

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers

Priest, Rev Simon Cake

01896 668898

Vestry Chairman

01896 751474

Treasurer

01896 757114

People's Warden

01896 758017

PVG/Safeguarding Co-ordinator

07704 788689

Organist

01896 758017

Sunday Squad

01896 751484

Hall Bookings

01896 751694

Caretaker

: 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

9.00am Super Squad

9.45am Family Breakfast

2nd Sunday of the month

6.00pm Healing/anointing service

3rd Tuesday of the month, April – October 3.00pm Afternoon Tea Service

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/hymn choosing

St. Peter's Church Magazine



A7 Centre of Mission!

Diocese of Edinburgh, Church Army

Priest – in - charge

3 churches

May 2019

£1 Recommended donation per issue

Shared Leadership Team

Susan Boorman Sheena Cossar Karen Ellis
 John Maltman Nancy Muir Monica Reynolds

Church Diary May

Thurs 2nd 10.00 am Communion service
 Fri 3rd 7.00pm Cursillo @ Kelso
 Sat 4th 12.30 Christian Aid Soup 'n' Pud lunch
 Sun 5th 9.00am Super Squad
 9.45am Family breakfast
 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Rev John Evans

 Thurs 9th 10am Communion
 Sun 12th 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 6.00pm Healing service,
 6.30pm Bottle top sort
 Mon 13th 6.30pm Bottle top sort
 Thurs 16th 10.00am Communion
 Fri 17th Wedding rehearsal
 Sat 18th Wedding
 Sun 19th 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 Tues 21st 3.00pm Afternoon Tea service,
 7.30pm Vestry meeting

 Thurs 23rd 10.00am Communion
 Sun 26th 10.30am Sung Eucharist, Rev Simon Cake
 Mon 27th 6.30pm Bottle top sort
 Tues 28th 5.30pm Messy Church
 Galashiels Fellowship of Churches meeting

 Thurs 30th 10.00am Communion
 Fri 31st 5.00pm Choir practice/hymn choosing
 Sat 1st June 2.00pm Food Bank meeting
 Sun 2nd 9.00am Super Squad
 9.45am Family breakfast
 10.30am Sung Eucharist

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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 Call 01896 831418 or 01896 751484



Roslynn, Darrin, Steph, Emily & Holly, Joan, Sheila, (Katie, Stephanie, Ted, April, Finn & Joan), the Ellis family, 6 year old Joe and his family, Miriam, Andrew, Simon & Oliver, (William, Bethany, Katie & John), Patricia, Martin & Sarah,

Did you see the recent programme when David Attenborough returned to Madagascar 50 years after he first went to the island?



In addition to revisiting the extinction of the Elephant Bird and checking lemur habitat he was horrified by the amount of devastation to the rainforests over that period of time.

This is another part of the world where people are trying to repair the damage and there are different species of trees being grown to restore habitat for different types of lemurs.



Tree Nation is an organisation that facilitates tree planting worldwide and currently has projects in Tanzania, Kenya, Peru, Nicaragua, Colombia, Burkino Faso, France, Spain, Costa Rico, Argentina, Philippines, Guatemala and Malawi.

There are also tree planting projects here in Scotland and the rest of the UK. The Queen is encouraging all the countries that are members of the Commonwealth to become involved in reforestation by joining the Commonwealth Forest Park project.

We too can do our bit. I have just counted the trees that I have planted in my own garden over the past 20 years. There are more than 10 (most of them dwarf varieties) including 2 nectarines that a squirrel hid in one of my pots in 2017 and which took root. They do give lovely blossom and berries in season and encourage a variety of birds and bees. It won't ever be a forest but they do give me pleasure whatever the time of year.

As some of you know the contorted cherry in my front garden gets decorated with crystals, wind-catchers and lights in the winter – some crystals stay on all year because several passers-by stopped me from removing them after Christmas!!

FORRESTS

I was given a fascinating book last year. It is called “The Man Who Planted Trees” written by Jean Giono in 1953 and tells the story of a French shepherd. The shepherd collected acorns as he wandered with his sheep looking for grazing in a rather desolate area. Each evening back at his hut he sorted the acorns into good and damaged ones, when he had 100 good ones he set them aside. The next day he took the 100 acorns and planted them as he walked. By the time he died in 1947 he had planted a forest which regenerated the land and increased the biodiversity in plants and animals.

This particular story is fictional however it seems to have given rise to many tales of forests being planted in a similar fashion in various parts of the world from Kenya to Brazil, New Zealand, Finland and the United States – some true, others fables.

Some of these tree planters are real. For example a Brazilian named Antonio Vicente has spent the last 40 years reforesting his land which had been razed for cattle grazing. As trees were cut down for charcoal and making way for more cattle water vanished and springs dried up. Antonio knew that maintaining forests was essential for water as trees absorb water and the roots prevent erosion. Now aged 84 he estimates that he has planted 50,000 trees – each one from seed.



Another genuine planter can be found in India. He is Jadav Payeng, When he was 16 he was employed to plant trees in a project which lasted 5 years. He chose to stay and look after the trees and also continued to plant more and the area was transformed into forest. He has been honoured by his government for his achievement and is known as “The Forest Man of India”



Dear Friends

It was good to hear of many great Easter celebrations over this past weekend as we rejoiced in the resurrection of our Lord. At the same time, of course, we were beginning to become aware of the dreadful bombings in Sri Lanka and praying for our sisters and brothers there whose Easter joy had been invaded by terror. Though far away, we have felt very close to them and I know that many of us are wondering how we can be of help. Certainly in the short term may I encourage you to hold the whole nation of Sri Lanka in your prayers.

Perhaps this coming Sunday we might find a special moment to gather around our Pascal candle and speak words of hope and of peace.

I know that others around the Province will be doing this. The Taizé chant ‘**Within our darkest night you kindle a fire that never dies away...**’ might be used, or the prayer of St Francis –

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Or the words of Desmond Tutu –
**Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.**

With my love and my prayers



Please pray for the families of Fred's friends in Sri Lanka who were caught up in the hotel bombings. Remember also relatives of all who lost their lives and the many who have been injured and ask that peace not retaliation will prevail.

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#### LETTER FROM FREYA

In the past couple months I have played a part in Social Bites big event of the year to raise money for homelessness. As I am not old enough to take part in the Sleep in the Park I took part in Edinburgh Dioceses Wee Sleep Out in St. Marys Cathedral. That night I learnt a lot about homelessness, what it's like to live on the streets and what it's like to have to rely on other

people to help you with food and accommodation. After the Wee Sleep Out the donation page stayed open until the 24<sup>th</sup> of December and after it closed we found out that the Edinburgh Dioceses Wee Sleep Out raised enough money to be in the top ten groups. Being in the top ten groups meant we were invited to a Thank You dinner hosted by Social Bite.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November I took part in the Wee Sleep Out in St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Over the course of the evening' night and morning we did lots of different activities to give us an idea of what homelessness is like. First we split into teams and we did a treasure hunt to find each item in a food bag for one person. Once all the teams had found everything we took everything out of the bag and made a menu for the week with only the food in our bag. It was a lot harder than we thought but we made a

was because the Muslim month of fasting had started. When we got to the market it seemed unusually quiet. Shopkeepers were closing up their shops. When we got to our tailor's we found the door closed. We'd miss-timed our journey and arrived as everyone was preparing to break their fast at sundown.

We turned to leave, but as we did so the tailor saw us through his shop window. He rushed to the door and called us back. We tried to apologise for disturbing him but he wouldn't hear of it and insisted we come into his shop. It wasn't a large shop - smaller than the St Peter's vestry. The walls were covered in a rainbow of different coloured cloths and there were sewing machines squeezed into the corners. In the aisle between two service counters four staff were laying out different foods on a mat on the floor. The tailor insisted we join them in breaking their fast. They made space for us to sit in a circle on the floor with them. Plates of dates, puffed rice, various spicy accompaniments and sweetmeats were spread before us. We waited reverently for the call to prayer to reverberate around the market, signalling sundown and the end of the fast. Even though they hadn't eaten or drunk anything for about fourteen hours they made sure our plates were full and we were eating first.

After eating, and a few moments for them to say their formal prayers at the mosque attached to the market, it was time to turn to business and buy the sari blouses Kate had ordered. Can you imagine having such an experience in a clothing store in Galashiels!

Ramadan - the Muslim fasting month - starts on 6th May. If you'd like to join us and millions of Christians around the world to pray with love & respect for Muslims during their fasting month please do take one of the "30 Days of Prayer" booklets that are at the back of the church. Or visit this website <https://30daysprayer.org.uk/about/>. This year the theme for prayer is the role of hospitality in Islamic culture. It will help you understand why our tailor acted the way he did.

John Marsden





### May Anniversary of Baptism

3<sup>rd</sup> Cerys Robertson      18<sup>th</sup> Violet Millar  
31<sup>st</sup> Jack & Oliver Wilson



### Messy Church.

#### The Unbelievable Truth.

The Easter Story was the theme this month with the focus on the stone rolling away and the fact that Jesus is Alive. After a brilliant meal of eggs benedict and macaroni cheese, the children made Easter nests which looked delicious. Other activities included an obstacle course where they had to roll away the stone, planting herbs, and making an Easter sunrise with coffee filters.

The evening finished with some magic tricks which were unbelievable but true - just like Jesus rising from the dead.



#### SOME EARLY THOUGHTS FROM ST CUTHBERT'S

In some respects it is very early to report on how St Cuthbert's is reacting to having a new priest in charge. We have been without a rector for so long now, and have had to adapt to organising things for ourselves, it is indeed a learning curve of what is expected of us and in the changes that will follow. Suffice to say, that we are grateful to have someone to encourage and focus our minds and efforts, for the future.

We believe it will also be a learning experience for Simon too, as he copes with the challenge of dealing with 3 varied congregations with different needs. Inevitably he has not been able to spend much time with any one congregation and only led his first Sunday service in St Cuthbert's last week. The congregation appreciated his honesty and, while he cannot make too many changes until he gets a feel for what is needed, already he is making his mark in various ways. Perhaps the biggest impact has been on the rather small vestry at St Cuthbert's. The shared mission of the 3 churches has required the need for more involvement and planning and when it falls on only a few people that can involve a great deal of change and effort. However as it is early days, this may diminish as we learn to adapt to new practices and processes.

It is good to be able to share some of the load with the other congregations as we get to know each other.

### FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS



After some discussion the Leadership Team has decided to operate the Food Bank slightly differently when it is the turn of our church to be on duty.

Instead of folk coming in the back door to collect their food parcels we are going to open the front door and bring them into the church. In addition to the normal contents of the bags a table will be set out where folk can see if there is anything else that they need.

Instead of going straight back out we will be offering tea/coffee and a chat in the hall before folk leave by the back door.

As well as needing fit and able volunteers to work in the church and collect fresh food we will need people who would be good listeners and others who can prepare tea and coffee.

The next weeks that St Peter's is due to be on Food Bank duty are 24<sup>th</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please let Nancy, Simon or Sheena know if you could be available for the Monday, Wednesday or Friday of that week.



We would like some ideas of how to spend a legacy of up to £1000 for the use of the church. Would you upgrade parts of the building or the grounds? Spend it on mission?



Ideas please in the bucket at the back of church which will be opened at the next Vestry meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May.



Do join St Peter's 100 Club monthly draw. As well as the chance to win some cash this helps to raise useful funds for the church. See Susan to sign up.