

## St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church – Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers and e-mail addresses

### Interim Pastor

Fr Philip Blackledge: 01896 822626 philipblackledge@gmail.com

### Vestry Secretary

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

### Treasurer

Mike Reynolds: 01896 757114 templestowe@talk21.com

### People's Warden

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

### Organist

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

### Sunday Squad

Rhona McCleman: 01896 751484

### Messy Church

Mary Christy 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](http://www.stpetersgala.co.uk)  
Church Blog <http://stpetersgala.blogspot.com>

### Services

#### Sunday mornings

8.30am Communion service, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday only

9.30am Sunday Squad followed by tea & toast

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by tea/coffee

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

10.30am Traditional Family Eucharist (no 9.30 service)

6.30pm Choral Evensong @ Holy Trinity, Melrose

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

6.00pm Healing/anointing service

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

11.00am Communion service at Oakwood Park

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month April – October CPR card delivery

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday April to September

3.00pm Afternoon Tea Service

4<sup>th</sup> 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

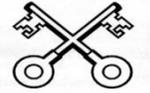
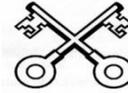
#### Thursdays

10.00am Holy Communion service takes place in the hall

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month April – October Collect CPR cards

Last Friday of the month 5.00pm Choir practice

# St. Peter's Church



## January 2017



Wishing you all a  
Peaceful New Year  
And thank you for all the support you have  
given us.

Al, John, Karen, Nancy and Sheena,  
Your Shared Leadership Team

Al Christie  
Sheena Cossar  
Karen Ellis  
John Maltman  
Nancy Muir

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£1.00 Recommended donation per issue

## Church Diary February

Sun 5th 10.30am Family service

Thurs 9th<sup>h</sup> 10.00am Communion

Sun 12th 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast  
10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by coffee & chat  
6.00pm Healing service

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Communion, Oakwood Park

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Communion

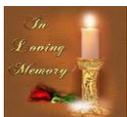
Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 8.30 Holy Communion  
9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast  
10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by coffee & chat

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Bottletop sort

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Communion

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast  
10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by coffee & chat

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm Messy Church



Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 3.00pm Service in remembrance of those close to us who have died

## Annual General Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016 Election of officers

Until the day of the AGM the Vestry comprised of:-

Karen Ellis, Nancy Muir, Tony Brown, Brian Pudner, Beth Cumming and Yvonne Spawforth. Ex-officio were Mike Reynolds as Treasurer and Gordon Lounsbach as Secretary.

Lay Representative Karen Ellis and Alternate Lay Representative Elizabeth Watret

The AGM elections resulted in the following members appointed to serve 2016/2017 year and there-after : Brian Pudner, Beth Cumming, Yvonne Spawforth, Nancy Muir, Wendy Smale and John Marsden.

Lay Representative Karen Ellis (re-elected for new term) and Elizabeth Watret (continues her current term).

Immediately following the end of the 10-30am service the newly constituted Vestry met to appoint its Designate Chair (Brian Pudner will chair all meetings held 2016/17). Mike Reynolds as Treasurer (ex-officio) and Gordon Lounsbach as Secretary (ex-officio), Both Lay Rep and Alternate Lay Rep become ex-officio members of Vestry.

**Congregation please note** that if any person wishes to express a view or has a problem on a particular matter then please speak to a member of the Vestry who will convey that matter/issue to the Vestry at its next meeting and report back to the individual.

G R Lounsbach Secretary

St Boniface was born in what is now Devon c675.

In recent years the Parish Church in Crediton has held annual Christmas tree festivals. This year there were over 70 trees exhibited which would be sold to raise funds for charity.



I suspect that this was the start of festivals of Christmas trees throughout the country and which the Galshiels Fellowship of Churches started in our own town this year.



Our entry in the Gala Christmas Tree Exhibition

## St. Boniface and the Christmas Tree

St. Boniface (680–754), known in Church history as the Apostle to the Germans. Catholic legend, based on actual historical events, also holds that Boniface is the founder of the use of a Christmas tree to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. The story of the Christmas tree begins in England, where the very young Winfrid decided to enter a Benedictine monastery. Winfrid grew in holiness and piety but yearned to leave the monastery and bring the light of Christ to the pagan Germans. Winfrid heard reports that Pope Gregory II (r. 715-731) had sent missionaries to Bavaria in 716 and decided to travel to Rome to become a missionary to the Germans. Pope Gregory was delighted at the arrival of the eager Winfrid and after a period of time commissioned him to preach the Gospel in the regions of Thuringia, Bavaria, Franconia, and Hesse. In recognition of his special missionary commission the pope also changed Winfrid's name to Boniface.

Boniface spent the rest of his life evangelizing the areas of modern Germany and parts of the Netherlands. From his missionary travels, Boniface knew that in winter the inhabitants of the village of Geismar gathered around a huge old oak tree (known as the "Thunder Oak") dedicated to the god Thor. This annual event of worship centered on sacrificing a human, usually a small child, to the pagan god. Boniface desired to convert the village by destroying the Thunder Oak, which the pagans had previously boasted the God of Boniface could not destroy, so he gathered a few companions and journeyed to Geismar.

His fellow missionaries were scared and fearful that the Germans might kill them, so they balked when they reached the outskirts of the village on Christmas Eve. Boniface steadied the nerves of his friends and as they approached the pagan gathering he said, "Here is the Thunder Oak; and here the cross of Christ shall break the hammer of the false god Thor." Boniface and his friends arrived at the time of the sacrifice, which was interrupted by their presence. In a show of great trust in God and born from a desire to enkindle the fire of Christ in the German pagans, Boniface grabbed an axe and chopped down the Thunder Oak of mighty Thor.

The Germans were astounded. The holy bishop preached the Gospel to the people and used a little fir tree that was behind the now felled oak tree as a tool of evangelization. Pointing to it he said,

"This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace... It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are ever green. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wild wood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness."

Awed by the destruction of the oak tree and Boniface's preaching, the Germans were baptized.

In the centuries that followed, the Catholic tradition of using an evergreen tree to celebrate the birth of Jesus spread throughout Germany. Although there are many stories, legends, and myths surrounding the founding of the Christmas tree, including the claim that the custom originated with Martin Luther, there is only one story rooted in a real person and a real event: Boniface, converter of the Germans, who destroyed Thor's mighty oak.



## 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 Ring Muriel on 01896 831418 or Rhona on 01896 751484

Roslynn, JJ, Aimee, Stuart & Rosemarie, Darrin, Fiona, Ivy, Karina, James, Jaci, William, Bethany, Katie & John, Jim, Ruth, Kris, Joanna, Rebecca, Ian and Oliver, Steph, Emily and Holly, Sadie, Nicholas, Patricia, 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](mailto:maryandal@tiscali.co.uk)**

## VIEW FROM THE BEACH (SAND BED)



Well here I am six months on and counting. It certainly has been quite a struggle so far. After arriving here in June after 3 weeks at home with what was a small sore to begin with ended up being a nightmare and a hole as large as my fist. If that wasn't enough to cope with in the early days of my admission I developed more complications with my stomach and was being treated for a twisted bowl and an

inflamed gall bladder. To put it in context a bit of a mess. After all that happening in the first 3 weeks of my stay things were beginning to settle again and the healing could begin in earnest. Or so I thought.

By this time almost 3 and a half months had passed and things were going well until mid-October when I developed severe pains and was transferred to the Cardiac Unit for 5 days after suffering a mild heart attack for which I can now say that I am recovering well from and now beginning the real rehabilitation of daily exercises with both the physios and nurses on the ward. I still have a long way to go yet and with your support of prayers and visits I have found great strength and courage in these tough times.

Finally I would like to leave with you these few thoughts.

Being in bed and not get up every day for months on end – plenty of experience of that. Sometimes a small room (my Bedroom) and a TV. That's what it is like.

I'm also reminded of my faith in all of this and to this I think of a song that was a hit with one of my favourite songs by a group called RUNRIG. Every River  
*Every River I try to climb and every river I try to cross  
There's no way I'd rather be with you, there's no way without you.*

Of course I'm talking about God in this context. I certainly valued his help and support through these tough times.

Well it's getting late now and I will be going to bed in the sand.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND AGAIN THANKS AND KEEP ON PRAYING.  
YOUR FRIEND TONY

## Message from SLT

As you all are very much aware, we are in an extended interregnum! An advert for the 50% Area Rector post went out earlier in the year and unfortunately there were no applicants. There is a working group in place which includes Nancy, Mike Reynolds and me who have worked with 3 members of St John's Selkirk over the last 18 months. We went back to the Bishop in the Spring to request a meeting to discuss a way forward and we met with the Bishop in June/July time.

We were informed at that time that the diocese was in discussion regarding a part time post which would fit well with the post in Gala and Selkirk. However until the funding was secured, he couldn't give us many details.

In September, the Bishop advised us that the "Area Rector" was required to be changed to "Priest in Charge". From our point of view nothing has changed but the funding for the other part time post is only for three years initially. Apparently a Rector post can't be time limited but a Priest in Charge can be! This has now been agreed by Vestry and the college of Bishops.

We then met the Bishop, Anne Thomlinson and members of the working group on 12/11/16 and had a very positive meeting. We were all very hopeful that we would be a big step closer to filling the post of Area Priest in Charge. We had a timetable drawn up and the advert would be going out in December with interviews in February.

We are now in a position to share the information with you regarding the full time post. The 50% Area Priest in Charge post is to be advertised with a diocesan 50% post, creating a full time post which will be more attractive than a part time post. The diocesan 50% post is for a "Mixed Mode Tutor" who will work with the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) and linked to St Mellitus College in London (SMC). This tutor post and the Priest in Charge role fit very well together with similar person requirements and specification.

This person will live in our Rectory and work every Wednesday in Edinburgh. The way that training for ministry is now delivered, involves the student working part of the time in a church for 6 months as well as studying. The Mixed Mode Tutor will be the person that oversees the students and arranges their placements as well as teaching them. The post is initially for 3 years as it is thought that it may become a full time post after that.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, we had an update from +John and he had been advised that SMC still require approval from their Executive Committee and they don't meet until the end of January. This delay has been due to staff changes and an oversight but we have been assured that it just a formality and that the advert should be able to go out in early February.

Although there is a delay, I, and I'm sure I speak for the rest of the working group, feel that this is a way forward and a positive step. It is disappointing

that we will have to wait a further 2 months before the post can be advertised but we could use this time constructively and maybe do some mission work under Pip's guidance. The SLT has already had some discussion on this but nothing has been agreed yet.

So we have a way forward, there is a delay but if we have got through the last 18 months since Duncan left, then hopefully we can get through the next few months as well. I know it has been a difficult time for some people and the Vestry and SLT have been trying to make things run smoothly. There is light at the end of the tunnel but we need to hang in there for a wee while yet.

My way of thinking is that may be the right person for the job, isn't quite at the right stage yet to apply and during this slight delay God will have a hand in showing them. **Remember, God has His own timing and it doesn't always fall within our expectations so please keep praying.**

Karen Ellis

O Lord, help me to live this year  
Quietly, easily,  
To lean on Thy great strength  
Trustfully, restfully,  
To wait for the unfolding of Thy will  
Patiently, serenely,  
To meet others  
Peacefully, joyfully,  
To face each tomorrow courageously

Hebrew Year 5777 Christian Year 2017 Islamic Year 1438