

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers and e-mail addresses

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Hall Bookings

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Verger

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

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

Services

Sunday mornings

9.30am Sunday Squad followed by tea & toast

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by tea/coffee

1st Sunday of the month

6.30pm Choral Evensong @ Holy Trinity, Melrose

2nd Sunday of the month

6.00pm Healing/anointing service

3rd Sunday of the month

8.30am Communion service, 3rd Sunday only

9.45am Family breakfast

10.30am Family Eucharist (no 9.30 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

Last Friday of the month

5.00pm Choir practice

St. Peter's Church Magazine



October 2017

£1 Recommended donation per issue

Who do you think you are?

Do you watch this program? I find it fascinating – not because I am particularly interested in the “celebrities” but because of the way families change over the generations.

This often gives rise to remarks like “oh he’s got my Dad’s eyes” or “she looks like my Mum” when there are photographs of distant ancestors to bring the past generations to life. Actually these statements should be the other way round as the distinctive features can reappear several generations of decedents later. So maybe another question could be Who do you think you look like?

There is a Thomas Hardy poem called Heredity that brings these traits to mind.

I am the family face;
Flesh perishes, I live on,
Projecting trait and trace
Through time to times anon,
And leaping from place to place
Over oblivion.

The years-heired feature that can
In curve and voice and eye
Despise the human span
Of durance-that is I;
The eternal thing in man,
That heeds no call to die.

Below are some Royal look-alikes



Prince William and his 21 times great Grandfather King Edward 1
and Prince Harry and his great grandmother Queen Mary

SLT

You may remember that when the original Shared Leadership Team took office they were asked to answer 5 questions by way of introducing themselves to the congregation. Two new members have been called out and have been asked the same 5 questions. Here are Susan’s responses. Monica’s will be in the November magazine.

1) Where did you grow up?

I was born in Lewisham Hospital, South East London and lived nearby in Forest Hill, then aged 8 moved to Bellingham where I completed Primary education and went on to Senior School – Catford County Comprehensive. The school was only a year old when I started and had no VIth form but by the time I reached Vth year there was a thriving VIth and Upper VIth where I did my ‘A’ Levels. I then went on to Teacher Training College in Bromley, Kent. The College has long since been demolished – nothing I did, honest!!!

2) What was the most interesting place you have visited?

It has to be York. It just oozes history. However a small, derelict church in Beddgelert, North Wales, left a lasting impression on me and I prayed that such a beautiful, holy place could be renovated. To my delight I visited some years later and discovered a lively community hub within the beautiful restored building.

3) Who in history do you most admire?

Difficult to nominate just one so here are just some:- Nelson Mandela, Edith Cavell, the Suffragettes (though not the violence and desecration of artefacts), Mary Secole (a contemporary of Florence Nightingale but without the recognition), all Emergency and Aid workers.

4) Why is your Christian Faith important to you?

I was very young when I realised there was “something” and I came to know this later as my Faith and belief in God. Surprising really as my father was a total non-believer and my mother had been Plymouth Brethren until the age of 14 when she converted to Presbyterian. It was my grandmother who first took me to church and it always felt “right”. Daily assemblies at school were a delight and my love of hymns was nurtured. Until I was old enough to go alone to church services I used to sing hymns to myself and pray in private. I have always believed in the power of prayer and it has brought me great comfort through some less joyful passages of life.

5) When you look back on your life what has brought you most pleasure?

Having healthy children who have become happy and successful adults.



UPDATE OF CONGREGATIONAL LIST

It is time to update the list of members of St Peter's church. The list is held by the SLT (it used to be the Rector) and is used to make sure the names of all members of every family, their mailing address, e-mail,

landline and mobile phone are up to date.

The information is used to contact folk on church matters, voluntary activities, rotas, distribution of the magazine either by e-mail or hand delivered when folk don't collect it from the back of church. The list is also used for Pastoral Care, making sure the housebound, those who are ill – at home or in hospital – and folk who would like to receive Communion are contacted on a regular basis and given lifts to Tea, Healing or Thursday services or other appointments if required.

Due to changes to the Data Protection Act you now need to give your permission regarding how this information is used.

The SLT will no longer be able to give out contact details, we will just be able to give folk a message that you need to speak to them and ask them to get in touch with you.

Future mass e-mailings of rotas and magazines etc. will be sent out blind so that you only see your own address.

Included in this magazine is a form for your household to fill in so that we can get everything up to date. Please could you return it by the end of October. There will be a box at the back of church to put it in or if you can't get there yourself contact a member of the SLT whose names and numbers are on the inside front cover of the magazine, who will arrange to collect it.

NOTICE OF AGM

SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER @ 10.30 SERVICE

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND THIS MEETING

**THE REPORTS FROM VARIOUS CHURCH GROUPS WILL BE
ISSUED THE WEEK BEFORE THE MEETING**



Scam Warning: Phone message threatens HMRC lawsuit

There is currently a telephone scam where a recorded message is left, allegedly from HMRC, stating that HMRC are bringing a lawsuit against the individual and is going to sue them. The recipient is asked to press "1" to speak to the officer dealing with the case. This scam is becoming widely reported and seems to be targeting older people. Please do not reply to the message.

Two members of the congregation have received these calls in the past week and fortunately realised that there was something wrong. The call came on a Friday when my friend realised that she couldn't call HMRC or her accountant or solicitor for advice.

The message was: ' I am a case officer from Her Majesties Revenue and Customs, HMRC have filed a lawsuit in court against you. To discuss your case press 1'.

If you do press 1 then someone will tell you that you owe a large amount of unpaid tax which has to be paid at once or a warrant will be issued for your arrest, however this can be avoided if you pay at once by bank transfer.

Apparently this scam has already netted several million pounds for the fraudsters. They use shock and awe tactics to terrify callers into paying up instantly by phone before they realise they have been scammed.

NEVER GIVE YOUR PERSONAL OR BANK DETAILS TO ANYONE.

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Some thoughts about donations to the Food Bank

Most of us in this congregation are fortunate to have more than the basic necessities of life though we may have experienced times when we have had to choose to postpone paying a bill or not turned the heating up. Many of us are from a generation where we learned to make unusual ingredients into filling meals and reuse items of clothing either as hand-me-downs or transforming the material into something else. Even with this knowledge we might struggle these days. E.g. lentils and split peas make an excellent basis for soup but they require a lot of work and energy (both physical and electrical). Those who need to use the Food Bank will not be able to afford the cost of power for the long cooking times of this basic soup. Instead of buying packets of lentils and split pea soup perhaps you could include powdered potatoes which are a quick and filling addition to a basic meal. This is something that is always in short supply.

to those who are not yet part of any church, offering healing and transformation to those in greatest need.

What are the aims of the proposal?

With the development of a new Centre of Mission, it is hoped that not only will the people and vestries of these three congregations be supported in reaching out in mission to the local communities, but they will also continue to find renewal and growth in faith, worship, attendance and finances. This is to be experienced through reaching out to new communities and groups and growing disciples through evangelism, appropriate expressions of Church and worship, and social outreach. Already, the charges are committed and faithful congregations. By increasing their reach to these new communities and groups their faith will be given new opportunity to reach out in welcome to those who are not currently part of any church, transforming lives.

Finances and Housing

All partners will be aware that there are many discussions ahead regarding the details, arrangements and practicalities of this proposal, and at this time NO decisions have been made regarding finances or housing. It is anticipated that all partners will contribute financially to this proposal, with housing provision by any particular charge/s being taking into account. Obviously two homes would be required for the two Church Army Evangelists, ideally located in separate towns. In the event of this proposal being accepted, the Church Army and Diocese of Edinburgh would commit to some level of financial support for a minimum of 5 years.

Conclusion

We ask that this proposal be explored by both vestries and congregations, and brought by all involved to God in prayer for clear discernment. Our hope is that the exciting concept of creating a Centre of Mission across the churches will be accepted by each of the three partner charges as an inspiring potential way ahead. Once a clear decision has been made by all suggested partners, the next step is to explore the details together, both financial and practical. Trusting our God of all faithfulness to lead and guide, we offer this document for dissemination and discussion.

Rev Kerry Dixon

Church Army

kerry.dixon@churcharmy.org



Rev Annie Naish

Bishop's Enabler of Mission

mission@dioceseofedinburgh.org



Community Prayer Response

CPR is an important form of Outreach to our neighbours.

The paragraphs below show how this form of outreach from our church was set up.

CPR is a way of reaching out to the people who live within walking distance of the Church and to offer to pray for them and their concerns. CPR has 5 stages

1 – once per month between April and September two people deliver a letter and prayer request card into 20 homes in a selected street at the beginning of the week.

2 – two people go out later in the week to the same houses to collect any prayer requests.

3 – while stage two is happening a group will be in the church upholding the CPR collectors in prayer.

4 – the collectors return and along with the prayer group pray through the requests.

5 – the prayer requests become part of the church intercessions on the following Sunday

Each month there are several requests for prayers from our church neighbours so this is a valued form of outreach and you don't have to go every month but a few hours of your time to deliver and collect cards if you are fit or the support of your prayers would be appreciated.

These days we do not have enough volunteers to provide the upholding of the collectors in prayer while they are out or to pray through the requests when they are brought in. It only takes a couple of hours one evening a month between April and September. **PLEASE** look into your hearts and diaries and see if you can't help with this valued outreach when we restart in April 2018. We could do with more folk delivering and collecting the cards too.

Talk to Nancy to let her know when and how you can help.



Developments at St Peter's

The visit of Rev Kerry Dixon of the Church Army and Rev Annie Naish from the diocese on Sunday 10 September was an informative occasion, helping us understand more of what being part of a Centre of Mission would mean for St Peter's. There are Church Army Centres of Mission in Scotland. The Vestries of the 3 churches had met with Kerry and the Bishop on 29 June. This is a possible way forward, working with St John's Selkirk and St Cuthbert's Hawick.

Kerry spoke about a Centre of Mission in his sermon, and there was a question-and-answer session at the end of the service. Individuals were also able to have time with Kerry and Annie after the service.

The principles involved and some of the implications are outlined in more detail in 'Proposal Outline for a New Partnership in Mission and Ministry'. PLEASE READ AND CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL PRAYERFULLY.

Vestry are writing to the Bishop to indicate that they are in favour of pursuing this possibility further.

It would be especially helpful to know if you are generally in favour or not, so please give your feedback to Vestry members or S L T members by **15 October**.

Even if there is consensus about this option, there will clearly be a lot of detail still to work through.

Thank you. *Geoff Mason, interim Pastor*

Proposal Outline for a New Partnership in Mission and Ministry

Background

Three Scottish Episcopal Churches in different towns along the A7 in the Scottish Borders are currently seeking the way forward to develop their mission and ministry. With committed lay leadership and congregations, each church has been a faithful Christian community and consistent presence in their locality, offering Eucharistic ministry and pastoral care to those in need, and bearing witness to the good news of God's love in word and deed. At present each church is in a period of vacancy and as no one charge is able to support a full time stipend, various avenues have been explored. Thus far there have been no appointments made, but whilst this has had its challenges, worship and ministry have continued and there have been positive opportunities for development of individuals and teams. Now we are exploring a new project to build upon this heritage, and create ways for life and growth, both within and outwith the existing congregations.

What is proposed?

The new proposal is that instead of seeking individual paths ahead and separate Rectors, the three churches of St Peter's in Galashiels, St John's in Selkirk and St Cuthbert's in Hawick work in partnership with the Church Army and the Diocese of Edinburgh to establish a Centre of Mission across all three charges. This would be led by a team of two: a full time, ordained Priest-in-Charge/Lead Evangelist and a subsequent appointment of a Pioneer Evangelist. The proposal is that the Priest-in-Charge/Lead Evangelist would be responsible for the vision, mission, worship and daily ministry of the three churches, working together with those already authorised. This person will also continue to develop each congregation's growing understanding of itself as being 'outward facing' while also being supportive of the inner life and health of the congregations. The Pioneer Evangelist will work under the guidance of the Priest-in-Charge/Lead Evangelist and probably be based in a different town. Whilst working to support mission and ministry in churches across the partnership, the primary focus of this role would be on inspiring and enabling outreach and evangelism to those outwith the existing congregations.

Each charge has worked hard during the recent times of being without a Rector, and the season of vacancy has enabled many gifted and talented folk to rise to the challenges of leadership and ministry. This project will thus continue to encourage and develop these ministries through ordained leadership committed to collaboration and enabling others. While remaining independent entities, each congregation would be expected to participate in this new venture as one of five partners. The vestries of each would work with the two appointed leaders in a supportive manner and be committed to enabling the flourishing of all other partners through prayer, fellowship, and sharing of resources and costs where appropriate.

What is a Centre of Mission?

One of the key partners in this proposal is the Church Army who has established a number of Centres of Mission across the UK, and currently has a number of projects working with Episcopal Churches in Scotland (Glencoe, Dundee, Fife and Newcastleton). They partner closely with the host diocese and local churches to offer leadership and expertise, and provide training to help other Christians share their faith through words and action.

A Centre of Mission is not necessarily a physical building, but rather this phrase speaks of a community of people living out the life of Christ. As intentional disciples they engage their local communities to introduce Jesus