Please could I make a request that if a choice is available that the small combs without a handle be the ones of choice. This is purely because they pack better and there is less chance of them poking a hole through the bottom of the bags we use.

I will count through what we have sometime at the beginning of September also and can then give an accurate picture of what is most needed by then, but otherwise soaps etc in that order as above are what we could do with if anyone would like to donate any of these items.

Thank you all for your kind efforts towards providing and making up Christ Church Hospital Bags.

Christ Church Julian Group

There has been a Christ Church association with Julian of Norwich and Julian meetings for many years. The original group was begun by Rosemary Morwood, late wife of Wing Commander Roger Morwood over 40 years ago. In later years the group was hosted by Gill Sinclair, a very long-standing member of our Christ Church congregation. In 2012, Gill moved from her home in Sandyhills to Castle Douglas and this brought her hosting to a natural conclusion. At that time I had been a member of the group for about two years and was very sad to see it's ending. After due discussion with Gill and the Reverend James Gatherer, who also attended, I offered and it was agreed that I would take over hosting the group.

At that time there was also a second Julian Group associated with our church, hosted by Jean Smith. This served members of our congregation living in Dalbeattie. Since Jean's passing this group has ended, although if there was enough interest Beryl Scott has indicated a willingness to host a Dalbeattie-based meeting.

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. The group is ecumenical with members of Christ Church, other local churches and none joining together for shared silence. Willing members lead our meetings, taking turns month-by-month, but there is no obligation to do this. Our silent contemplation usually lasts for half - to three-quarters of an hour and we finish with tea and cake and time for fellowship.

You can read about the Christ Church Julian Group on our church website www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk. We are registered with the national register of Julian Meetings and our Julian page also gives a link to their website (www.julianmeetings.org) which contains lots of useful information for anyone who is interested to know more about the Julian network, how to start and run a group. Their publications page is full of interesting booklets and other resources relating to Julian groups.

Sue Thomas



The image is Copyright of Akenside Press.

From the Archives Christ Church Magazine Dec 2008/Jan 2009

A reflection from the late Jean Smith:

When I was young, I never knew one half the things that I do now. I never realised that fame may prove an empty, hollow game, that wealth, despite all it can do, rarely brings contentment too; that beauty, though its power be strong, will not hide emptiness for long. I did not guess that every deed writes on the face lines all may read. I did not know, when I was young, a sense of humour is among life's greatest gifts, nor did I see that understanding, sympathy, of true, tried friends will still hold sway when shallow loves have passed away. I did not dream pain can lead higher - that love is stronger than desire.

Come let us sing!

Music is a wonderful thing. It has the power to touch the heart and move the soul. How often have you been upset or angry and hearing a piece of tranquil music has helped calm your mood and restore your equilibrium? Or you've been feeling sad and weary, but singing a cheering song to yourself has brightened your spirits and helped you see life in a more positive light? In the Bible, we see exactly this happening in the story of David and King Saul – whenever the King flew into a rage, David's playing on his harp would sooth and calm him.

I'm sure this is part of the reason the Bible urges again and again to **"Sing praises unto the Lord"** and **"Sing a new song to Him"**. Of course it is good and right to praise our Lord simply because He deserves it, but I'm sure He knows that in so doing our own spirits will be lifted, as we join our voices with the angelic host and begin to get a foretaste of the joys of Heaven. A truly great hymn depends not just on its words (however majestic and poetic) but also on its tune to help us truly connect our hearts to the divine.

This explains why a small group of us have felt inspired in recent months to bring some new songs to our worship at Christ Church. From what people tell me, this has added an extra 'something' to our worship and the congregation have felt uplifted by it. Certainly, as a group, while few of us would pass the audition for a serious choir, we have found in our practices together, as well as in the actual services, that raising our voices in praise together has been a real source of encouragement to us. Only last week, one of our number arrived at our practice in quite a turmoil, but left saying *"I feel so much better for that!"*.

So we hope to be able to continue offering the occasional new song to our worship, not just on special festivals, but from time to time during the regular services. We would like the congregation to feel able to join in with some of the music, while in other cases we trust that just listening will touch your hearts and add something to the overall worship experience.

The group currently consists of seven regular core members, ably assisted by Maggie, our unofficial organist, but a number of others have joined in on odd occasions. If anyone reading this would like to get involved – either on a regular or an occasional basis – you would be most welcome; no great talent required! To find out more, please speak to either myself, Sue or Keith.

Anthony Duncalf



Growing with God's Grace in Glasgow and Galloway



Diocesan Prayer - Spirit of our loving God, in your mercy and compassion inspire, encourage and empower us to live and work together as a Congregation and as a Diocese, to allow your mission for us to take flesh, through Jesus Christ our Living and Eternal Lord. Amen

The Story so far; after being charged by Bishop Gregor to choose from the strands of the vine. Christ Church Congregation chose **Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth** and **Imaginative Outreach into the Community**.

A Mission Action Plan (MAP) working group was formed to draw up our Year One goals. They are:

To increase the church's profile in the town

Progress so far includes:

- ♦ Website completed and working (www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk)
- ♦ Facebook page completed and working
- ♦ Christmas Carol Service
- ♦ Ron's Swaziland talk, open to all (for full story visit our website)
- ♦ Christian Unity week of prayer service, ecumenical with 70 attendees
- ♦ D&G Hard of Hearing group up and running in church hall, open to all
- ♦ World Day of Prayer service, ecumenical with 30 attendees
- ♦ Steps towards setting up a Churches Together group in the town
- ♦ Access to the town notice board for our publicity

We will improve **the church lighting** as our first priority in upgrading our church.

It was agreed, even before the MAP process began, that our lighting is very inadequate. The quote for the 'grand plan' was prohibitive. So a second plan was drawn up covering the most essential items and those needed so that we comply with Health and Safety Regulations and PAT. The quote for this work is for a sum just over £1,000.00.

The contract for this work has been awarded to Lotus of Kirkgunzeon and work should start in the near future. The Vestry are indebted to the hard work of Sue Thomas and Keith Dennison

3. We will undertake to replace the **inside and outside noticeboards**

Our main outside noticeboard was damaged during last year's storms. A new Notice Board will be procured. Discussions are taking place between Canon David Bayne and Swan's of Kirkcudbright. St Ninian's need a new board so it is sensible to discuss their replacement at the same time. We also need a new Scottish Episcopal Church sign.

Inside the church the noticeboards from the porch have been temporarily re-located to the back of the nave. This was done in preparation for the repair work in the tower.

The "already in progress" **web site** has been completed.

5. We will undertake a **Community Audit**; initial stages of this project included:

- ♦ a congregational audit "What are you interested in and what can you offer our church?". There was a 50% return; which has provided very useful information and already enabled like-minded members to be brought together for church activities.
- ♦ To begin geographically mapping the congregation within the parish. This will link into a larger map of town facilities. It is planned to have this displayed in the Porch when the work on the Tower and the redecorating of the porch is complete.
- ♦ To create the vacancy Profile document - this identifies many aspects of our town and church community, past and present. This has been done and is held on file.

Our facilitator has been in contact by phone to discuss how we are doing.

The Bishop will be joining us on Tuesday, 18th November 2014 to review our MAP. He will join us for lunch first. More details about this nearer the time.

The MAP Working Party includes Robin Charlton, Keith Dennison, Muriel Palmer, Sue Tomas and Edith Thorp.

World War One



As part of the many commemorations to mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War One; I am gathering stories about family members and friends from members of the congregation. Have you a story to share, if so do get in touch with me? Contributors to the book can be assured that nothing will be printed until they are absolutely satisfied with every word and every punctuation mark. Before publication I will need a signed consent form.

The story does not have to be about local people. We, as members of the Congregation, are the link to the stories we will publish as Christ Church's Commemoration in this Centenary Year of the start of the Great War 1914-1919. To date I have 21 stories all at the very early draft stage; plus the promise of WW1 related articles. I will bring a draft of the book to the Church Hall (when Coffee is served) on 6th July.

I hope to have the book ready by the end of October i.e. before Armistice Day. Any monies raised from the sale of this book is to be donated to the ***Scottish National War Memorial***.

Whilst researching material for Helen Stephen's story about her grandfather Arley Burgess (Mary Gemmell's father) I discovered the wonderful resource there is at the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle. The Rolls of Honour list all who have died in defence of their country who have a connection to Scotland through birth, having a Scottish parent or who fought with a Scottish Regiment. www.snmw.org

In addition to what the Dalbeattie Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland is planning to do to mark this occasion; there are two other Acts of Remembrance being planned. The first one is to be held at the **Castle Douglas War Memorial** on the 4th August at **11.15 p.m.**; there is to be a short act of remembrance at the time war was declared. The second one is to be held in Dalbeattie; **Churches Together Dalbeattie** are planning a joint service on the 8th August. This will be a longer, more reflective act of worship, thanksgiving, repentance, reconciliation. It is hoped that people from Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie will attend both services.

The WW1 At Home Live Events; this will be visiting locations across the UK, from May to September 2014. It will reflect on the dramatic impact the war had on families and communities, as well as

helping people to explore their own relatives' links to the war. One of the Eight Flagship events is to be held on the **1st/2nd of August** at City Square, **Dundee**, BBC Scotland. For more information go to www.bbc.co.uk

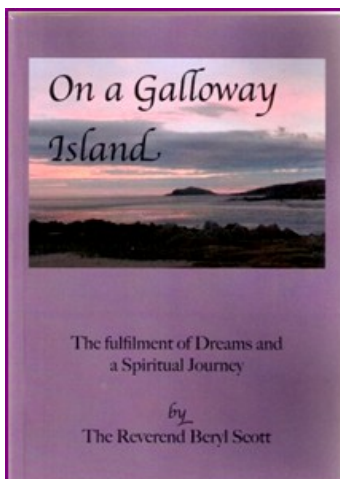
The Tower of London is to be surrounded by nearly 900,000 ceramic poppies from 5th August 2014 to 11th November - Armistice Day. It is to signify the sacrifice of troops from Britain and its Commonwealth countries between 1914-1921. Once the display is finished the plan is to sell the poppies online at £25 each to raise funds for military charities for veterans and the wounded.

Muriel Palmer

World War One Book Review Sue Thomas

There have been many, many books written about the **First World War**. War artists have painted the trenches and the ruined landscapes of France. And in this commemorative year, television has given us it's fair share of archive photography, documentaries and dramas. There are two works of fiction which I have read which really brought alive for me the true experience and tragic aftermath of those who fought. The first, ***Birdsong*** by **Sebastian Faulks**, is a graphic telling of trench warfare. The story's protagonist lives in pre-war France and fights as an Officer in the British Army. It also deals with the tunnelers and listeners who worked below the surface, moving underneath German occupied territory to provide our army with direct intelligence. At times the strength of Faulk's writing and the harrowing content could have been overwhelming, but his use of dovetailing a second story set in 1978 saves it from this, giving welcome hope in the future. *Birdsong* was voted number 13 in the BBC's survey The Big Read and I feel fully deserved it's place.

The second book, ***Regeneration*** by **Pat Barker**, looks more closely at the repercussions of the war on those who fought and were psychologically wounded. Set in Craiglockhart Hospital in Edinburgh, the book examines the factual work of William H Rivers, a psychiatrist who looked to heal or regenerate the mental damage caused by battle. Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, both war poets, were patients in the hospital and give the reader a true insight into that gulf between the theoretical rightness of war and the personal experience of loss. Pat Barker went on to write two further books in this trilogy and has been duly acclaimed - she "paints with moving detail the far-reaching consequences of a conflict which decimated a generation."



The **Reverend Beryl Scott** has written a book about the time in the 1950s when she and her late husband John went to live on Heston Island, a small island off the Solway Coast. Their main responsibility year round was the maintenance of the lighthouse. During the winter sheep were overwintered on the Island. They became a focus of interest to the press and the BBC – childhood sweethearts who were living on a Smuggler's Island!!! They were to be the last tenants.

All the profits from the sale of the book (£7.50) are donated to Charity; the main beneficiary being Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

Churches Together in Dalbeattie and District

Most of you will probably recall the very successful joint service we had back in January for the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*, with over 60 people attending from the various churches in town. Following on from this, it was felt the time was right to work towards an official '**Churches Together**' group for Dalbeattie to coordinate future events.

Since then there have been three meetings of a Steering Group – comprising representatives from Christ Church, St Peter's (RC), Dalbeattie Parish Church and the Galloway Christian Centre. At the present time, the Baptist Church do not feel able to get involved with this initiative, and Southwick/Colvend Church have asked to be kept informed of developments but without making any commitment at this point. To date, the group has drawn up a Statement of Intent for future cooperation, and organised a poster listing all our regular services which is on display outside the Town Hall, and will also be circulated round the various local holiday parks.

We have also had discussions with a representative of the British Legion regarding church involvement in the upcoming World War I commemoration event planned for September, and have most recently proposed to organise a joint churches Service for Peace and Reconciliation to be held at the Parish Church on Friday August 8th, followed by refreshments to allow members of the various churches to meet and mingle.

There are a number of ideas 'in the melting pot' for future activities of which more later! It is good that there does seem to be a general will to make things happen ecumenically in the town, and we look forward to seeing this blossom in the future.

Anthony Duncalf

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The **Book of Remembrance** is for members of the Congregation to record the death of any of their family members as well as for those who have had their funeral service at Christ Church.

The Book is updated annually, usually in October in time for All Souls' Day on 2nd November. If you would like an entry please contact Sue Thomas with the details - the full name of the person and the date of their death; either by e-mail: suethomas21@btinternet.com or phone: 01556 612863. Last year the cost was £3.00 per entry.

Artist at Work - creating a commissioned piece

I think being an artist is a bit like being a Christian. It isn't a coat that I put on and take off as need dictates. Rather, it is a part of me which wanders in and out of many areas of my everyday life. This means that I often find myself 'making work' (as artists like to say) for unexpected reasons. I recently completed a commission for the **Feral Choir** welcoming the athletes of **Grenada** and **Northern Ireland** to the **XX Commonwealth Games** in Glasgow. I joined the Feral Choir in January and my first public performance with them was to sing as the Queen's Baton Relay passed through Galloway on its way to Glasgow. This Games our region is linked to Northern Ireland and Grenada. I was asked by Ali Burns, our musical director, to make a piece to give to the athletes of these countries from our choir.

As lino-printing is my current passion the medium was already decided. But the content of any commission is often more difficult. I could have simply produced a picture of Galloway but for something going overseas and for such a specific occasion I wanted to include various things - the Commonwealth Games logo and year, the countries relevant flags, a musical motif, a sporting motif and, of course, the logo of the Baton Relay itself. No problem there then - just a lot of research! Fortunately lino-cutting lends itself to small items so creating separate cuts for each of those topics was straight forward. Some of you may know my collage work, which is a long-standing style of mine. I decided to make cuts that would collage together. The final piece contained 9 different lino-cuts was printed in the five colours of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games logo. I made three finished pieces - one for Grenada with their national flag, one for Northern Ireland with the Ulster Banner (their national sporting flag) and one for Ali Burns.

You may be wondering how long all this took. Well, artists can never tell you exactly how long things take - all that thinking time (walking the dog, middle of the night ...), sketching, rubbing-out, more sketching, crumpled bits of paper, detailed drawings. After all that it took me 12 hours of cutting time on the lino-cuts and the printing itself took several days, allowing for changes, mistakes, re-prints and drying time. But I, and more importantly, the Choir was delighted with the result. Now I wonder what piece of work to make next? It could be absolutely anything.

Sue Thomas

The Feral Choir welcomes Grenada The Feral Choir welcomes Northern Ireland



Christ Church is blessed with many summer visitors who have come to holiday in our most beautiful of Counties. It has been suggested that we could include articles about Churches we have visited when we have been away on holiday.

A Christian Celtic Cornish Holiday

Keith Dennison

Julie and I recently stayed in Cornwall in a cottage in the village of Treen near to Porthcurno and about five miles from Land's End. We fell in love with this West Penwith peninsula when we were first married and have visited it many times since. The area is steeped in tin mining history, in the fishing industry, and has some of the finest coastlines and secret haunts in the country.

Porthcurno itself houses the famous telegraph museum from which in the 1870's the first transatlantic cables crossed the ocean enabling communication with Bombay. Within ten years the network connected Indonesia, the Far East, Australia, South America and Africa. By 1900 the Eastern Telegraph Company operated a massive international communications network of over 100,000 miles of undersea cables all starting in the tiny coastal village of Porthcurno.

From a tin hut in 1901 at the Lizard point, a few miles from Porthcurno, Marconi sent the first radio signal across the Atlantic which rapidly developed and by the 1920's had become a thriving radio communications network rivalling the dominance of the original cable system. To cut a long story short the two rival companies eventually merged becoming the famous Cable and Wireless Company in 1934.

Just like the rest of Cornwall West Penwith peninsula is steeped in Christianity. There are Celtic crosses dotted all over next to the walks and byeways. The parish itself is served by the three united churches of St Sennan, St Levan and St. Buryan which is the most central and the largest of the three churches. St Buryan has a tower and six bells which are rung regularly. Indeed the tenor bell weighs nearly two tons and for musicians is tuned to C sharp. It is actually the heaviest tenor bell in the world. It is dedicated to St Solomon and on it is written in Latin ***"Calcar sit quo deus laudetur vox mea"*** which translated is ***"Let my voice be the spur with which to praise God"***. The church dates from c.930 and is a distinctive central landmark for miles around famous for its tall tower and circular graveyard.

We had the luxury of being able to attend Sunday Eucharist at St. Buryan and the following week at St. Levan. The latter church is small and ancient and very beautiful and in the graveyard there is a stone commemorating the life of the musician Sir Charles Groves. We are always given a very warm welcome having visited it over many years. Taking communion with

the congregation is a friendly, rewarding and spiritual experience.

I will also tell you briefly about the service at St. Buryan because it was the day of their patronal celebration and a truly wonderful experience. They also are in interregnum so the service was led by the Archdeacon of Cornwall. All three church congregations were in attendance so the church was very full and they had several children! The patronal service began with a procession of the cross followed by children, clergy, and choir carrying various colourful church banners. We all sang the patronal hymn celebrating the life and work of the St Buryan as the procession twisted and turned up and down the three aisles of the church eventually ending up in the choir and sanctuary. A truly unforgettable and moving spectacle that has been celebrated annually for hundreds of years.

From this very beginning of the service there was an air of true joy, worship and reverence and this continued until the final blessing.

After the service as we went out of the church door I was drawn by the words of two epitaphs written on memorial stones in the graveyard;

“Our life is but a winter’s day
Some only breakfast and away
Others to dinner stay and are full fed
The oldest only sups and goes to bed
Large is his debt who lingers out the day
Who goes the soonest has the least to pay.”

and another;

“Sleep here a while
Thou dearest part of me
In little time
I’ll come and sleep with thee.”



St Buryan Church

Reflecting on the service and these memorial words, as we walked away down the path and the kindly Cornish sun caressed us, I was struck by the thought of how privileged we all are to be alive and to have the joy of serving our faithful and ever-loving God.

What's On

June

24th June **The Sixth Theological Reflection Meeting** to be held in D&G will be held at 12.30 p.m. at St Peter's RC Church Hall. The speaker will be Revd Dr Frances Henderson on the topic of **Language, Religion and National Identity**. All Welcome.

28th June Bi-Centenary Celebrations at **St Peter's** Roman Catholic Church, Dalbeattie.
Open Day 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. - there will be a display of old photos and other items. Refreshments available. **29th June** **Celebration Mass** 11.30 a.m.

July

13th July **Sea Sunday** — The Sea Cadets are unable to join us due to other commitments. Mrs Jenni Gray, a Trustee of the **Mission to Seafarers** will be with us for our 10.30 a.m. celebration of Sung Eucharist. Jenni has been to Christ Church before to talk about the work of the Mission. She has worked in a paid and voluntary capacity for the Mission for many years. There is to be a retiring Collection for the Mission.

24th July A **Concert** to celebrate the work of the **Mother's Union** across the Commonwealth will be held in St Mary's Cathedral at 7.00 p.m. See poster at the back of Church for more details.

30th July **Christ Church Summer Sale** at Colvend Village Hall 10.00 a.m. — noon. Convenor, Robin Charlton.

August

4th August **Castle Douglas War Memorial**; at 11.15 p.m. there is to be a short act of remembrance at the time war was declared.

7th August **Summer Tea** at the home of **Sue & George Thomas**, Savat, Meikle Richon - 3.00 -5.00 p.m. Donations for Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

8th August **Date and time** to be confirmed. **Churches Together Dalbeattie** are planning a joint service to mark the start of **WW1** to be held in Dalbeattie Parish Church.

29th August **Summer Tea** at the home of **Muriel & Nicholas Palmer**, Millbrook Cottage, Rockcliffe - 3.00 -5.00 p.m. Donations for Christ Church, Dalbeattie.

Groups and Activities

Chat & Craft Group

3 Blair Street 2.00 - 3.30pm Monthly on second Thursday

Contact person: Mrs Miranda Brignall 01556 610409

Hard of Hearing Group

Church Hall 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Monthly on second Tuesday

Contact person: Mrs Jenny Edkins 01556 611740

House Groups (Ecumenical)

Islecroft House 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon Monday every other week.

Contact person: Revd Beryl Scott 01556 610283

Strontian 1.45 p.m. First Tuesday in the month

Contact person: Mr Brian Woodburn 01556 610519

Struanlea 12 noon - 2.00 p.m. First Thursday in the month

Contact person: Mrs Edith Thorp 01556 610816

Julian Group (Ecumenical)

Savat 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Last Tuesday in the month

Contact person: Mrs Sue Thomas 01556 612863

Munches Park Care Home, Dalbeattie Ecumenical Service 2.00 p.m.

Third Sunday in the month

All Welcome

Who's Who

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Interim Priest-in-Charge | Revd Canon David Bayne | 01556 503818 |
| Assistant NSM | Revd Beryl Scott | 01556 610283 |
| Diocesan Reader Emeritus | Mr. Brian Woodburn | 01556 610519 |
| Lay representative/Munches Park Co-ordinator | Mrs. Edith Thorp | 01556 610816 |
| Honorary Musical Director/ Organist | Mrs. Margaret Kelt | |
| Honorary Secretary/Alt. Lay Representative | Mrs. Muriel Palmer | 01556 630314 |
| Honorary Treasurer/Free Offering Recorder (envelopes) | Mrs. Llyn Glendinning | 01556 610676 |
| Gift Aid | Mr. Alfred Thorp | 01556 610816 |
| Rector's Warden/Health & Safety Co-ordinator | Dr. Keith Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| People's Warden/Property Convenor | Mr. George Sims | 01556 612069 |
| Vestry Members | Rector's Warden (Lay Chair) Lay Representative Alt Lay Rep/Honorary Secretary People's Warden/Property Convenor | |
| Elected Vestry Members | Mrs. Robin Charlton Mr. Anthony Duncalf Mrs. Jenny Edkins Mrs. Llyn Glendinning Mrs. Helen Stephens Mrs. Sue Thomas | 01556 630625 01556 612322 01556 611740 01556 610676 01556 610627 01556 612863 |
| Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator | Mrs. Helen Stephens | 01556 610627 |
| Bible Reading Fellowship | Dr. Keith Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| Church Flowers | Mrs. Vivienne Sims | 01556 612069 |
| Gardening Co-ordinator | Mrs. Julie Dennison | 01556 630413 |
| Hospital Emergency Bags | Mrs. Jenny Edkins | 01556 611740 |
| Link Visiting Co-ordinator | Revd Beryl Scott | 01556 610283 |
| Reader Co-ordinator | Mrs. Julie Dennison | 01556 630413 |

Christ Church, Blair Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire

Scottish Charity Number SC010918

www.christchurchdalbeattie.wordpress.co.uk

Christ Church has a Facebook page.