

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church – Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers and e-mail addresses

Interim Pastor

Geoff Mason 0131 653 6613 mob 07958 713353 biggmason@talktalk.net

Vestry Secretary

Gordon & Muriel Lounsbach: 01896 831418 gordon.lounsbach@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Mike Reynolds: 01896 757114 templestowe@talk21.com

People's Warden and Organist

Nancy Muir: 01896 758017 as.muir@btinternet.com

Sunday Squad

Rhona McCleman: 01896 751484

Messy Church

Mary Christie 01895 755480

Hall Bookings

Elizabeth Watret: 0175023207 mob 07780 009355 elizabeth.watret@gmail.com

Caretaker

Phil Todd: 07787 729639

Facebook page - St Peters Sunday Squad Church web site www.stpetersgala.co.uk

Church Blog <http://stpetersgala.blogspot.com>

Shared Leadership Team

Al Christie

☎ 755480

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John Maltman

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Nancy Muir

☎ 758017

as.muir@btinternet.com

Services

Sunday mornings

8.30am Communion service, 3rd Sunday only

9.30am Sunday Squad followed by tea & toast

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by tea/coffee

1st Sunday of the month 10.30am Traditional Family Eucharist (no 9.30 service)

6.30pm Choral Evensong @ Holy Trinity, Melrose

2nd Sunday of the month 6.00pm Healing/anointing service

2nd Monday of the month 11.00am Communion service at Oakwood Park

3rd Monday of the month April – October CPR card delivery

3rd Tuesday April to September 3.00pm Afternoon Tea Service

4th Tuesday of the month during school terms 5.30 – 7.00pm Messy Church

Last Wednesday of the month,

7.00pm Taize service at Holy Trinity Melrose

Thursdays

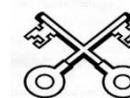
10.00am Holy Communion service takes place in the hall

3rd Friday of the month April – October Collect CPR cards

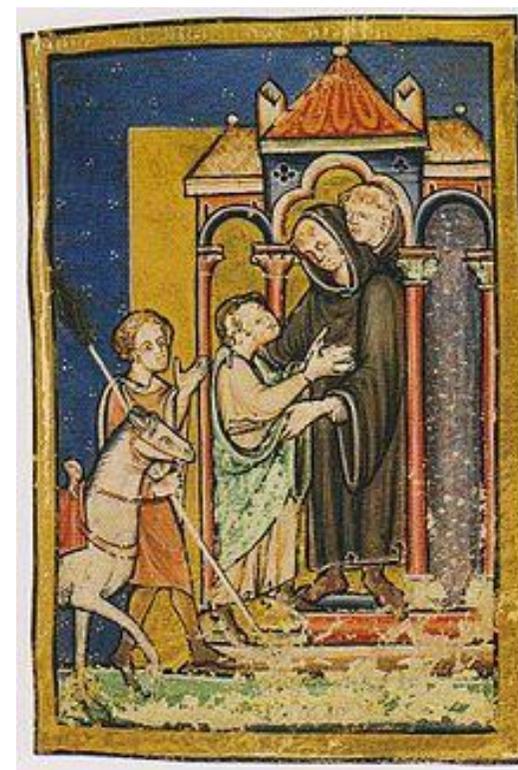
Last Friday of the month 5.00pm Choir practice



St. Peter's Church



February 2017



St Cuthbert being welcomed by St Boisil at Melrose Abbey

£1.00 Recommended donation per issue

Church Diary February

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Sun 5 th | 10.30am Family service Rev David Dalglish |
| Thurs 9 th ^h | 10.00am Communion |
| Sat 11 th | 12.30 Soup 'n' Pud lunch remember to invite your friends |
| Sun 12 th | 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Grace Redpath 6.00pm Healing service |
| Mon 13 th | 11.00am Communion, Oakwood Park |
| Thurs 16 th | 10.00am Communion |
| Sun 19 th | 8.30 Holy Communion 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Duncan McCosh |
| Mon 20 th | 7.00pm Bottletop sort |
| Thurs 23 rd | 10.00am Communion |
| Sun 26 th | 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30am Sung Eucharist Mr Geoff Mason |
| Tues 28 th | 5.30pm Messy Church 7.30pm Pancake Party |
| Thurs 2 nd Mar | 10.00am Communion |
| Sun 5 th | 10.30am Family Service |



Wrap up warm to fight colds

I recently read in Yours magazine that one of the best things you can do to fend off bugs is stay snuggled up. Studies show that if your nose gets cold, its blood vessels will constrict, shutting off the warm blood that allows white blood cells to flood the area and fight off infection. So wrap a scarf loosely over your face when you're out and about on freezing days.

Arranging events in the church and/or hall.

Please remember to contact Liz Watret when arranging to use our building to make sure there are no other events planned. Sometimes members of the congregation need access to prepare for services – e.g. to decorate the church for special services like Easter and Christmas or weddings. Of course baptisms, weddings and funerals will receive priority but others need to know when these services are to take place.



One of our local Saints

Saint Boisil. An abbot of Melrose who lived in the seventh century. The town of St Boswell's is named after him. His feast day is February 23rd.

Saint Boisil was a Northumbrian. As a youth, he was trained in monasticism at Lindisfarne Priory by St. Aidan himself. He became a monk and quickly rose to be Prior of Melrose Abbey, in Tweeddale, under Abbot Eata.

Taking his information from Sigfrid, a monk of Jarrow who had trained under Boisil, Bede tells us that the saint was a man of sublime virtues as well as an eminent scholar. The holy names of the adorable Trinity were ever on his lips and he repeated the name Jesus Christ with tender affection. He frequently exclaimed, "How good a Jesus we have!" and wept so sincerely that onlookers were encouraged to join him.

It was Boisil's evident sanctity which drew the young St. Cuthbert to Melrose, rather than the more famous Lindisfarne, in AD 651. By chance, the prior was standing by the abbey gate when Cuthbert arrived. The latter entered the church to pray and, looking on, "Boisil had an intuition of the high degree of holiness to which the boy.....would rise, and said just this single phrase to the monks with whom he was standing: "Behold the servant of the Lord".

Abbot Eata soon gave permission for Cuthbert to enter the community, and Boisil ensured that he "watched, prayed, worked and read harder than anyone else". It was thus from the Prior that Cuthbert learned the sacred scriptures, pupil and teacher becoming great friends. Both were given to travelling amongst the villages neighbouring Melrose and preaching to the local people.

In AD 659, Abbot Eata left the monastery to found a second house at Ripon in Yorkshire. Boisil became Abbot of Melrose. Two years later, Boisil was able to further demonstrate his gift of second sight when a great plague swept through the monastery. Cuthbert was stricken with the disease and drew close to death, but Boisil correctly declared he would most certainly recover. He also predicted his own death from the same epidemic, to which he, indeed, fell victim. Shortly before the end, Boisil made his most famous prophecy, foretelling Cuthbert's rise to Episcopal glory and the great influence he would have on the Northumbrian Church.

Boisil died on 7th July AD 661 and was buried at Melrose. Miracles at his tomb soon led to him being translated to a beautifully carved shrine, parts of which are preserved in the Museum at nearby Jedburgh Abbey. Like Bede, his relics were carried off to Durham, in 1030, by the thieving priest, Alfred. He is also remembered in the name of St. Boswells in Roxburghshire.

ROTAS



Because I manage to make so many mistakes and forget when folk are away I am going to make some changes to the format of the rota when the current list for church Sunday duties runs out on 12th February. I am going to discontinue the columns for Welcomers and Coffee Makers. I thought it would be easier for the folk who volunteer to do these jobs if they could just sign up for dates that suit them.

Therefore there will be sign-up sheets by the front door for Welcomers and in the kitchen for coffee makers.



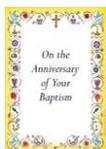
With reference to other rotas.

There is one in the Vestry for the folk who officiate at the Reserved Sacrament and it seems that it would be best if you could also sign up for the days and times that suit you. We need folk for some Thursdays and 2nd Sunday evening Healing services as well as 10.30 services. I do not check this rota so don't send e-mail reminders.

I know that the Sunday Squad would be happy if members of the congregation would like to help out with this service. Their rota is in the hall.

If you have swapped duties with anyone I don't have a copy of this at home so just send reminder e-mails to folk on the original list. If there is a gap on Sunday mornings someone from the SLT will always fill it.

The 2017 Soup 'n' Pud list is at the back.



February
13th Leyton Robertson
26th Thea Louise Fraser



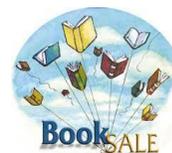
As you may remember from the AGM sometimes it is the smaller amounts that we give regularly each year that go towards funding this church. Maybe like me you are a member of the 100 club – I like to give Susan a cheque for the whole year so

that I know I am in the draw each month. It would be so embarrassing to have my number come up and find I hadn't paid my £1 that month. I also give Mike a cheque for a year's subscription to this magazine. It makes my own bookkeeping simpler and as my memory is sometimes rather erratic doing things this way keeps my life simpler too.

Did you know that you can use a bank standing order to cover your weekly giving? I find this useful because having decided what I can afford to give St Peter's each week I multiply it by 52 and divide by 12 for the monthly standing order. As well as meaning I don't need to remember to put that amount of cash aside each week it also means that the church can rely on that money even if I can't get to services. An added bonus is that the Government pays out "Gift Aid" refunds to the church as these contributions are seen as charitable donations.



Susan Boorman runs the 100 Club to raise funds for St Peter's. It costs £1 to have a number in the the monthly draw (£12 per year). The prize is £25 when your number is drawn. You can have more than one number.



We are pleased to report that the Book Sale managed to reach £100.50p just after Christmas! Thank you so much everyone and we would like to continue in the same way next year. All the proceeds go to the Church Funds. Ethel and Yvonne



Emergency Prayer Circle

This is a group in the church which prays for people at times of special need. If you know of a member of your family or a friend facing crisis or difficulty who would be grateful of such confidential support.

Ring Muriel on 01896 831418 or Rhona on 01896 751484



Roslynn, Aimee, Stuart & Rosemarie, Darrin, Fiona, Ivy, Karina, James, Jaci, William, Bethany, Katie & John, Jim, Ruth, Kris, Rebecca, Ian and Oliver, Steph, Emily and Holly, Sadie, Tony, Gina, Billy, Fred, Joan, Jane, Lin Say, T Jay, Chris and Lyle, Liz, Richard & Helen, Robin, Charles, wee Thomas

Please give names for prayers and pastoral visits to Al Christie Tel 755480 or e-mail maryandal@tiscali.co.uk

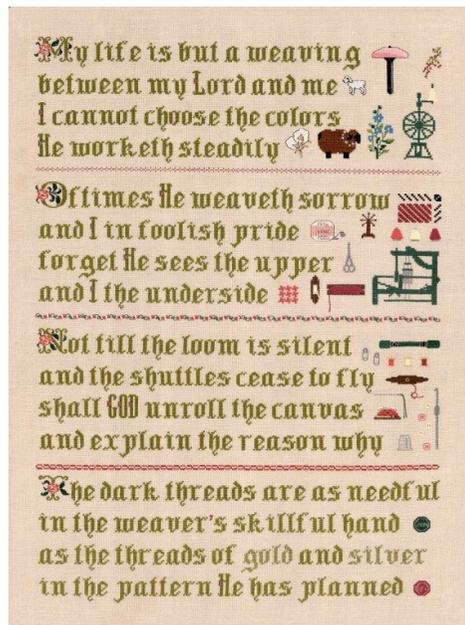
Shirley lent me a bookmark with the Weaver poem on it but as I was unable to scan it clearly I went on the internet and found the image below.

Here is the anonymous poem in clearer print:-

My life is but a weaving,
between my God and me,
I do not choose the colours,
He worketh steadily.
Ofttimes he weaveth sorrow,
and I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper,
and I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent,
and the shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas,
and explain the reasons why
The dark threads are as needful
in the skillful weaver's hand
As threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.

He knows, He loves, He cares,
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives His very best to those
Who leave the choice with Him.



The back and front of the crown is displayed in the Corrie ten Boom Museum.



The post office clerk said to my mother, when I was in the army, when she was posting me a bible, "Is there anything breakable in it ?"
"Only the Ten Commandments!" she replied.

Dear St Peter's.

When I first became the Interim Pastor at St Peter's the Bishop indicated to both me and you that it was going to be a relatively short affair. Sadly that did not work out, and as a result I have had to go back to being at Holy Trinity every Sunday.

I mentioned to both the Vestry and SLT recently that I felt I was not able to do everything that an Interim Pastor should, due to the time commitments required of me in Holy Trinity and in the province, and in particular in not being able to be with you as a congregation on Sunday mornings.

I have consulted with the Bishop about this, whether he might be able to find anyone else who might either take over or work in conjunction with me. I'm very pleased that the Bishop has appointed Geoff Mason to be the interim pastor, and to share some of the duties of that post with me. I will still be around, and happy to be involved as much as Geoff wishes me to do. Geoff is a lay-reader in the diocese. As such, he's not ordained and has a wealth of experience in terms of what laity can and cannot do in the church, and will be of great benefit to the SLT in working with them to explore collaborative ministry further and resourcing them in the good work they already do.

The main benefit that Geoff brings is in being able to be there on Sunday mornings, to be able to listen to the congregation and to sit down and talk with you - I've not been able to do that recently and I think that is hugely important in the role which is needed between now and whenever you appoint.

Just because Geoff is not ordained does not mean that there will be any change to the sacramental services you currently have. Sheena will continue doing her excellent job in finding clergy for two or three Sundays in the month. Geoff will be there more as a pastor (which is his role description) than a "substitute rector" which is often the conceptual mistake congregations make when they have a priest as their interim. I will still be involved with the life of St Peter's, and will be happy to continue taking healing services and afternoon communions, and any funerals etc which come up, so in many ways you are getting two for the price of one.

I want to say how very grateful and proud I am of the work which the SLT has done in the months since Duncan's retiring - they have done the body of the work, and Sheena, Karen, Nancy, Al and John have worked very very hard in keeping everything on track. The end is in sight! I think this is a positive and helpful move, and I think when you meet Geoff you will agree.

Pip

Geoff has served as a Reader in churches in Formby (near Liverpool), Coventry and Manchester. He and his wife Sylvia have 3 grown-up children and retired to Musselburgh in 2009 where they joined the congregation at St Peters, Musselburgh.

He has been closely involved with inter-regnums on at least 4 occasions.



I thought you might like to read what has been written in a couple of cards recently received by the congregation.

The first is from Mac and his family. Thank you so much for the kind donation you gave towards Mac's fundraising mission. We are enormously

proud of him and what he has achieved.

Your donation really will make such a difference to the lives of not only Mac but other children like him.

In total he managed to raise £2610 with a local business also coming forward and donating a brand new i-pad! This enabled us to not only buy the accessories for the i-pad but to buy a new music station for the sensory room at St Peter's school. The remainder still left us able to donate a large sum of money, as planned to Spectrum for their sensory equipment.

So again, from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you! Mac and his family.



The second is from Simi who included a crying face as she is sorry to be leaving us, though happy to be returning to her family in Nigeria.

To the members of St Peter's Church,

From the depths of my heart I will like to thank you ALL for the love and friendship I have enjoyed over the past year and three months!

Thank you for making me feel so welcomed from the first day I came to the church.

Thank you for opening your hearts and homes to me.

Thank you for all the warm hugs, kisses and kind handshakes.

Thank you for accepting me just as I am.

Thank you for making an effort to get to know me – my family and my culture.

A lot of you may not know how much you have impacted my life – directly and indirectly. I have learned about love, fellowship, patience, humility and kindness.

I am excited about getting back and sharing my stories.

I will really miss you ALL! I pray that 2017 will be a year of happiness, good health and wholeness for you ALL. I Jesus name (Amen)

Lots of love

Simi Pam



**World Day of Prayer Friday, 3rd March 2017
3.00pm at Our Lady & St Andrew's church**

The service comes from The Philippines and the theme is:
"Am I being unfair to you?"

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer.

Dear Clergy and Vestry Secretaries

My very best wishes to you for 2017; this promises to be a challenging year in both church and nation. In the Edinburgh Diocese we are faced by the retirement of three people who, in their respective ways, have made a considerable impact on our life.

Graham Forbes has been Provost of St Mary's Cathedral for over 26 years. During this time he has not only stewarded the congregation and the fabric of the Cathedral, he has also served in a number of eminent positions in the public life of our nation. He formally retires in June but he is on Sabbatical at present and will return for a farewell event on Maundy Thursday following the Chrism Mass (at which he will be preaching). The Chrism Mass is always an important occasion for the diocese as clergy and laity renew baptismal and ordination vows. I invite you to make a special effort to be with us on 13th April at 11.30am as we mark Graham's retirement and to encourage other members of your congregation to join us too. There will be a lunch after the service. Formal invitations will be sent out in due course.

Susan Macdonald retired as Dean of the Diocese on 31st December (although she will continue as Rector of Christ Church Edinburgh). She has occupied this significant and demanding role with grace, wisdom and warmth. The Dean is, of course, the Bishop's primary ordained colleague and I have many reasons to be grateful to Susan for her companionship and support since I became bishop, I know that many around the diocese would echo this. We would like to make a presentation to Susan at our next Diocesan Synod on Saturday 11th March at St Paul's & St George's Church. Each congregation will be represented at the Synod by their Lay Rep as well as clergy; others are welcome to attend in the public gallery.

Also at that Synod, we shall mark the retirement of David Palmer as both Diocesan Secretary and Convener of the Finance and Management Committee; he and Alison are moving to England. David has fulfilled both roles with distinction and skill. Many at the Diocesan Office and throughout the diocese have benefited from his calm and incisive advice and he has been involved in all the major decisions made in this diocese for more than a decade. He has also served the Province as Convener of the Standing Committee. Both Bishop Brian and I have had innumerable reasons to be grateful for David's willingness to give so generously of his time and talent. Fittingly, David was made an honorary Canon of our Cathedral last year I invite each congregation to show their gratitude to Graham, Susan and David by making a contribution towards a gift from the diocese. If you would like to make such a contribution please send it to Mr Simon Filsell, Diocesan Administrator, at 21a Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL, indicating clearly to whom your gifts are directed.

With these retirements come three important vacancies. Please pray for me and for all whose task it is to find worthy successors to occupy these leading roles in the life of our diocese,

Warmest good wishes for the year ahead!

The Rt Revd Dr John Armes
Bishop of Edinburgh



Galashiels Food Bank Report –December 2016

The Galashiels Food Bank continues to provide for the urgent needs of many local folk in the middle of difficulties, and it can do so because of the gifts of food items, money and time from many people. In the last six months 320 parcels have been given out with the aim of supplying the immediate needs of about 450 people. (This compares with about 380 parcels and about 480 people for the same period last year.)

We started this financial year with a lot more money than the previous year - £2,038 as against £1,462 – and though our income over the recent period is significantly less - £2,222 as against £3,605 – the amount of readily available cash at this point in the financial year remains the same at about £2,500.

In terms of the practical foodstuffs that we receive it would be better measured in tons rather than tins. There have been supermarket collections and quite significant Christmas gifts from local schools as well as the regular gifts from local churches. Many of the items have a fair shelf life which means that we can store them for future use. The money we receive goes towards paying for the fresh items and the operating overheads.

In several ways the whole operation of the Food Bank is very well supported by local churches, community groups and individuals, and if you are one please accept this word of thanks. Yes, some people can give much needed time to the venture but the game needs the whole team including those who give money and supplies.

Tom Hogg, Food Bank treasurer
5th January 2017

Reflections on the Childrens’ Activities at Christmas.

Now that the Christmas Season is behind us we can reflect on what it meant to the children who took part in the Nativity and the Christingle Service and appeal. The Nativity was based on the song Mary’s Boychild and was called “Because Of Christmas Day”. Two Children brought their letters to Santa to their

Grandparents’ house to put up the chimney. Before they did this they were told the Christmas story through the song, with children singing the parts of the angels, the shepherds and Mary and Joseph. Granny and Grandpa finished off the story with a new verse to the song, which hopefully made the children realise that although they were sending a list of gifts that they wanted from Santa, the real gift on Christmas Day is Jesus.

Now when you send your list tonight,
Remember Jesus born in the hay.
God’s gift is with us evermore,
BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS DAY.



The Christingle Service was very busy as usual and it was lovely to see so many children, parents and grandparents in Church. Duncan explained the story behind the Christingle through the words of a song which everyone enjoyed singing to the tune of Walk in the Light.

The orange is the world for us, O God, thank you Lord
God’s Son was born without much fuss, Our God, thank you Lord.
O Thank you Lord, O thank you God, O thank you Lord
Thanks in the Name of the Lord.
God’s gifts are plenty, meant for all, God’s gifts dare to share
Summer, winter, spring and fall, God’s gifts there to share.
O thank you Lord, O thank you God, O thank you Lord
O thanks for gifts to share.
God’s love is warm, not like ice, borne, borne on the cross,
The ribbons for his sacrifice, borne, borne, on the cross.
O thank you Lord, O thank you God, O thank you Lord
Borne for us on the cross.
In the middle a candle bright, shine, shine, be His light
The foil means we reflect his light, shine, shine, be His light.
O, thank you Lord. O thank you God, O thank you Lord
Shine, be His light tonight.

Mary and Joseph returned to Church after their journey around many households and the sheep were placed in the manger, returning from their visit to various shops in the town. The children who hosted Mary and Joseph and searched for the sheep enjoyed the experience. The children brought back their Christingle Appeal boxes and many adults contributed to the collection. This year all the money collected is going to Spectrum which provides a specialised one to one education for children with autism and complex needs within the Scottish Borders. The total raised this year was £404. Many thanks to all who contributed. Mary Christie



It has been suggested that we get together after our Family services, to share a meal so that all the generations get to know each other better. Perhaps if we did this four times a year during term time it would be something to look forward to, and if we all brought a little food to share then no one has to take on making large amounts of food. Let me know what you think.