

*SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

*DIOCESE OF GLASGOW & GALLOWAY*

**CHRIST CHURCH, DALBEATTIE**



**MOTHERING SUNDAY POSY**

*ISSUE N° 21      MARCH 2017*

## Who's Who at Christ Church

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Canon David Bayne	01556 503818
Honorary Assistant Priest	Revd Mark RS Smith	01387 760263
NSM	Revd Beryl Scott	01556 610283
Lay Representative/ Munches Park Coordinator	Mrs. Edith Thorp	01556 610816
Alternate Lay Representative	Mr Alfred Thorp	01556 610816
Honorary Musical Director & Organist	Mrs Maggie Kelt	
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
Treasurer	Mr Mark Parry	
Gift Aid/Free Offering Recorder (envelopes)	Mr Alfred Thorp	01556 610816
Rector's Warden & Health & Safety Coordinator	Dr Keith Dennison	01556 630413
People's Warden	Mr. George Sims	01556 612069
Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
Vestry Members	Rector's Warden (Lay Chair)	01556 630413
	Lay Representative	01556 610816
	Alternate Lay Representative	01556 610816
	People's Warden	01556 612069
Constituent Vestry Members	Mrs Robin Charlton	01556 630265
	Mr Anthony Duncalf	01556 612322
	Mrs Llyn Glendinning	01556 610676
	Mr Ron Newton	01556 611567
	Mrs Helen Stephens	01556 610627
	Mrs Sue Thomas	01556 612863
	Vacancy	
Property Working Group	Canon David Bayne, Dr Keith Dennison, Mrs Sue Thomas and Mr Alfred Thorp	
Bible Reading Fellowship	Dr Keith Dennison	01556 630413
Brass & Vestry Cleaning Group	Mrs Robin Charlton	01556 630265
Chat & Craft Group	Mrs Jane Greenwood	01556 611144
Church Flowers Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Gardening Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413
Hard of Hearing Clinic Coordinator	Mrs Jenny Edkins	01556 611740
Magazine Team	Mrs Miranda Brignall	01556 610409
	Mrs Muriel Palmer	01556 630314
	Mr Ron Newton	01556 611567
Mission to Seafarers Contact	Mrs Muriel Palmer	01556 630314
Reader Coordinator	Mrs Julie Dennison	01556 630413

**Bishop Gregor** continues to recover at home. Please hold him and the Diocese in your prayers. If you wish to make a visit please contact Christine Hughes, Bishop's PA, at the Diocesan Centre, St George's Buildings, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2DH.

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

#### **Funeral**

**14th February**

**Elizabeth Mary (Betty) Thomson**

**(d. 7th February)**

**May she rest in peace and rise in glory**

### **CONGREGATIONAL AWAY DAY**

Christ Church Congregation are invited to an Away Day on **Friday 10th March, 10 -4 pm at Threave Gardens**. Our facilitator will be the Revd Canon Drew Sheridan who will provide us with time for thought and discussion about the future direction of our church.

There is no charge; morning coffee, soup and sandwich lunch and afternoon tea and biscuits will be provided in the newly-refurbished Stables Block in the gardens of Threave. This is an important day for us and I hope as many of you who are able will come along.

There is a sign up list at the back of church or you can speak to David (01556 503818), Mark (01387 760263) or Sue Thomas (01556 612683). If you need transport there are plenty of car spaces available.

**WW1** it has been requested that no more articles about WW1 be included in the magazine so this is the last time I will write about the subject. I will contact the storytellers separately to arrange a suitable time to meet up to take their stories forward.

*Muriel Palmer*

## *Message from the Revd Mark Smith*

**MARCH has arrived** and we find ourselves in Lent. Forty days (plus Sundays and Holy Days) of fasting and reflection as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Just as we would get ready to meet someone special – a date, a loved one, a boss, an interviewer, a Royal personage – so Lent is a chance to get ourselves ready to meet the Risen Lord Jesus, the Son of God, the King of kings.

We all know that much can distract us from being ready. Clothes don't fit, hair won't do as it is asked, people ring up, family crises pop up, cars break down, &c. We often talk of Mad March Hares and March Winds and the world seems to be full of unpredictable disturbances just waiting to ruin our plans and upset our preparations. If only we could get away from all that madness.

Jesus knew He had a big Mission ahead of Him – the sharing of the Good News and the salvation of all people. He prepared by going into a wild, lonely place away from distractions. Yet, even there, the Devil took his chances and tempted Jesus. Jesus resisted through a knowledge of Scriptures, an understanding of God and confidence in His Father's purpose for His life.

We are blessed by having plenty of opportunities to step aside from the madness and meet with God during Lent. Our Sunday Liturgy is slightly different to help us focus on the challenge of being the people God wants us to be. We will hear from different preachers, each bringing their own insight to bear on Scripture. Whether it is the Sunday or Thursday services or the Lent Course or the various Home Groups where we can meet together to learn about God and grow in confidence in His call on our lives.

It is said that the Queen is well aware that those who meet her have 'scrubbed-up' and that everywhere she goes she smells fresh paint. She takes great joy in meeting the ordinary people beneath the tidiness and smart outfits. Jesus sees through our outer facades and yearns to meet the real me and you – unscrubbed and unpainted! The purpose of a fast is to peel away the distracting outer layers and get to the core of our being so that we can open up to His grace and the work of the Holy Spirit. Lent is not just for show, to impress those around us, but a time to re-focus on the Lord and His will for our lives and let Him prepare us for what lies ahead.

Do make the most of the opportunities on offer this Lent across the local Churches – I am sure there will be much to edify and encourage and strengthen our faith in Jesus and inspire our mission as His people in 2017.

We know a prayer about that ... the 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 Diocese, to allow Your mission for us to take flesh; through Jesus Christ our living and eternal Lord."**

Perhaps we could all use it each day during Lent as an aid to our seeking of God.

May God Bless you.

**Edith Thorp**, Lay Representative, reports on the talk given by the speaker at the Galloway Regional Council Meeting held on the 31st January 2016.

The invited speaker to the Regional Council was the **Revd John Stevenson**, retired priest from the Annandale Group of Churches. He spoke of the months that he spent with the Anglican Chaplaincy, situated in the British Consulate in Ankara, Turkey.

John told of the 15 million Kurds, 20% of the population, who live in Turkey - there are 350 million worldwide. St Nicholas' Anglican Church in Ankara works with the Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iran, while Saudi Arabia has provided funds to build a mosque in Ankara.

The main work of St Nicholas' is to provide sandwiches each day. Quite a production line, John showed a picture of him with the shopping trolley needed to take the sandwiches to the refugees. The other thing that the church provides is badly needed clothing, mostly hats and scarves, for refugees.

As in many areas of Christian help for those in need, it was a very few people, committed to the care and companionship of those in need.

St Nicholas' Church is situated in the British Embassy compound and at the time of services, Turkish guards are posted at the gates to check who is coming into Church.

The priest-in-charge is an Iranian, Fr Ibrahim, a person that John has high regard for in his work and witness with and for the Kurdish refugees. Fr Ibrahim's experience was from House Churches in Iran, of which there are over 200.

The Annandale Group of Churches had sent one of their Lent Appeals (£4,000) to the work in Ankara.

A talk to remember, and to bring to our own prayers, the witness of our fellow Christians in very difficult situations.

## **HISTORY OF MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

The return to their 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old; most historians think that it was the return to the 'mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift. Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day.

## **MOTHER'S UNION, ST NINIAN'S, CD**

At the open meeting held on **21st February**, the speaker was the **Rt Revd Bishop Gordon Mursell**. Bishop Gordon gave an entertaining and thought-provoking talk about Mary and Martha (Luke: 10: 38-42); and how their story demonstrated the need to have a good balance of Martha's 'busyness' and Mary's 'quietness' in our own lives. He asked if we knew that the earliest depiction of Martha and Mary was in Dumfries and Galloway. Most of us did not know and were surprised to learn that the carving is on the South face of the Ruthwell Cross. There will be more about the Cross in the next magazine

The meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 21st March** is also to be an open meeting, when all are welcome - including men. The speakers will be Canon David Bayne and Alison Bayne; they will talk about their retirement home **Askamore**. If you wish to attend please let Alison (01556 503818) or Anne (01556 502583) know.

## **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION MEETING**

The speaker held at the meeting held on the 7th February was the Revd Dr John McPake who came to talk about the Columba Declaration (see page 13 for more information about the Declaration).

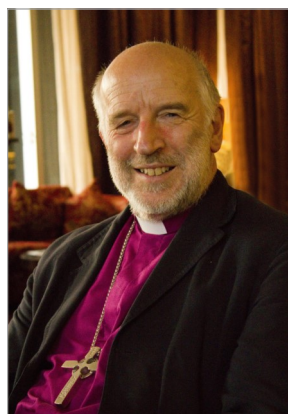
It is a complex and emotive subject, especially for Episcopalians who in 2012 withdrew as full members as they were already members of the Anglican community. They retained observer rights.

During his talk, the Revd McPake explained the process to date , a process that has taken 6 years.

He suggested that living in Dumfries and Galloway that we may have more in common with the Ecumenical County of Cumbria than with Edinburgh. Cumbria is the first county in England to have such an agreement. As the Church of Scotland has become a companion partner and with so many Anglicans living in the region plus for the majority it is a much shorter journey to Carlisle than it is to Edinburgh there is a good possibility that this will be so. (see page xx for more information about this initiative).

After taking questions from the floor, Father William McFadden thanked the Revd McPake for his talk.

## **News from the Province**



The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church has announced he will retire at the end of July. Bishop David was consecrated as Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane in 2005 and was elected Primus four years later.

Announcing his retirement, Bishop David said: “It has been an immense privilege for me to exercise the interwoven ministries of bishop and Primus. The Scottish Episcopal Church has with increasing confidence been developing its mission and taking its place in the evolving story of Scotland. As the process for the election of my successor begins - and as God's unfolding future for our church is revealed - I shall continue to hold this church and its leadership in my prayers.”



## THE TOWER

The Tower is no more! However, there have been several problems along the way which is not totally unexpected.

A grant of £1,100 has been received from ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED towards the cost of reconfiguring the tower and the church.



**Alfred Thorp and Canon Bayne display the Certificate. Thanks to Ron Newton for the photograph.**

**Photographs 1 & 2 were taken by architect, Kirsten Haase, from the scaffold when she made a site visit in January,**



1



2



**No Tower**



**Building of the Porch**



## **STEWARTY CHURCHES TOGETHER FOOD BANK**

The Food Bank is running low on jams and spreads, cereals, in particular low sugar cereals, e.g. Weetabix, tinned vegetables, particularly peas, green beans and carrots (not tomatoes!), fish, main meals, sugar. Thank you for all the donations. Please ensure at least six months from the sell by date is clearly indicated.

## **THE GALLOWAY VIKING HOARD CAMPAIGN (GVH)**

The Galloway Viking Hoard Campaign, is backing Dumfries and Galloway Council's proposals for the treasure to be based in a specially designed exhibition space at the new Kirkcudbright Art Gallery. However, they are up against a rival bid by National Museums Scotland, which is seeking sole ownership. This could see the collection being based in at the national museum in Edinburgh. Work is already underway on a £3.1 million project to convert Kirkcudbright town hall into a new art gallery.

The hoard's discovery is also set to feature in the latest episode of **Digging for Britain** hosted by Dr Alice Roberts. The programme is to be broadcast on BBC Four at 21:00 on **Thursday 24 March**.

A campaign group has been set up to keep a Viking treasure hoard, which was found in Dumfries and Galloway. The council would very much appreciate an expression of your support; contact **Harry.Thomson@dumgal.gov.uk** by **7 March** when the Communities Committee will make its final decision on how to progress the council's bid. The Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) is due to decide the hoard's future on 23 March.

Please also consider emailing your statement to Stuart Campbell, who advises and provides administrative support to SAFAP at **s.campbell@nms.ac.uk**. We would also be delighted if you registered on our website as a GVH supporter.

*I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me ... they're cramming for their final exam.* *George Carlin*

## LENT 2017

### SUGGESTED READING FOR LENT

Canon David Bayne has recommended **The Return of the Prodigal Son** by Henri Nouwen. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son catapulted Henri Nouwen on a long spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within which God has chosen to dwell. He probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's vengefulness, and the father's compassion. © Amazon

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Muriel Palmer would like to recommend **The Stature of Waiting** by W. H. Vanstone.

We set great store by activity and busy-ness. We want to be 'in control'. We value what we 'do' more than who we are. So when we become ill, or retire from work, or suffer an enforced period of inactivity, our self-esteem is threatened. We evade, repudiate, or resent experiences of passivity. This classic of spiritual writing transforms our recent experiences of illness, or being out of work, or feeling inactive and powerless. W. H. Vanstone shows us the unquestioned and impressive majesty of Jesus as he 'waits' before those who accuse him, waits before those who taunt him and, finally, waits before even those who crucify him. It is his passivity and 'passion', when we have things done to us instead of doing things, the times when we simply wait, are as important as the times of action and taking charge. © Amazon

Collect for ASH WEDNESDAY from the Scottish Prayer Book

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **LENT ECUMENICAL SCRIPTURE REFLECTION AND FAITH SHARING**

### **THE PASSION IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

The groups will meet in St Ninian's hall, Castle Douglas, on Wednesdays from 2-3pm; in Crossmichael Parish hall on Wednesdays from 7-8pm; and in St Peter's Hall, Dalbeattie, on Thursdays from 10.45-11.45a.m..

#### **Session 1 Wed 8<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Mt 26:1-25 – Plot against Jesus; Bethany anointing; treachery of Judas.

Led by The Revd Sally Russell

#### **Session 2 Wed 15<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Mt 26:26 -56 - Institution of Eucharist; Gethsemane.

Led by Fr William McFadden

#### **Session 3 Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

Mt 26:57-75 - The Trial; Peter's denials.

Led by Canon David Bayne

#### **Session 4 Wed 29<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Mt 27:1- 31 – Pilate; death of Judas; the soldiers.

Led by Bishop Gordon Mursell

#### **Session 5 – Wed 5<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Mt 27:32-56 – Crucifixion and death.

Led by The Revd Oonagh Dee

### **LENT LUNCHES 2017**



**Lent Lunches** are being arranged for the period 6th March-6th April. All proceeds will be donated to **Bishop Gregor's Lent Appeal 2017 - Scottish Refugee Council**. The Council provides advice and services to asylum seekers and refugees. The objective of the organisation is 'building a better future with refugees in Scotland'.

Visit [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) for more information.

Lunches will be held in the Church Hall at 12 noon on the following dates:

**March:** Wednesday, 15th; Friday, 24th & Wednesday 29th

**April:** Friday, 7th

Please support as many of these lunches as you can and please bring a friend.

### **CARBON FAST FOR LENT**

The chair of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN), the Bishop of Swaziland, Ellinah Wamukoya, is inviting people to take part in a “**carbon fast**” during Lent – to examine their daily actions and reflect on how they impact the environment. Carbon fast campaigns are designed so that, over Lent, people can take small steps to reduce carbon dioxide output with the hope of helping the environment and bringing the world one step closer to a sustainable existence. Green Anglicans have produced a guide with daily actions for use in Lent; from buying organically grown food to eating less meat to unplugging appliances, the daily actions are suggested to help slow the damage to God’s creation. Cycling to work, using a watering can rather than a sprinkler, and fixing leaks at home.

The Church of South India (CSI) moderator, the Most Rev. Thomas K. Oommen, has written a letter calling on people to make the 40 days of Lent a time of repentance, reflection and action to reduce damage to God’s creation. He said “A carbon fast is a challenge to us to look at our daily actions, to reflect on how they impact on the environment. It challenges us to take some small steps – some of which will reduce our carbon dioxide output while others will help the environment – for a more sustainable world. In the process we may come to rediscover a different relationship with God, with His Creation and with one another”.

### **QUIET MORNING FOR LENT**

Saturday, 11 March at the Maxwell Rooms, St Peter’s Church, Dalbeattie  
1015 - 1230 hrs

Sadie and Edith warmly invite you to come along on this Saturday morning, early in Lent to take time out, to give yourself space and to reflect on your journey through Lent to Good Friday and Easter.

There is no charge, but it would be helpful if you could let either of us know that you intend coming to help us make the arrangements of the morning and the room. Last minute deciders are welcome!

Sadie 01556 611917; Edith 01556 610816

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

### **Saint Baldred: 6<sup>th</sup> March**

The date of Baldred's birth is unknown. He is commonly referred to as "the Apostle of the Lothians" and is believed to have founded a monastery at Tynninghame. At the time Lothian was part of the Kingdom of Northumbria and he was, therefore, considered to be a Northumbrian, but it is likely he was born in Ireland before joining the Northumbrian mission.

He often retired from the spiritual government of Lothian and he selected a spot on the Bass Rock to build himself a small hermitage and associated chapel. From here he crossed repeatedly to the mainland to preach to the local people.

The parish church of Prestonkirk is thought to stand on the site of a chapel which he built; nearby St Baldred's Well was a place of pilgrimage for those sick in mind and body, who came to drink its ice-cold water, believing it could cure all ills.

He died in 757.

## CUMBRIA BECOMES ENGLAND'S FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNTY

To celebrate the occasion, hundreds of people gathered at Carlisle Cathedral on Sunday 27 November 2016 to take part in a service of Hope and Expectation and to affirm Cumbria's designation as England's first ecumenical county.

During the service the **partner churches** signed a new Declaration of Covenant Partnership and the **companion churches** \* signed a letter of companionship.

The partnership was formed five years ago when leaders from the **Methodist, United Reformed** and **Anglican** churches joined together to sign a Declaration of Intent, signalling moves to work more closely together in mission.

\* **The Church of Scotland, The Religious Society of Friends in Cumbria, The Roman Catholics, North Western Baptist Association** and **The Salvation Army** are the five companionship denominations to join the partners in working together towards the ecumenical **God for All** vision. They signed a letter of companionship, reinforcing their commitment to pray for those churches who are signing the Declaration and to work in mission with the denominations at a local and county level where possible.

**Simon Pain** has asked that we include the following security advice in our magazine which he believes will be helpful to our readers.

Through his role on the Colvend & Southwick Community Council Simon has received information from the Community Police Officer that there have been a series of thefts in the region (mainly adjacent to the A75). A feature of these thefts is that all the premises have been unlocked at the time of the theft. The Police are keen to draw everyone's attention to basic Home Security advice and have issued the following guidance.

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

Housebreaking is a crime that we all fear, and although it does happen in our area it is not really a common occurrence. That said there are simple measures which can be put in place to help deter any opportunist thief and we would ask householders to consider reviewing their own home security.

We suggest taking a few simple steps like:

- Ensuring all doors and windows are securely closed

- Ensuring all valuables/car keys are out of sight

- Installing security lighting or an alarm system

- Locking all sheds and outbuildings

- Ensuring all side gates are secured to prevent easy access

  - to the rear of the property

- Ensuring door keys are out of reach

- Security mark your property

- Leaving lights or radios on a timer when the property is vacant

- If you have a trusted neighbour ask them to watch your property,

  - to open and close blinds or park cars in your driveway

- Consider joining or setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme.

Opportunist thieves look for easy access to homes, so the harder you make it for them the lower your chance of becoming subject to such a crime.

We would ask you to be vigilant for any suspicious persons or vehicles that you see in your area. If you see something that raises your concerns then we would ask you to

contact the Police immediately and not to wait.

We would rather attend a call and find out all is well than to receive the information too late and not be able to take any action. We would also ask that if any vehicles are seen that the registration plate is noted and provided to us.

If you would like further crime prevention advice or would like a survey carried out on your home, please contact 101 and ask for your local crime reduction officer who will be able to assist or telephone Castle Douglas Police Station.

### **SONGS OF PRAISE IS COMING TO PERTH!**

The ever-popular BBC One programme, Songs of Praise, is coming to **St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth**. The recordings will take place on the afternoons of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th March. **Admission will be by free ticket.** Singers and those wishing to be in the congregation are welcome to attend one or both recordings. They can apply by going to the 'Tickets' page of the *Songs of Praise* website, by e-mailing [songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk](mailto:songsofpraise@bbc.co.uk), or by telephoning 0161 335 8429. **The deadline for all ticket applications is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.** The music recorded will be broadcast in future editions of the programme.



### **Scottish National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham Friday 22-Monday 25 September 2017**

The Shrine's theme for pilgrims in 2017 is 'Mary: Guide on the Way'.

Contact The Walsingham Scottish Pilgrimage Team for more information

Fr David Mumford	01368 840361	<a href="mailto:dmumford@phonecoop.coop">dmumford@phonecoop.coop</a>
Alison Gifford	07990 570371	<a href="mailto:gifford@sky.com">gifford@sky.com</a>
Annie Blackwood	07989 554023	<a href="mailto:annie.b70@live.co.uk">annie.b70@live.co.uk</a>



For the first time ever, **Anglican Choral Evensong will be celebrated** at the altar of the Chair of St Peter in **St Peter's Basilica** at the Vatican on the **13th of March**.

### **Crepuscular Rays at Noon in Saint Peters Basilica, Vatican City**



**Photo Credit: Alex Proimos  
WikiMedia**

This date has been chosen as the nearest available day to the historic feast day of St Gregory the Great, who has become an unofficial patron of relations between the two churches. St Gregory was the Pope who sent St Augustine to England in 595 to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons and who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. The music will be sung by the renowned Choir of Merton College, Oxford.

Permission for this unique occasion was granted by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of St Peter's Basilica, during a recent meeting with Archbishop David Moxon, the Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See. In a statement, the Anglican Centre said: "The gesture reflects the deepening bonds of affection and trust between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church." Five months ago Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby celebrated Vespers together at the Basilica of San Gregorio al Celio in Rome.

The invitation to celebrate Evensong at St Peter's also reciprocates the liturgical hospitality of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Dean Robert Willis in welcoming Cardinal George Pell to celebrate Solemn Mass at the High Altar of Canterbury Cathedral in 2015.

Merton College Choir will be following in the footsteps of Westminster Abbey choir, which has sung previously in Rome with the choir of the Sistine Chapel – a collaboration that has grown out of closer ties between the two traditions, in particular following Pope Benedict XV1's visit to London in September 2010.

**Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away. Anon**

## **THE COLUMBA DECLARATION**

At the time of the public announcement of the declaration, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC), the Most Revd. David Chillingworth, said, “The Church of Scotland and the Church of England seem to have decided that their commonality as national churches justifies them in setting aside other ecumenical relationships and etiquette.”

Primus was present for the speech by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, to the General Assembly of the Church of England and for its vote to approve the declaration and form a contact group to take it forward on 17 February 2016.

The Archbishop of Canterbury at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland held on the 25 May 2016 apologized to the SEC for the “consternation and deep hurt” caused by the way the Columba Declaration was announced and appeared to ignore the Episcopal Church as the constituent member of the Anglican Communion in Scotland.

Primus advised that a bishop of the SEC, The Rt. Rev. Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross, and Caithness, will be part of a group charged with overseeing the Columba Declaration. Primus added that the appointment “will give the SEC the opportunity to be actively involved in future developments”.

He said that “the aspect of the Columba Declaration which will cause most concern to the SEC is the potential involvement of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical life of Scotland. The Church of England is not a Scottish church, nor does it have any jurisdiction in Scotland. “The Anglican way is to recognise the territorial integrity of each province — they are autonomous but interdependent. The important question is whether, within that understanding of the relationship between provinces of the Anglican Communion, it is proper for the Church of England to enter into this agreement about ministry and ecclesiastical order in Scotland.”

### **COVENANT SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH**

On Sunday, February 12th, there was a Service of Covenant Renewal within the service of Sung Eucharist. The preacher was, the Revd Joy Margerison, Methodist Associate at St Ninian's, CD. She explained that every year in January all Methodist Churches and Chapels renewed their Covenant with God as individuals and as a Congregation.

## **CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the recent questionnaire about our church magazine. Twenty out of twenty-seven replies means a 75% response rate, which is high by any standards and proved to be very informative for the Communications Group.

All the comments were useful and will be accommodated over the next few months. After analysis and discussion it has been decided to keep the magazine in it's current format until the summer, producing a monthly copy, although frequency will probably change later in the year. As always, articles are very welcome. A maximum length of 500 words is preferred by our readers and it seems that everyone likes to read about something seasonal, especially if it is relevant to the Church year. So please consider making a contribution using these guidelines. The more articles sent in, the better our bank of stand-bys for use in quiet times and less pressure for the production team.

The magazine is only one strand of our church communication. Word of mouth is always effective, whether between congregation members or out in the wider world. Other forms include the pew sheet, the website and Facebook. It is worth reminding you that the magazine is available online at [www.christchurchedalbeattie.wordpress.com](http://www.christchurchedalbeattie.wordpress.com) and this format is especially good for those who prefer to read larger print and look at enlarged photos. The website also has a **What's On Page** advertising up-coming services and events. The pew sheet is much missed in its paper form and is still waiting for a new person to take it on. For anyone thinking they might like to do it, it is a simple process with a pre-prepared format that is simple to use. No need to worry about printing as this is done using our church printer.

Finally the Communications Group has a vacancy as Muriel has stood down. This small group meets every so often and membership is not an arduous task. If you might be interested please have a chat with any of the group members - Mark, Miranda, Graham, Ron and Sue - and they will be happy to tell you what's involved and promise not to wrestle you into membership!

*Sue Thomas*

**Mission to Seafarers**

Four more hats have been donated. Thank you.

## **From the Editorial Team:**

Cut off date for copy for the April 2017 magazine is **18th March 2017**.

The magazine questionnaires were distributed week beginning 12th February; it is hoped that sufficient replies will have been received by 24th February when the Communication Team hold their meeting. Their first report is on page 18.

Contact: Miranda T: 01556 610409; E: g.brignall14@btinternet.com

or Muriel T: 01556 630314; E: muriel.a.palmer@gmail.com

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday, May 25th	tbc	Galloway Region Ascension Day Service
Sun, July 9th	2.00-5.00pm	Scotland Open Garden Drumstinchall House & Drumstinchall Cottage
Sunday, August 20th	tbc	Ecumenical Service at Dundrennan Details to follow.

### **CHRIST CHURCH SALES 2017**

<b><u>PLANT SALE</u></b>	Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Dalbeattie Town Hall
<b><u>SUMMER SALE</u></b>	date to be confirmed	Colvend Public Hall
<b><u>WINTER BAZAAR</u></b>	Saturday, 19th November	Dalbeattie Town Hall

### **PLANT SALE 'GARDEN STALL'**

As last year, there will be a Garden Stall. So, if you are clearing out your potting sheds, garages or summerhouses in preparation for the spring, please don't discard unwanted items - I would welcome your contributions of all things horticultural, from patio pots to picnic blankets. They can be left at the back of the Church or I will collect - Sue Thomas, 01556 612863

## What's On in March 2017 at Christ Church and District

### March

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, 1st 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Thursday, 2nd No service

#### Friday, 3rd

#### **Services for the World Day of Prayer**

2.30 p.m. Southwick Church

3.30 p.m. St Ninian's Church, Castle Douglas

7.00 p.m. Christ Church, Dalbeattie

Saturday, 4th 9.30 a.m. **Diocesan Synod 2017** at the Barony Campus, Dumfries.

#### Sunday, 5th

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Tuesday, 7th 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Barlochan Care Home

1.45 p.m. TAG meeting at 5 Hestan Court, Rockcliffe

#### Thursday, 9th

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

12 noon House Group at 4 Screel Drive, Dalbeattie

1.30 p.m. Chat & Craft Group at 12 Park Terrace, Dbt

#### Friday, 10th

10am-4pm **Congregational Away Day** (see page 3)

Saturday, 11th 10.15am-12.30pm Quiet Morning for Lent. (see page 12)

#### Sunday, 12th

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Tuesday, 14th 10.00 a.m. **Hard of Hearing Drop-in Clinic** in the Church Hall

#### Thursday, 16th

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

#### Sunday, 19th

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

2.00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at Munches Care Home.

All welcome

Tuesday, 21st 12.30 p.m. MU St Ninian's, CD (see page 6)

#### Thursday, 23rd

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

#### Sunday, 26th

10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist **Mothering Sunday**

Monday, 27th 12 noon House Group at 4 Screel Drive, Dalbeattie

Tuesday, 28th 2.30 p.m. Julian Meeting at Savat, Meikle Richorn

#### Thursday, 30th

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Lent Lunches**

**see page 11**

**Lent Talks**

**see page 11**