

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 Chairman

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Treasurer

Mike Reynolds: 01896 757114 templestowe@talk21.com

People's Warden

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

PVG/Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Susan Boorman 07704 788689

Organist

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

Sunday Squad

Rhona McCleman: 01896 751484

Hall Bookings

Elizabeth Watret: 0175023207 mob 07780 009355 elizabeth.watret@gmail.com

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



A friend of this little guy must have forgotten where he buried some of his stash last autumn as I have found 2 walnuts sprouting in one of the pots on my deck!!!

May 2018

£1 Recommended donation per issue



Donations appreciated: A new community based art project, which works with adults who have disabilities or mental health issues, is looking for donations of art materials. They would especially appreciate any of the following:

Buttons
wool
beads
old jewellery



Contact Jim Tennant e-mail
jim10ant@btinternet.com



Melrose Music Festival
Holy Trinity Church, Melrose,
19th, 20th & 21st May 2018

Saturday 19th May, 7.00pm Admission £10
Music for a royal wedding, with Choir and Orchestra.
Conductor Robert Dick
Featuring music by Elgar, Handel & Parry

Sunday 20th May, 6.30pm Admission £10
The Squair Mile Consort of Viols performing music from the Renaissance and beyond the Renaissance and beyond

Monday 21 May, 7.00pm Admission £12, to include a glass of wine.
Max Fane, Claire Taylor, Xavier and Lily Hetherington
Supported on piano by Chris Achenbach
An evening of light Classical music.

Tickets available at the door all three concerts for £20.

Data Protection and e-mails

When the Data Protection Act comes into law this month we will all be responsible for protecting the information we hold on other people's contact details. Most folk think it only applies to banks and businesses but it actually covers Charities (like the church), social clubs (like art clubs), in fact anyone who holds lists of members/customers. This means we will all have to change the way we send and/or forward e-mails to multiple recipients.

For example I send out information to church members regarding services, rotas, the church magazine, Sunday Squad etc. You may have noticed that for some time I appear to be sending them to myself. This is because I put my own e-mail as the primary recipient and then hide everyone else's names and e-mail addresses by listing them under Bcc (**blind copies**). It is easy to do – instead of adding each contact one after another or using Cc (copy to) which still shows everyone's details just click on **Bcc** before adding the details of those you wish to send the e-mail to. The reason I use my own e-mail address as the primary recipient is that I discovered that the details of the primary recipient came up on all the contacts and this confused some of the folk I was sending the e-mails to especially if it was a long list like the church magazine and the recipients didn't recognise the name that was shown. Everyone seems to recognise Sheena though!!

When **forwarding** information you have received look at the right side of the screen and you should see "reply" with a downward arrow beside it. Click on the arrow and a list including "forward" and "reply all" should come up. Click on "forward" and then enter the contact details of the person you are forwarding the information to and if it is to go to more than one person use the **Blind Copy** method mentioned above.

I am happy to show you how to do this if you are still confused.

Sheena



Telephone Scam in the Borders

Please be very wary if you get a phone call purporting to be from a VISA fraud officer telling you your bank account has been compromised followed by another call supposedly from a police officer telling you that to protect your money you need to make transfers to

accounts as instructed. A man in Peebles recently lost £15,000.



Church blesses Sutherland pub in first move of its kind in Scotland



The owners of a pub in the Highlands have given it as a gift to their local church. Michael and Kai Geldard had planned to sell the Crask Inn in Lairg, but have instead handed it over to their local Scottish Episcopal Church. The couple are members of the church's congregation.

The inn, which has four bedrooms, is to continue to be run as a pub and

as a bed and breakfast, but will also be used for religious services.

It is to be run by Douglas Campbell, a Eucharistic minister who is personal assistant to the Right Reverend Mark Strange, the Episcopalian Bishop of the United Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and his GP wife Denise.



Safeguarding in the Scottish Episcopal Church

Last month Susan and I attended a PVG/Safeguarding course which was held at the Trinity Centre in Melrose. I brought a number of leaflets back which I have placed on the back shelf – I can get more copies of required but please leave one of each on display for everyone to read. We both found it most interesting and I have invited Donald Urquhart, the Safeguarding Office for the Diocese to come and speak to the congregation. The most important thing that was stressed is that EVERYONE is responsible for EVERYONE'S safety both on church premises and in folks homes. We are ALL vulnerable at various times in our lives, through childhood all the "7 ages of man" to old age, mental and physical health and we are often carers of others going through these stages. We all need safeguarding and supporting at times.

including the source of the readings and the hymns/songs so that everyone knows what is expected. This being the case it makes sense that Joanna leads the first part of the service and pulls all the threads together and the Eucharistic minister leads the rest of the service. Then a permanent service booklet can be produced and the usual service sheets with the readings and hymns for the week will be printed as they are for all our other services.

These services will continue to take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10.30am As usual those doing readings and intercessions will be entered on the rota.

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A7 Priest-in-charge/Pioneer Evangelist

As you may have suspected I can confirm that sadly we have not had any applications for the Role of Priest-in-Charge/Pioneer Evangelist. However Kerry and I have had a lot of positive feedback about the job advert so I still have every confidence that we are progressing in the right direction. We did have one formal expression of interest and I also emailed the details to someone I know who was interested.

Moving forward, it is my opinion that we review the job advert (maybe shortening it a wee bit), arrange another suitable closing deadline and interview dates depending on the bishop's diary), and then re-advertise.

Sorry to give this sad news, but my experience has often been that God's timing is not ours. We keep praying for you all and for these next steps on the journey.

All best wishes Annie

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CHURCH FLOWERS



We are so lucky to have Karen keeping the church looking beautiful with all the flower arrangements but she could really do with some help and there are several blank spaces on the Flower Rota which is on the board at the back of church.



All Ages Family Communion

Here are some observations regarding the Family service.

We now have fewer families. The children's ages range from 18 months to 15 years which makes it challenging to find a format which engages the little children, the teenagers and the adults. We all need to make some concessions.

None of us wants St Peter's to dwindle and die as we age and go on to meet our Maker. In fact we have worked hard to keep our church family together over the past three years with the support of a variety of visiting clergy and other speakers. We have made mistakes (you will find lots of mine in the service sheet each week!) We have tried different things. Some of them worked, some did not. So let's all give way a little and find an All Ages Family service that works for most of us.

Our children are NOT the future – how they experience church NOW will colour how their Faith and knowledge of God and becoming disciples of Jesus develops as THEY take the Good News forward into the future. That is actually more important than how we oldies feel about having to make some adjustments to keep these young families within the fold. Remember one day they will be complaining that "it wasn't like this when we were young" about the way things will be perceived by their grandchildren!!

Remember too that Jesus, when confronted with similar "keep the children quiet so that adults can hear the Rabbi", said in Matthew 19:14 King James Version "But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'" or in The Message "One day children were brought to Jesus in the hope that he would lay hands on them and pray over them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus intervened: "Let the children alone, don't prevent them from coming to me. God's kingdom is made up of people like these."

Rejigging the order of service again will help but I feel we need to trust Joanna to interact with the children and the rest of the congregation as she finds most constructive. Joanna is well qualified with a degree in Divinity and is an ordained General Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher with the URC and many years of experience as a primary school teacher. She will be taking the All Ages Family service to give continuity and familiarity to the children it was agreed at the meeting after Sunday's service that 2 parents and 2 members of the SLT should meet at Joanna's home (where she has a good selection of resources) every 2 months to plan these services

Seeing Jesus

I don't know about you, but I was interested to note that over the past 3 weeks with 3 different speakers and 3 different Gospel readings that each asked us "how do we see Jesus?"

Doubting Thomas wanted to be sure that the person he saw standing before him had indeed been crucified and risen from the dead – the marks of the nails and the wound in His side confirmed this was not an imposter

Joanna's vision of the journey to Emmaus had me feeling I was with them on that walk, so I have printed it in full here.

I would like to take us back to that evening. It was one of those evenings when every tree seemed to have been dipped in crystal and the scarlet anemones on the hillside glowed like rubies. In the cool greenish light of evening the earth looked softly pale, it was very quiet. Nathanael and Cleopas had set out from Jerusalem in the late afternoon but now the shadows were lengthening. They had exchanged few words on their journey both filled with their own thoughts. As they came closer to Emmaus, Cleopas spoke sharply "Is he alive or dead, that's what I want to know. If he is alive then where is he and if he is dead what have they done with his body? I saw the empty tomb. Where is he, Nathanael?" They walked on in silence. The small white walled village lay in a hollow among vineyards and fruit trees. It was set a little way from the Roman road and was reached through a grove of walnuts. The two men were halfway along the grove when they thought they heard footsteps behind them. Nathanael looked over his shoulder, but couldn't see anyone. They were glad to be nearing the village for they felt a strangeness in the evening which was unsettling. The wind was starting to get up. The sound of footsteps grew louder. They turned and saw a man of middle height, who wore the costume of a Passover pilgrim, who had blue tassels on the edge of his cloak; he must be a

Rabbi thought Nathanael. The stranger was covered in dust and to keep the dust from his mouth and nose he wore a scarf over the lower part of his face. His hands were hidden in the folds of his cloak. He spoke to them "You look sad my brother why is that?" the stranger asked Cleopas. "We are all sad these days." Cleopas answered "Who can be happy now Jesus is dead?" They started to tell the stranger about the events of the last three days. "Look at me" the stranger said "surely you know me?" "I see you are a learned man, a Rabbi" said Nathanael. "Do you not recognize my voice? Look at me." But in the dusk it was too dark to see the man clearly. As they walked Jesus explained to them all about himself beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of the Prophets, but still they did not 'see' him. Night was upon them and the heavens were full of stars. They walked through the shadowy streets like sleepwalkers and when they came to the inn Nathanael said to the stranger "Stay with us for it is late and the day is nearly over." And still they did not 'see' Jesus beside them. The village was quiet. They went into the inn and sat down having bread and wine as was customary. The stranger broke the bread, held it up high, blessed it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened they saw Jesus and ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

Do we see Jesus and know God? Are our eyes open? Do we run to tell others that Jesus is alive? Jesus walks unrecognised with his pilgrim Church, and our hearts are able to burn when we hear the Scriptures read, and he still meets with us, in judgement and salvation, at the Eucharistic table. Amen

Karen talked about the Good Shepherd and I have used some of that talk here

On the walk back from the now empty tomb and her encounter in the garden with the risen Christ, we can only imagine the jumble of thoughts, images, and ideas that were swirling in the head of Mary of Magdala. What had just happened to her? Who was this person, alive, dead, and alive again? Who

was the teacher who had healed her, travelled with her, and who now told her to speak to the other disciples of his rising? Soon her friends, Jesus' companions, were asking those same questions. How can we understand and speak to others of our rabbi?

Over and over again people were trying to understand who Jesus was and where he came from. "Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? . . . Who do you claim to be?"

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter the gospel lesson shifts from historical recounting of the events following the resurrection to readings that assist us as we, like Mary and the disciples, seek to understand what happened and is happening to us, the flock of the good shepherd.

In the years, decades, and centuries, to our own time, the followers of Jesus have sought for ways to express, in words and images, who was and who is this person Jesus Christ. Some of the earliest images of Jesus found in churches and tombs were not portrayals of Jesus on the cross, or the infant in the manger. Rather, they picture Jesus as the gentle shepherd. And what may be one of the earliest paintings of all is of a very young Jesus, dressed in a short white tunic, who has draped a lamb over his shoulders. "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." So let explore what it means to understand the risen Christ as our shepherd. And what kind of flock are we to be?

After being driven out of the temple, Jesus passed a blind man begging and healed him. As a sign of who he was, Jesus explained that the man's blindness was not caused by his sin or the sin of his parents. Rather, "he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him". Understandably, the man's healing caused quite an uproar.

The Pharisees were not only enraged that the man had been healed, but that the healing had occurred on the Sabbath. Who would do such a thing and who could do such a thing? After the man proclaimed that he believed Jesus to be the Son of Man, Jesus declared that he had come "so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

So how do you "see" Jesus? – in the homeless beggar? – in the charismatic preacher? – in someone in this congregation? – or is He just someone we pray to and is talked about in the Bible?