

**St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels**

Scottish Charity SC006210

*Useful Numbers and e-mail addresses*

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**Sunday Squad**

Rhona McCleman: 01896 751484

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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

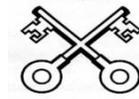
10.00am Holy Communion service takes place in the hall

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

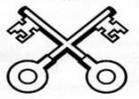
Last Friday of the month

5.00pm Choir practice

# St. Peter's Church



## Magazine



Dominical Commandments

## March 2017

£1.00 Recommended donation per issue

### Shared Leadership Team

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### Church Diary March 2017

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am Communion
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.00pm World Day of Prayer service at Our Lady and St Andrew's church
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Family service
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Vestry meeting
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Communion
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	Diocesan Synod @ St Paul's & St George's
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Bill Elliot 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>	Mothering Sunday 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Duncan McCosh
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm Messy Church
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Communion
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	5.00pm choir practice
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30am Family Service followed by coffee & chat

### GREAT TRUTHS LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mum is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 5) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

### History of the Scottish Episcopal Church

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The history of the Scottish Episcopal Church is traced by the church to ancient times. The Church today is a Christian denomination in Scotland and a member of the Anglican Communion. It has enjoyed a distinct identity and is neither Roman nor English. It is therefore not a Daughter Church in the Anglican Communion.

### Origins of Christianity in Scotland

Saint Ninian conducted the first Christian mission to what is now southern Scotland.

In 563 St Columba travelled to Scotland with twelve companions, where according to his legend he first landed at the southern tip of the Kintyre peninsula. However, being still in sight of his native land he moved further north up the west coast of Scotland. He was granted land on the island of Iona. He was also very energetic in his evangelical work, and, in addition to founding several churches in the Hebrides, he worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries. He died on Iona and was buried in the abbey he created.

The Scottish church would continue to grow in the centuries that followed. In the 11th century, St Margaret (Queen Consort of Malcolm III of Scotland) strengthened the church's ties with the Roman Catholic Church and bring Scottish Christians into full communion with that church.

At the Scottish Reformation in 1560 the church in Scotland broke with Rome, in a process of Protestant reform led, among others, by John Knox. In 1560, the Scottish Parliament abolished papal jurisdiction and approved Calvin's Confession of Faith, but did not accept many of the principles laid out in Knox's *First Book of Discipline*. The 1560 Reformation Settlement was not ratified by the crown for some years, and the question of church government also remained unresolved. In 1572 the acts of 1560 were finally approved by the young James VI, but the Concordat of Leith also allowed the crown to appoint bishops with the church's approval. In response to the new Concordat a Presbyterian party emerged headed by Andrew Melville, the author of the *Second Book of Discipline*.

The Scottish Episcopal Church had its origins in 1582 when the Church of Scotland rejected episcopal government (by bishops), and adopted full presbyterian government (by elders) and reformed theology.

Scottish monarchs made repeated efforts to introduce bishops, and two church traditions began.

I want to tell you a story

It was six in the morning and I was waiting for the train in Gala to leave and go west for my annual pilgrimage to Grangemouth known as the Christmas work dinner. As the train got closer there was a large light in the darkness shining bright overhead, it was not a star; it's just it never gets dark in Grangemouth!!! The works night out is a good social event, no expense spared, dinner, drink and no water into wine, just plenty of wine and more, be merry was the cry. As I looked around I noticed that after now 17 years I was one of the more senior people there with lots of new faces filling the ranks. Good time was had by all and it was now time to move the party on to a different venue, so it up to us older ones to arrange taxis to move everyone on into Falkirk to find a new watering hole. Bear with me, the purpose of this story is coming if you have not worked it out yet. It was still early doors when I noticed one of the young lads starting to act like a Gerry Anderson Puppet without any strings. I was asked to see if he was ok, no trouble I said, how hard could that be. I went across and asked how he was and suggested he got a taxi home, "John" was the reply, and "you're the best" remember this for future reference!! Then came the management asking for him to leave the premises and on the other hand I have this muppet trying to be my best friend and wanting more drink. At last with help I got him to the taxi rank but he was sinking fast into the pavement. As no taxi would take him, I managed to persuade one, as long as I would look after him on his way home. I was told the address, could not just leave him, so off we went. On the ten minute run to his house, he fell asleep, I was his best pal and he was trying to box me for whatever reason, forgot to say he was Irish, so the slang was off the scale. We got to his street to find out that we were at the wrong address, no key and he was now sleeping against someone's door and to make thing worse I had left my coat back in Falkirk, I was now on my own and a cold reasoning was setting in on my predicament, only a short time ago I was having a great time and then asked to see if this young lad was OK.

I should not have worried, I should have remembered that you are never alone. The door of this house opened and this man appeared in a white vest and pants!!! Are you ok he said, I quickly apologised and told him what had happened. He didn't know me or my friend from work who was unconscious on his door step and would you believe it, in a heartbeat he asked us in off the street, coming out onto the street to give me a hand to carry him into his own home. I really could not believe this kind and caring gentleman and even now, I don't even know his name. What would you have done, closed the door on me. Maybe for us at St Peters we are just waiting on another door opening, you just never know when that will be and for the right reasons.

John Maltman

### **Statement from +John 11/02/2017**

'I am sad to tell you that the plan for a joint appointment of an Area Priest for Gala & Selkirk and Tutor for the Scottish Episcopal Institute cannot now proceed. St Mellitus College in London have indicated that they do not after all have the resources to support us in this whilst maintaining their work elsewhere.

I know that this will cause deep disappointment. It is a feeling I share, not just because it seemed such a promising solution but also because it has diverted us from pursuing other options. All I can say is that everyone involved, the joint appointment group, the Scottish Episcopal Institute and I, have acted in good faith and were quite taken aback when St Mellitus College indicated that this could not be one of their present priorities. This comes for them after a period in which they have appointed a new Principal with all the reassessment of priorities that implies.

Our Provincial training institute must now take stock. They have tentative plans, but these no longer involve a joint appointment with us. This means we are back where we started some time ago. And although I know there has been a lot of learning over the past eighteen months, and the leadership team has been tremendous, as have your interim pastors and others who have helped out, you will be feeling understandably weary.

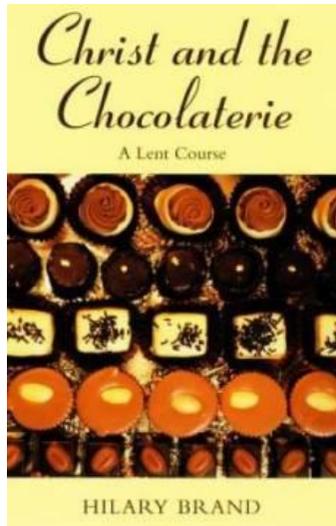
This is clearly a time for us to take stock too and to consider whether there are ways forward that God is calling us to follow. For me it is now a priority to work with both charges to discern what the Spirit is saying to us. Your prayers and mine for everyone involved are vital and will make all the difference.

+John

This is indeed VERY disappointing news. However as we – members of the SLT including both our Interim Pastors – have come to trust and support each other and work together for our church and you as members of St Peter's family have also trusted and supported us so we can and will continue to do this for as long as God wants us to. In this modern age we have become accustomed to instant solutions so perhaps one of the things God wants us to learn is patience. We need to remember the positive things that have happened over the past few months – for me some of those are the various preachers who have visited us and interpreted the scriptures and Gospel in different and interesting ways.

Sheena

## LENT STUDY GROUP



Starts Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March after church.

Bring your lunch to 1 Kingsknowe Drive – we could car-share from church.

We will be looking at the film “Chocolat” and using this as the basis for the Lent study.

Nancy has copies of the accompanying book “Christ and the Chocolaterie”



Did you know that you can remove felt pen marks with toothpaste?

It can also be used to remove scratches from car paintwork, your glasses, mobile phone and tablet screens, DVDs

Just remember it is also good for cleaning you teeth!!



## ST PETER'S CHURCH WEB SITE

The original one was created some years ago, but it is now not possible to make changes, so a new one is being developed with help from the Diocese Communications Coordinator.

To truly reflect what our congregation would like to see in this new 'tool', I am going to ask you to tell me what you would like to see.

To this end I shall be putting up a large sheet of paper – titled “ST PETER'S WEBSITE THOUGHTS”

With it there will be post-it notes and pencils. Then I would like, as many persons as possible, to put your ideas on a post-it note, and to place it on the “THOUGHTS” sheet. Please respond, I will have the sheet displayed for a number of Sundays.

Of course e-mail messages will also be acceptable to [brianpudnes@gmail.com](mailto:brianpudnes@gmail.com)

## LENT SUPPERS 2017

We will be holding another series of Lent Suppers and Talks in the **Trinity Centre** each **Tuesday** during Lent.

March 7<sup>th</sup> **THE MUSIC OF LENT**

March 14<sup>th</sup> **THE ART OF LENT**

March 21<sup>st</sup> **THE WORSHIP OF LENT**

March 28<sup>th</sup> **THE HYMNS OF LENT**

April 4<sup>th</sup> **THE MEANING OF LENT**

You are invited to join us for **supper** at **7pm** followed by the talk and discussion or if you can't make the supper then you are welcome to join us for the **talk and discussion** at **8pm**. We look forward to seeing you.

Holy Trinity Church, Melrose sc000966

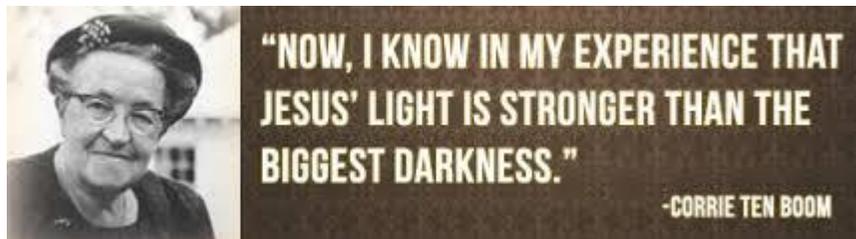
Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that.

And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion - I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

"Jesus, help me!" I prayed silently "I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!"



Robert Burns whom I quoted earlier, gave the world an anthem for forgiveness in the song 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind,  
should auld acquaintance be forgot for auld lang syne.

And here's a hand my trusty fier and gies a hand o thine, we'll  
tak a cup o kindness yet for auld lang syne.



Bill Elliot.

## Dominical Commandments

**D**ominical Commandments are church speak for

'Commandments of the Lord'. The Lord being Jesus. We are familiar with the Great Commandment - 'Love God and your neighbour as yourself and others such 'Do this in remembrance of me', 'Go and make disciples of all nations.'

Today I want to talk about another, which is perhaps the most difficult one for us.

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." (Mark 11:25-26 NIV)

We find constant reference in the Gospels and Epistles about being a forgiving people. It is not an option but a command.

Although it is easy to say I'm not so sure that it is easy to do.

Forgiveness is a double edged sword. We ask for forgiveness for ourselves but also have to be forgiving of others.

Forgiveness only works though if we repent of what we have done and in turn we can really only forgive someone if they ask us for forgiveness.

In Tam O' Shatner, Burns speaks of Tam's wife back at home, 'there sits our sulky, sullen dame, gathering her brows like gathering storm, Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.'

In Mathew's version of the Lord's prayer the word debts is used instead sins. This reminds us of a debt owed that we have to let go. We cannot both forgive and hold onto the debt. It takes effort to do so and we end up like Tam o Shanter's wife nursing our wrath to keep it warm. Damaging to ourselves and others.

I don't know how I would fare if I were ever in a position to have to forgive someone of some unspeakable crime against myself or a loved one but I need to remember that forgiveness is not the same as forgetting about or condoning some action. There have been some outstanding examples of such forgiveness in our own time.

Gordon Wilson

I miss my daughter, and we shall miss her but I bear no ill will, I bear no grudge. She was a great wee lassie, she loved her profession. She was a pet and she's dead. She's in heaven, and we'll meet again.

Marie's father told the BBC that he forgave her killers and added: "I shall pray for those people tonight and every night."

Nelson Mandela

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison."

Eric Lomax 'The Railway Man'

More than half a century after their previous meeting, the two men approached each other on the bridge on the river Kwai. After bowing formally, Nagase nervously acknowledged that the Japanese Imperial Army had treated the British appallingly.

Lomax found himself saying: "We both survived". Later Nagase said: "I think I can die safely now". When they next met, in a Tokyo hotel room, Lomax carefully read out a letter he had written assuring Nagase of his total forgiveness.

In finishing I'm sure many of you will be aware of Corrie ten Boom and I want to end with an extract from her book 'No Hiding Place.'

It was 1947 and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives.

"When we confess our sins," I said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever."

People stood up in silence, in silence collected their wraps, in silence left the room. And that's when I saw him, working his way forward against the others. One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones.

It came back with a rush: the huge room with its harsh overhead lights, the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the

centre of the floor, the shame of walking naked past this man. I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. Betsie, how thin you were!

Betsie and I had been arrested for concealing Jews in our home during the Nazi occupation of Holland; this man had been a guard at Ravensbrück concentration camp where we were sent.

Now he was in front of me, hand thrust out: "A fine message, fräulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!"

And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course-how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

But I remembered him and the leather crop swinging from his belt. It was the first time since my release that I had been face to face with one of my captors and my blood seemed to freeze.

"You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard in there." No, he did not remember me.

"But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein"-again the hand came out-"will you forgive me?"

And I stood there-I whose sins had every day to be forgiven and could not. Betsie had died in that place-could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out, but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

For I had to do it-I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us. "If you do not forgive men their trespasses," Jesus says, "neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

I knew it not only as a commandment of God, but as a daily experience. Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality.