

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers

Priest, Rev Simon Cake

01896 668898 07710 523856

Vestry Chairman John Marsden

07538 094986

Treasurer Mike Reynolds

01896 757114

People's Warden Nancy Muir

01896 758017

PVG/Safeguarding Co-ordinator Susan Boorman

07704 788689

Organist Nancy Muir

01896 758017

Sunday Squad

01896 751484

Facebook page - St Peters Sunday Squad

Hall Bookings Elizabeth Watret

01750 23207 or 07780 009355

elizabeth.watret@gmail.com

Caretaker Phil Todd

07787 729639

Services

Sunday mornings

10.30am Holy Communion 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



July 2019

£1 Recommended donation per issue

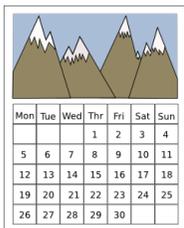
Ministry Leadership Team

Susan Boorman 07704 788689 Sheena Cossar 01896 751694
 Karen Ellis 01896 757429 John Maltman 07551 357580
 Nancy Muir 01896 758017 Monica Reynolds 01896 757114

Church Diary July

Mon 1st 6.30pm Bottle top sort
 Thurs 4th 10.00 am Communion service
 Sun 7th 9.00am Super Squad
 9.45am Family breakfast
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Wed 10th House group @ Sheena's
 Sun 14th 10.30am Holy Communion
 6.00pm Healing service,
 Mon 15th 6.30pm Bottletop Sort
 Tues 16th 3.00pm Afternoon Tea service
 Thurs 18th 10am Communion
 Sat 20th 2.00pm Strawberry Tea
 Sun 21st 10.30am Sea Sunday, Holy Communion
 Tues 23rd 7.30pm MLT meeting @ Sheena's
 Thurs 25th 10.00am Communion
 Sun 28th 10.30am Holy Communion

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2020 CHURCH CALENDAR

John Maltman would like you to send photos of St Peter's church year – events, seasons, folk - to be made into a calendar for next year.

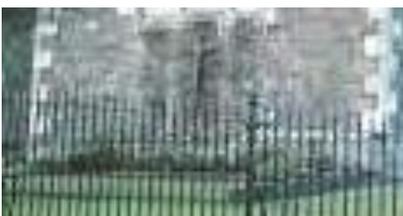
It will be a fundraiser so remember to order some as gifts for your family and friends.

It will need to be printed professionally in October so start

taking those photos NOW!

If there are people in the pictures make sure you have permission to put them in the public domain – Messy Church etc.

Contact John on 07551 357580 for information.



The Cross above the memorial garden is to be refurbished and the garden brightened up with new plants and the thought is that a new bench for folk who want to sit quietly and remember their families would be situated nearby.

Borders Area Council report from 28th May 2019.

Ian Skinner gave an interesting talk about Eco-congregation which is ecumenical, worldwide and has 450 registered Eco-congregations in the UK. There are 14 churches in the Borders but only 2 Episcopal ones. There are benefits of being part of this group, which involves the whole congregation, as they become part of a network and can learn from one another. It can provide worship material for e.g. Creationtide, practical conservation help, details of how to save energy and help communities link together.

Feedback from around the Borders

- Chris Jones has been installed at Duns and Eyemouth now referred to as the Berwickshire Churches and Coldstream will join them later this year when Jeffrey retires.
- Andrew Cooper is back at work starting from Pentecost Sunday.
- St Cuthbert's Hawick has an open church event every day from 9 till 4pm and provide tea and chat for people.
- St Andrew's Kelso has renovated the garden room and celebrations for their 150th anniversary are being planned.
- St Mary's Coldstream arranged events for Thy Kingdom Come and together with Duns and Eyemouth are doing a 24 hour prayer session.
- Christ Church Duns will be having a 3 month settling in period for Chris to work out service rotas etc.
- St John's Selkirk is progressing with the church re-ordering, organ and asbestos has been removed and a just giving page has been set up. Pop up shop organised to pray during Thy Kingdom Come. Lendwithcare.com is continuing, this is where they lend £15 to a person to set up a business and then the person pays the loan back once set up.
- Holy Trinity Melrose had a month of music when ch went well. Their church is open all day which is not an insurance issue and even song has grown in numbers.
- St Ebb's Eyemouth is taking bookings for the newly created church facility. Had to pay VAT on vestry extension which was unexpected but new build didn't need to pay VAT.

BAC has decided to contact the diocesan office to request that we are now called the Diocese of Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders. Proposal to go to next Synod meeting in October.

Karen Ellis

Vestry Meeting Summary for Magazine

The Vestry met in June and welcomed Freya McLeman to its meetings to bring a youthful perspective. We heard about progress on roof repairs to the church and the installation of automatic lights in the church toilets. We authorised work to repair the driveway and upper car park. and discussed the recommendations in a Home Energy Scotland report on heating the Rectory. We agreed to follow the Church of England standard charges for weddings and funerals.

We agreed how we would go about responding to Simon's challenge to prepare a Mission Plan. We talked about the importance of making our services easily accessible to newcomers and recognised the importance of consulting with people before making changes to our liturgies.

Finally we recognised the importance of prayer. A group is now coming together to pray regularly for the A7 Centre of Mission. Do join with them in praying for our church and our sister churches on the A7.

“Mission Plan” – notes from Vestry

Simon has encouraged the church to prepare a Mission Plan. What's that you may ask! A Mission plan is a statement of the vision or dream that God is giving us for the future life and work of our church family and an outline of the actions we are inspired to take in order to advance towards that vision. It will give us something forward looking to unite behind as a church and help us to focus our efforts. Everyone in the church has a role to play in this – God speaks to all of us! As Al Christie said in his recent sermon – all we have to do is listen to God to hear our part.

Starting in late August, after the summer holidays, members of the Vestry and MLT will be leading the church in a process to form a Mission Plan. We'll find ways of hearing from everyone. In the meantime it's not too early to start praying that God will give us a clear vision for the future life and work of our church family.

John Marsden, Vestry Chairpersn

Al's Talk 16th June 2019

The well known comedian, Billy Connolly suggests that a true sign of growing old is that you start to watch natural history programmes and you watch a lot of the U.K. gold channel on T.V. In that case I am definitely old!! When my grandson, Fletcher comes to our house for tea and gets to watch the cartoons it is time for me to retreat and watch my favourite “Last of the summer wine”

Whilst watching it the other day, the much henpecked Barry was asked to take a retired Vicar out for the day. He was horrified. What do you do with a retired Vicar? What do you say to him? You'll think of something was the reply from Mother in law, played by Thora Hird. Oh yea says Barry “I see that Paul fairly gave it to the Corinthians” Now that throw away line may have meant nothing to many people, but it fairly made me smile. You see I have had trouble with Paul most of my church going life and it seems that he always seems to be giving it to somebody. In today's reading he is fairly mild by his standards but a couple of verses later he is back at his best “ it was while we were sinners that God died for us” We were God's enemies

Recently Mary and I took Fletcher to the cinema to see Pikachu the detective. Pikachu is a Pokemon and those of you who don't know what a Pokemon is believe me you do not want to know. We could follow the plot but did not know or were able to work out who most of the characters were. Fletcher knew them all. When we asked him at the end what he thought of the film his one word answer was epic. As for Mary and me, it went right over our heads.

It's a bit like that with Paul Most of it goes right over my head. I have often sat before the service and read over that days readings and found that I could not make head nor tail of the epistle. On occasions , dating back to David Smith's time, I have asked the Rector to explain what it was all about. Each time the answer was to go back to the time of writing and try to understand that it was Paul's way of getting the message over to as many people as possible. I suppose that in those days communication was far from easy and I also understand that to be blunt with the message was the way to get it through to the people of that time but how things have changed.

When I first started my teaching career I found that the best way to get the message that I was a Christian and a regular church goer was the exact opposite from Paul. My experience was that today's young people do not like religion in any form thrust down their throats and that the best approach was low key. I had a photo of me in my server's robes up in a prominent place in my office right next to the photo of my

Scotland under 19 team. The simple message was I am proud to be coach of a Scotland team and I am also proud to be a member of St Peter's church. If I was ever asked about my Christianity, I was open and was prepared to talk about it, but in a casual way so that it was a normal thing to be a Christian; it was an important part of my life but not an all consuming one. I am pleased to say that a number of parents thanked me over the years for making it cool to be a member of a church and said it made it so much easier for their children to be open about their faith.

However, when I became Depute Head, I very quickly realised that the one big way of getting the Christian message through to a large number of pupils that is via the School religious assembly was failing badly. And the reason it was failing badly was that the local ministers, who took the assemblies, though very well intentioned, were almost like a version of Paul in their approach and it was not working. As Head of junior school there was a simple fix, I took the assemblies myself, but the Heads of middle and upper school were not interested, so we were stuck.

We had a group of young people from the Berwickshire Christian Youth trust came into school every Friday to help with the Christian Fellowship group and one Friday they knocked on my office door. They were blunt. "The kids who come to us on a Friday tell me that middle and upper school assemblies are not working" I was equally blunt with my response. "They are not and because you have taken the time to come and see me I presume that you have an idea to improve them." "We do. We will take them was their response."

After a lot of politicking and persuasion on my part they started next session taking all of the assemblies, mine included and they were brilliant. They used all of the modern technology available to them, power point, video and D.V.D. They had the pupils in the palm of their hands and instead of attending assemblies to make sure there was discipline, I went to enjoy them. And just when I thought that things could not possibly get better - it did.

They suggested that they bring a group of young people up from London to work with our pupils for a week. Not only that but they would finance it as well. The young people in question played in a band and would be happy to go into Social Education classes and Religious Education classes to help out. In addition they would give a concert every lunch time and would mix with the pupils after the concert and answer any questions they had. Finally, they would give a big concert on the Thursday evening to which parents and pupils were invited.

taken and we shouldn't let down future generations in this climate change emergency.

Three motions were carried regarding inter-church relationships - to adopt the statement of the SEC Ecumenical Policy, to affirm the Common calling process and the renewal of the Episcopal, Methodist and United Reform (EMU) agreement. It was discussed that we should accept that each has different traditions and theology and that together we can carry out God's business with mission at the heart of this.

We were very privileged to hear Imam Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi, Director-General and Chief Imam of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society. I would recommend you listen to his address which can be found on the Scotland.anglican.org website or just put his name into Google. One thing that stood out for me in this address was that there is a lot of misinformation in social media about Islam and Christianity. Dialogue is important and face to face conversation is important to avoid mis-communication.

Safeguarding was given additional time for a more in depth discussion and the need for training was raised. A quarterly written report from the Safeguarding Officer should be submitted to Vestry, even if there is nothing happening. A cultural change is needed to include safeguarding as it isn't just a tick box exercise.

The budget for the General Synod was agreed and there will be no increase in dioceses' quota for 2019/2020.

Other issues included reviewing the process of electing a bishop, genome editing and its challenges, benefits for Stipendiary Clergy and presentations from the Provincial Youth Committee.

An action packed and interesting three days and this is only a brief look at some of the issues and topics. As always, these are my notes and interpretation of the meeting.

Karen Ellis, BAC General Synod Rep.



GENERAL SYNOD REPORT

General Synod took place in Edinburgh on 6th, 7th and 8th June. As usual it was a packed agenda with many items over running. Many motions were discussed and passed and here are just some of the items.

A motion had been proposed which would revise the Ethical Investment Policy. There was a switch from direct equity investments into multi asset pooled fund in 2018. However it was recognised that a move away from direct investments would mean the current policy of excluding certain categories of investments on ethical grounds would be rendered unworkable given that it doesn't apply to pooled funds. The investment committee carried out a consultation to find out the extent to which members of the church valued having an ethical investment policy compared to an investment-driven policy.

The committee concluded that, while there was an expected division of opinion between the two approaches, there was marginally more support to retain ethical investment than to allow investment wholly into pooled funds with no ethical screening.

It was proposed to update the ethical investment policy to reflect the use of pooled funds in a manner not inconsistent with the current ethical screening objectives. There was to be some restrictions so that no direct investment would be made in companies whose main business was in armaments, gambling, tobacco, pornography or thermal coal and tar sands. Many companies will be involved to some extent in businesses within the restricted categories. It was therefore deemed inappropriate where in excess of 15% (10% for thermal coal and tar sands) of a company's revenue is derived from businesses in the restricted categories.

A counter motion was proposed which proposed that the ethical investment policy be updated to disinvest fully from fossil fuels and to extend the list of restricted categories for direct investment and pooled funds.

General Synod voted against the original proposed motion and voted for the counter motion. An Ethical Investment Advisory group will be formed to develop a strategy to enable the SEC to completely disinvest from unethical sources of revenue.

This was a major decision to take as there are risks that funds could be lost however the majority of delegates felt that a stand had to be

Was it successful? On the Monday about 30 pupils went to the concert at lunchtime. On Thursday evening we had well over 200 people in the hall. I say well over 200 because I was scared to count as the bleacher seats were full and some of the younger pupils were sitting on the floor at the front. If the janny had come in he would have had a fit!!

And what about the classroom visits? Well the bush telegraph system was quickly in operation around the staffroom. The Head of P.E. a personal friend of mine was in my office first thing on Tuesday morning. Al, you didn't tell me that one of the young lads in the band was on Tottenham Hotspur's books and that one of the young lasses is a county netball player. How come they are not coming to my dept. They will be now was my response. By the end of the week they were even in Maths classes!!

To say that their visit left me buzzing was an understatement. I was in church on Sunday and before the service was reading Paul and as usual trying to make some sense of it when I had a lightbulb moment. In my life I have not had too many of these but this certainly was one. What I had been sent in the form of the young people from the Berwickshire Christian Youth Trust were in fact modern day Pauls. And boy did they surely give it to the young people in Berwickshire!! I can guarantee that most of the pupils some 15 years on will remember their assemblies and nearly all of them will have been touched in some way or another by the group from London. Same message as Paul – just a different way of putting it over.

Now, I am told that every sermon should have three points. But I am a former P.E. teacher and when you give a pupil three coaching points by the time you reach the third they will have forgotten the first two, so I have only one point to make and it is this

I believe that there is a bit of Paul in every one of us, in that the desire to get the Christian message over is within us. But it is all about how we do it. How do we get the Christian message out there?

Just over a week ago I was asked to play golf for the Church of England against the Church of Scotland. Imagine me playing for England against Scotland, what would my mother have said? In the afternoon singles I played against David Gemmill, the minister in the church in Ayr. The match was fiercely competitive but played in a great spirit. On the way round we talked at length about the church and how it was leaking members. He produced a remarkable statistic and informed me that only 3% of school children in Scotland are regular church goers

and 38% of school children have never been inside church to an organised service. Scarey I'm sure you will agree.

In my time alone, I can tell you that Galashiels has lost St Marks, St Andrews and the church where Mary and I were married, St Cuthberts as well as seeing some other churches amalgamate. We at St Peters have come through a tough three years But God has sent us Simon and I am sure that he will get someone from the Church Army to support him in the near future The future of the A7 centre of Mission seems to be on a much firmer footing than at this time last year. So where does the Paul in us come in? It's simple nothing to get stressed about. You see God will tell us when and how he needs us When the Paul in us is required No one is too young or too old to be a Paul No one is too inexperienced to be a Paul All we have to do is to listen to him and he will tell us



Braw Lads Fancy Dress Parade

