

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

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

Organist

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

Sunday Squad

Rhona McCleman: 01896 751484

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>

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

3rd Wednesday of the month April – October CPR collection

4th Tuesday of the month during school terms

5.30 – 7.00pm Messy Church

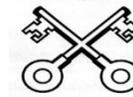
Thursdays

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 Magazine



And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Acts 1:9

May 2017

£1 Recommended donation per issue

| Shared Leadership Team | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Al Christie | ☎ 755480 | maryandal@tiscali.co.uk |
| Sheena Cossar | ☎ 751694 | smstcg1945@gmail.com |
| Karen Ellis | ☎ 757429 | karenellishome@hotmail.co.uk |
| John Maltman | ☎ 850556 | john.maltman@forthports.co.uk |
| Nancy Muir | ☎ 758017 | as.muir@btinternet.com |

Church Diary May

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thur 4 th | 10.00am Communion Service |
| Sun 7 th | 9.45am Family breakfast 10.30am Family service |
| Mon 8 th | 11.00am Oakwood Park Communion service |
| Thurs 11 th | 10.00am Communion Service |
| Sat 13 th | 10.00-12.00 Holy Trinity Spring Fair @ Corn Exchange 12.30 Soup 'n' Pud lunch for Christian Aid |
| Sun 14 th | 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice & toast 10.30 Sung Eucharist Rev Charles Aitchison 6.00pm Healing service Father Philip Blackledge CPR delivery |
| Mon 15 th | 3.00pm Afternoon Tea Service |
| Tues 16 th | CPR collection |
| Wed 17 th | 10am Communion Service |
| Thurs 18 th | 7.30pm SLT meeting @ Sheena's |
| Sun 21 st | 8.30am Holy Communion Re Duncan McCosh 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice and toast 10.30 Sung Eucharist Rev Duncan McCosh |
| Mon 22 nd | 7.30pm Vestry meeting |
| Thurs 25 th | 10am Communion Service 7.30pm candlelit Eucharist for Ascension Day @ Holy Trinity |
| Fri 26 th | 5.00pm choir practice |
| Sat 27 th | 2.00pm Wedding |
| Sun 28 th | 9.30am Sunday Squad followed by juice and toast 10.30 Sung Eucharist |
| Mon 29 th | 7.00pm Bottletop Sort |



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

GREAT TRUTHS SENIORS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional...
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions...
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Pastoral Care

If you know of anyone in the congregation – especially those who can't get to services – who would like visitors **please tell Al Christie**. The folk don't need to be ill, just housebound and/or lonely.

If they are ill, or in hospital, **Al needs to be told this too**.

It appears that folk are falling through the net because no one has mentioned their need to Al so he cannot get the pastoral care visitors out to see them. We are a family and no one should be feeling left out. If you would like to become a visitor talk to Al.



Galashiels Fellowship of Churches - 21st March 2017

The Christmas Tree Festival will run again this year following its success in 2016.

Problems with the GFOC leaflets that are placed in the Bus Station. I was advised that the problem was young people running through the bus station and pulling leaflets out and scattering. However I noted that this didn't happen to the leaflets for the Easter Services.

Street Pastors continue to do well

Unfortunately there appears to be no interest in the Work Place Chaplaincy following the recent distribution of new posters.

Volunteers for the Sunday services at the BGH Chaplaincy – Plea for Churches to uphold this valued outreach ministry in prayer and ask for caring people who would enjoy helping and are fit enough to push wheelchairs.

Week of prayer for Christian unity is to be held during May

There is to be a Songs of Praise held on June 4th in St Pauls at 7.30pm

Kilombero Rice Challenge – involves buying 90kgm of rice directly from the Malawian farmers via Just Trading Scotland. The Challenge is to sell it in 30 days. The rice comes in 1kgm bags at £3 per kgm and the income goes directly to the farmer and it enough to send one of his children to secondary school for a year.

Ethel Pender



All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

The Ascension of the Lord Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB

Ascension (Acts 1.1-11)

How are we to envisage what happened at the Ascension? Two feet disappearing into a cloud? It is mentioned only in the Acts, and the other gospels seem to imply that the Risen Christ was glorified on the day of the Resurrection itself. Luke, the author, is putting across several messages. Firstly, the 40 days since Easter should not be carefully counted. In biblical language '40' makes just 'a fairly long period', often a period of preparation, like Jesus' 40 days being tested in the desert, or Israel's 40 years of the Exodus. For all that time Jesus has been preparing his apostles. Secondly, it is the definitive parting of the physical Jesus, after which the Risen Christ is no longer with his disciples. It is now the Spirit of Christ which is at the heart of the Church, inspiring all its activity. Thirdly, Luke represents Jesus as a prophet (and more than a prophet), so he leaves his disciples in the same way as the prophet Elijah, who was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot, leaving his disciple Elisha to carry on his work, filled with a double share of his spirit.

Question: What is the essence of the Ascension: feet disappearing into a cloud, or the completion of Christ's vindication?

The Gifts of Christ (Ephesians 4.1-13)

This reading has two crucial passages, divided by a puzzling section. The Letter to the Ephesians was probably written by a close follower of Paul rather than the apostle himself. In many ways it sums up and develops Paul's teaching. The puzzling bit in the middle is a specialized piece of Jewish exegesis, brought in by the quotation of Psalm 68 (67).18. The point of the passage is not the rather contrived explanation of 'ascended', but the fact that Christ's return to the Father ensured the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are detailed both before and after the quotation. The earlier part is almost a reflection on Paul's plea to the Corinthians in First Corinthians 1-3, urging them to abandon their squabbles and work together: 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism', a unity of Christ's followers for which we are still hoping and praying ever more urgently. After the quotation comes what could also be a reflection on the later teaching of First Corinthians 12-14 about the gifts of the Spirit. Through the Spirit every member of the Church has their own special gift, their own special contribution and ministry to building up the body of Christ. Question: How should we balance the disagreements between Christians and the need for unity?

The Conclusion of the Gospel of Mark (Mark 16.15-20)

This final blessing on the mission of the disciples summarizes events narrated in the Acts of the Apostles, events which show the power of the Spirit at work in their mission. Finally the account of the Ascension itself is given, modelled on the account given in the Acts, the assurance of the power of Christ which stands behind all the works of his followers and believers. Most of these activities would not be expected in today's Church, but the first and the last are still the task of the Church. Casting out evil spirits and healing may not be done so dramatically as in the gospel miracles, but it is still the Christian's task to bring goodness where there is evil and healing where there are wounds. We have many opportunities in the course of the day either to foment anger and enmity or to soothe it, opportunities to roughen a wound or to smooth it down. As we know from our failures to do this, such works are the works of the Spirit of Christ, supporting our own weakness and triumphing over our own leanings towards evil.

Question: What would you say are the marks of Christ's presence and power at work in the Church?

Request for volunteers

Both the above tasks do not involve great commitment or time but it would be greatly appreciated if somebody would step forward and take over. Please talk to Karen if you can help.



For many years Brian and Beryl Ellis have tended to the memorial garden and kept it tidy, weed free and provided bedding plants. As they are now both octogenarians they have asked if somebody else can take over this task.



Also Karen Ellis is requesting that somebody else take over being the co-ordinator for Christian Aid. This involves arranged a couple of fund raising events a year and putting out the envelopes in church. No street collections are carried out by St Peter's generally.



Vestry Secretary

Our good friend Gordon Lounsbach is having to resign as Vestry Secretary at the end of July (subject to surgeon) for health reasons.

He will be delighted to show his successor the ropes before he leaves. This means that whoever volunteers to take over can come to the next Vestry meeting on 22nd May to shadow Gordon. The commitment is for up to 10

meetings each year to work with the team that is responsible for running of the church within the canons of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The meetings are not quite as lively as the cartoon suggests!!

Eeyore's Corner

It was Monday morning.

Eeyore awoke and gazed into the pond.

"At least I'm still here" he said blearily.

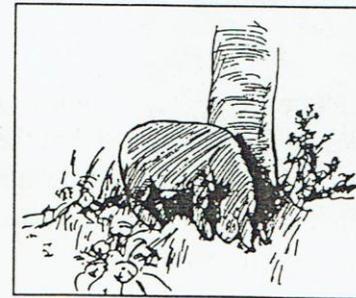
"Must be" he pondered, as he peered into the surface of the water.

"That face, the nose, those eyes and ears, look like mine" he said, feeling reassured. "Same old me" he said. "All alone" he added gloomily as he gazed.

Suddenly the water twitched and bubbled: something darted to and fro. "Whatever's that?" said Eeyore.

"Somebody's in the water!" he added in shocked tones.

"Nobody asked me" he thought "They never do" he added, gloomily.



Peering through the surface he saw hundreds of tiny fish - flashing, darting, hovering and gazing ... at him!

And *they* saw a smile spread over his face as the new day dawned. ©



Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

"Wow! I've got one from someone I know!"

And God Looked Down

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed that seniors would become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things.....thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom, He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So.....if you find as you age that you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.



When Bishop John was at St Peter's on Sunday 23rd April he reiterated his disappointment that the link with St Melitus College and the Scottish Episcopal College will not now go ahead. He is planning to meet with the working groups again and will let us know the outcome of these meetings in due course.

Life at St Peter's will continue as usual with the aid of the Shared Leadership Team and Vestry, with visiting clergy 3 times a month and Geoff Mason as our interim pastor.



Sunday 28th May 10.30am
Songs of Praise service followed
by bring and share lunch.

Choose your favourite hymns
and if you are in church that
morning we'll sing them – if
not we'll sing something else!! Please fill out the sheet at the
back so that Nancy knows what music to look out.

Hamish's Special Day



SLT in May

We have now reached the time when the Vestry has to arrange another Calling Out for the Shared Leadership Team as the current Team are coming to the end of their 3 year term. The process takes some time and the Vestry has decided that we should aim to start the process by the end of June.

To remind you how the system works:-

First every member of our church family will receive a leaflet asking you to consider prayerfully the qualities required for leadership and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to think about who you wish to nominate from the congregation.

The process is anonymous and there is no guarantee that any particular person will be invited to join the Team. Please don't discuss the identity or suggestions with ANYONE.

Members of the current Team may or may not be called out for the next Team.

Qualities required for leadership

Listener, sense of humour, wisdom - gauging people's views, willingness to learn, non-judgemental, respect for other people's qualities, be able to take a wider view, be prepared to take risks, understand and acknowledge everyone's ministry, to discern gifts in others, organisational abilities.

to have oversight of

Liturgy, faith and spiritual development, mission and outreach, administration, pastoral care and ensuring sacramental ministry

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Galashiels Job Description – Leadership Team

Positions: Leadership Team

Purpose of Team:

The Leadership Team serves the Church by developing and facilitating the effective day- to-day running of St Peters;

Responsible to:

Appointed by and responsible to the Vestry;

Select of Team Members:

Team members will be nominated by the congregation following a 'calling out' process. The Team should have some who are vestry members as well as those who are not. Leadership within the group will be shared by all.

Description:

Work collaboratively as a team and maintain communication with the Vestry;

< individuals may have responsibilities for areas of church/congregation life;

< Identify, support and facilitate a Pastoral Care Team;

< Support and facilitate Outreach and Links to the community,

< Support and facilitate the Faith & Spiritual life of the congregation and the community;

< frequency of Team meetings – every three weeks

Time line

To discuss and decide about forming a Shared Leadership Team (SLT) for St Peter's.

Paperwork for a Calling Out of the SLT in June 2017

Calling Out papers returned by the end of July 2017

Names of those nominated put to the Vestry at the August meeting

SLT to begin in September and to be commissioned by the bishop to serve for 3 years. Date to be confirmed by Bishop's office.