

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers and e-mail addresses

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Treasurer

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Organist

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Sunday Squad

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Hall Bookings

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Verger

Phil Todd: 07787 729639

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

Services

Sunday mornings

10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by tea/coffee

1st Sunday of the month

9.30am Sunday Squad

6.30pm Choral Evensong @ Holy Trinity, Melrose

2nd Sunday of the month

6.00pm Healing/anointing service

3rd Sunday of the month

8.30am, April - October Communion service,

9.45am Family breakfast

10.30am Family Eucharist

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



The Adoration of the Magi,

tapestry, wool and silk on cotton warp, 101 1/8 x 151 1/4 inches (258 x 384 cm.),

Manchester Metropolitan University

Designed by Edward Burne Jones with details by William Morris and John Henry Dearle - Scanned from Stephen Wildman, *Edward Burne-Jones: Victorian Artist-Dreamer*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1998,

January 2018

£1 Recommended donation per issue



“Journey Of The Magi”

Moses was old, a chill in his bones.
 Falling apart, he knew in his heart that his
 time had come.
 As he lay in his tent in the hot desert sands,
 he smiled at how he would never see his
 promised land.
 He sang "I could have lived and died an
 Egyptian prince, I could have played safe,
 but in the end the journey's brought joys that outweigh the pain."

Odysseus sat tired and alone.
 He'd always held out against all the doubts that he would come home.
 But now he was here, his soul felt estranged.
 His wife and his dog, his son and his Gods, everything changed.
 He sang "I could have stayed and ruled as an Ithican prince,
 I could've played safe.
 But in the end the journey's brought joys that outweigh the pain."

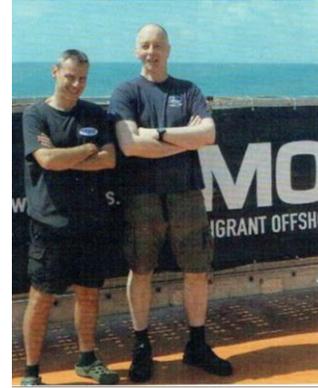
Balthazar rode for seven long years, eastwards and far,
 he followed his star, and it brought him here.
 To a stable in ruins in some backwater town,
 to a virgin defiled, no king but a child, too small for a crown.
 He sang "I could have lived with my Gods as a Persian prince,
 I could've played safe,
 but in the end the journey's brought joys that outweigh the pain."

Paupers and kings, princes and thieves,
 singers of songs, righters of wrongs, be what you believe.
 So saddle your horse and shoulder your load,
 burst at the seams, be what you dream, and take to the road.

by Frank Turner



Just a reminder that it is time to renew your membership of the 100 Club for 2018. The draw takes place each month and you could win £25. The rest of the money goes into much needed church funds. If you are not already a member do think about joining. £1.00 per month.



MISSION TO SEAFARERS From an article in FAN (Flying Angel News) magazine.

Following a meeting between the Migrant Offshore Aid Service (MOAS) and the Secretary General of the Mission to Seafarers Andrew Wright, one of their chaplains is now supporting MOAS search and rescue staff on a pilot mission in South Asia. MOAS were working in the central Mediterranean to rescue migrants and refugees who were travelling by sea. Their focus has moved to the humanitarian crisis in Asia, where Rev Tim Tunley from The Mission to Seafarers is currently with the crew of MY Phoenix in Sri Lanka. Tim is supporting crew delivering aid to the Rohingya refugees who are fleeing Myanmar for Bangladesh.

Since the article appeared Tim has been transferred to different ship where he is serving as Chaplain.

Wise Men, Return to the World Pope John Paul II, (Epiphany homily, 2001)

"...we are like the 3 Wise Men who journeyed to Jesus. Now, like those Wise Men, we return to the world from which we came, to the everyday life where we will witness to what we have seen.

..."indeed it compels us to start out afresh on a new stage of the journey on which we become proclaimers and heralds....The Wise Men were in a sense the first missionaries. Their encounter with Christ did not keep them in Bethlehem, but made them set out anew on the paths of the world.

"We need to 'set out anew from Christ,' with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm. To set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness, with an attitude of prayer and of listening to his word. To set out from him in order to testify to his Love by living a Christian life marked by communion, charity, and witness before the world."

Ministry of Healing

When I look back on my life it is amazing and wonderful how my Christian journey and that of Helen Crockett have been intertwined and led to this present time. I was brought up in the Congregational Church in a village in Cheshire. I met Helen, a Congregationalist from Cambridge when we were training to be missionaries with the London Missionary Society in Carey Hall, Birmingham in 1962 I was a doctor, my dream since I was eight years old, and Helen was a teacher. We became best friends that year and have kept in touch ever since. Helen was sent to work in Botswana and I to South India. We each met our future husbands whilst abroad - Helen married Richard, an Anglican geologist and I married Iain, a Church of Scotland minister. After we returned to Britain our two families visited each other for holidays.

In 1988 I arrived in Galashiels to establish the first McMillan Palliative Care Service in the Borders, together with two nurses. I joined St. Ninian's Church of Scotland. Encouraged by Helen, who was also living in Galashiels by then, I would occasionally attend the healing service at St Peter's and benefitted from the simple half hour Communion service including being blessed and anointed with oil by the Celebrant priest. The words of the blessing "May Almighty God make you whole in body, mind and spirit, and give you light and peace and keep you in life eternal" were so full of meaning and being anointed with oil with the words "May our Heavenly Father ...grant you the inward anointing of His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of strength and joy and peace".

The service has become such a blessing to me and the few members of St. Peter's and two members of the Church of Scotland who attend regularly at 6.00p.m on the second Sunday of every month. I hope that this will encourage you to come and experience this wonderful gift of healing and peace for yourself. You don't need to be ill to benefit from this service as the Spiritual healing helps us all.

Jesus' ministry of healing still continues here and now. I will gladly share more of my own experience if you ask me.

Yours in Christ, Shirley

6.00pm Second Sunday each month



SOUP 'N' PUD UPDATE

Did you know that the Soup 'n' Pud lunches bring in over £1,000 for church funds each year? We used to bring in double this amount. We really need this income so we don't want to stop holding the monthly lunches. Apart from the income they are a good form of outreach in the community and bring folk in to St Peter's who would otherwise not come to the church. There are a number of regular customers, most of whom are not church members who come along because they appreciate the good food and company. It would be good to have support from members of our congregation as customers too as it is a good opportunity to socialise and get to know each other better.

Recently, however, the core of helpers has dwindled for a number of reasons so the work of arranging the cooks and folk serve the food, set up and clear away and wash up seems to have fallen to Susan and on at least one occasion last year customers had to go through to the kitchen to collect their own food.

A couple of years ago we ran the lunches with teams who chose which month they could do and their group ran the whole event. This worked well and meant that there was no last minute scramble to make sure that there would be enough food. It also meant that the cooks and other helpers knew that they were only committed to one Saturday a year. With that in mind please would The Servers, The Sunday Squad, Messy Church, SLT, Vestry consider forming teams again and appoint their organiser and choose which month they would take. We already have two outreach months - January for Inner Wheel and May for Christian Aid. I am going to form a team of friends who are not members of our church but who are willing to come along - perhaps you could do the same.

There is a 2018 sheet for organisers to sign up. Individuals don't need to sign this sheet but should offer their assistance to the organiser.

It's a Wonderful Life

This film was the background for our Advent study. Even though it was made in the late 1940's it is still brought out in the TV "must see" programmes every year and was on the box again this Christmas. As Nancy explained in her talk on 31st December, the story follows George Bailey from his childhood through to Christmas 1945 when he is in despair and thinking of suicide. His guardian angel comes along and shows him what would have happened in his home town if George had never been born. We realise that though George thought that his life had been wasted because he had never been able to fulfil the dreams he had had as a young man, he had in fact made a huge difference to the lives of many people. Those same people rallied round in his hour of need. We too, as Nancy pointed out, probably have unfulfilled dreams but we are actually where God wants us to be, and, like George, what we do can have an unknown (to us) effect on the lives of others, even people we don't know. When I was confirmed in the Canadian Episcopal Church in May 1972 I had absolutely no thought of becoming as involved in church life as I am today. I was just a young wife and mother making a commitment that seemed right at the time. As Nancy said we are all a work in progress.

Just before Christmas, the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland used the film as the basis of an article he wrote for The Scotsman. His title was "What if Jesus had never been born?" He wonders that if there were no Christianity would there have been no Crusades or Spanish Inquisition? No sexism, no homophobia or anti-Semitism? Maybe not persecution of the vulnerable in those terms, but humanity will always find ways to oppress others. Dr Browning says that if there were no Jesus "countless lives would not have been touched and transformed by His example of kindness and love and generosity of spirit." Although kindness and generosity go beyond Christianity and other faiths if the reality of Jesus had not set the example the world would be "a little darker, a little colder, a little less friendly, a little less filled with possibility and challenge... a lot less hope and encouragement to keep on keeping on." For Dr Browning the point of the wonderful Christmas story is that God, knowing how tough, rotten, painful, grim life could be, sends light and encouragement and challenge and love to help us through and to make a difference. That each one of our lives, individually, like links in a great chain, will make a difference. The way we live our lives matters. We will stumble and make mistakes and we will be told of our faults but there will be love and laughter. Even if we don't see it ourselves, we will have a wonderful life because Jesus was born and lived among us.

A7 Centre of Mission

On Tuesday 12th December a detailed draft proposal was presented to 3 members from each of the churches involved (St. Peter's, St. John's and St. Cuthbert's), by a representative of the Church Army, supported by the Bishop and two of his assistants from the Diocese.

A wide ranging discussion took place. The general reaction was very positive. The delegates were asked by the Bishop, to discuss the proposal with their Vestries, and let him know the result by the end of January.

St. Peter's Vestry is meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2018.

On Sunday 4th February 2018 the congregation will be updated on the progress and details of the proposal. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.



Children like Ahmad should be safe and happy in school. But Ahmad is one of millions of people who have fled the war in Syria. They have no idea what the future holds, and children are missing out on their right to an education. Yet among those who have escaped over the border to Lebanon are talented, highly qualified teachers – what if we could bring them and the children together to make a new school? This gift helps a Syrian refugee teacher provide books, pens and a safe and enriching classroom environment for children who had to leave their schools behind.

Thank you.

School is Cool was the 2017 Christingle project for the Messy Church and Sunday Squad children.

They managed to raise More than £200

A big thank you to Andrew Green of Tweedbank for donating the oranges for the Christingles



Abracadabra

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In the 3rd century, a Roman scholar and physician named Quintus Serenus Sammonicus wrote *De medicina praecepta*, or “The Rules of Medicine.”

The patient, Sammonicus advises, should be given a piece of parchment, on which is written the word ABRACADABRA. (see above right)

This inverted triangle of letters should be worn on a string around your neck, like an amulet, and there it'll act like a funnel channelling the illness out of your body. In a few days you'll be back to your usual self. As if by magic.

As bizarre as all this might sound, this is actually the genuine history of *abracadabra*. Long before it was commandeered by second-rate magicians, *abracadabra* was considered a truly magical word, capable of curing ills and precipitating good fortune. But where does it and its magical powers come from? Unfortunately, no one is entirely sure.

One theory is that it comes from ancient Aramaic, and might once have meant something like “I create as I speak,” perhaps a phrase lifted from some ancient religious text. Alternatively, it might be a mangled corruption of the Hebrew words *ab* (“father”), *ben* (“son”), and *ruach acadosch* (“holy spirit”). Or perhaps it derives from *abecadarius*, a Latin word essentially meaning “alphabetical order,” in which case it might once have implied putting everything magically back in its correct place or order. But whatever its etymology might be, there is one thing sets abracadabra apart from all the other

“magic” words—it was once believed to be genuinely, miraculously, magic.

Medical textbooks in the Middle Ages, more than a thousand years after Sammonicus's writing, were still listing abracadabra as a magically curative word. (It was still being used in the 17th century; during the London Plague in 1666, Daniel Defoe noted that “[the possession of the disease] was to be kept off with crossings, signs of the zodiac, papers tied up with so many knots, and certain words or figures written on them, as particularly the word Abracadabra, formed in triangle or pyramid, thus:” showing the same pyramid as above.) By the early 19th century, conjurers were calling on abracadabra to magically assist them in their tricks, in the same way that a feverous patient would once have called on it to assist them in their recovery.

The word's association with quack medicine and pseudoscience has endured however, so that abracadabra is still sometimes used as another word for anything superstitiously held to have magic powers, or as another word for nonsense language or mumbo-jumbo. But it's as a magic word that it remains best known today—though perhaps not as magic as it once was.

From Wikipedia and other sources

A unique occasion at St Peter's



Adara McCosh being baptised by both her Grandfathers