

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE



DECEMBER 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 December

Sun 1st 9.45am Family breakfast
10.30am Family Service

Thurs 5th 10.00am Communion
8.15pm GFoC prayer walk from Market Square

Sun 8th 10.30am joint service in St Peter's – Baptism and Confirmation
Rt Rev Bishop John Armes presiding followed by bring and share lunch
6.00pm Healing service

Mon 9th- Fri 13th St Peter's Food bank duties

Thurs 12th NO COMMUNION – CHURCH CLOSED FOR ELECTION

Sun 15th 9.30am Sunday Squad
10.30am Communion service, Re Simon Cake

Mon 16th 2.00pm Abbotsford Court Christmas service

Tues 17th 7.30pm MLT meeting @ Sheena's

Wed 18th 2.00pm Hazeldene Christmas service

Thurs 19th 10.00am Communion

Fri 20th 7.00pm Galashiels Fellowship of Churches, Carols @ Tesco

Sat 21st 12.30 – 2.00pm Soup 'n' Pud lunch
2.00pm Nativity rehearsal

Sun 22nd 10.30am Nativity service
6.30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

Tues 24th 6.00pm Christingle service
8.00pm Christmas Eve Communion, Rev Duncan McCosh

Wed 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Family service, Rev Simon Cake

Sun 29th 10.30am Holy Communion,

Sun 5th Jan 9.45am Family breakfast
10.30am Family Epiphany Service
12.45 St Peter's Epiphany Lunch

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Mike and Monica mark their
Golden Wedding
on Sunday 22nd December
and you are invited to their

Open House celebration from 2.00-5.00pm

No gifts required

Simon's Pause for Thought

Hey It's nearly Christmas. For some that is a really good family time, a time of sharing of presents, sharing in laughter and gathering together with our families and friends and all the festivities that go with it.

For some this can be a lonely time for various reasons away from their families and friends. Hospital, work, distance, disagreement, or even the loss of a loved one.

One Christmas I remember I was in the Falklands. The conflict had ended a few months earlier. I fallen out of the back of a wagon and was hospitalised and in traction and bed rest.

Christmas comes down there in summer. A beautiful hot day. They have horse races and golf and Community BBQs. Of course I couldn't enjoy them although they did their best for us in the hospital. But I was homesick. I'm mean REALLY HOMESICK. I wasn't even married then. What made it worse was that before I left for the Falklands I had a big row with my Dad. We weren't speaking. He did send me letters but I just chucked them in the bin. My pride would not let me admit I was wrong. But that Christmas I missed him and the things we would do as a family every Christmas. Anyhow come February I had recovered enough to travel home.

I flew back into Brize Norton and EXPECTED duty transport to pick me up. To my surprise and joy. My Whole family were there to greet me. My Dad was the 1st to run, and I mean run, to hug me. He nearly put me back in hospital!

But although I'd missed Christmas, I hadn't. You see Christmas is a time to reflect on God's gift to us of Jesus Christ. Sharing God's Love to The Whole World. Even forgiving us for the way we treat the world and each other. What a great gift. That of forgiveness of each other and sharing of love and kindness with each other. The greatest gift my Dad had given me that day at Brize Norton was his forgiveness for the way I had hurt him.

He never stopped loving me even after what I did had done to him. So I thank God for Jesus Christ for without him I wouldn't know what it was liked to be forgiven. I had a late Christmas that year But it was by far one of the best. So, let's celebrate God's Gift to us, that of Christ Jesus, and celebrate each other and enjoy Christmas with a thankful heart for all Christ gives us and blessed us with.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year for 2020.

When Is Advent?

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6

Advent Liturgy and Practice

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through December 16th) look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

Advent and Christian Life

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated, and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming that Karl Barth penned these words: "Unfulfilled and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both promise and in fact the same promise. If anywhere at all, then it is precisely in the light of the coming of Christ that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. But faith knows for whom and for what it is waiting. It is fulfilled faith because it lays hold on the fulfilled promise." The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.



Huge congratulations to the Scottish Borders Youth Brass Band on winning the senior section at national champs for the 4th year in a row. Well done and congratulations for all your hard work, especially to Freya and Dylan from St Peter's



A7 Pioneer Evangelist Tim Hatton and his wife Kate



Tim was brought up below stairs, son of the gardener to the American Embassy in London, who was nearly the gardener to the Duke of Buccleuch.

Tim studied engineering at Loughborough, where he met his wife Kate, and became a regular winter and summer visitor to the Scottish hills.

His first career in engineering

took him around the world, ending with Weir Pumps, whose head office is in Glasgow.

When Tim came to faith in the noughties, after 22 years in industry, he took voluntary redundancy and looked for a new challenge. This came in the form of a pioneering post with the Diocese of Manchester. He was the Historic Church Buildings Officer, the first such post outside London. With an MSc in project management, he was able to guide numerous churches to understand their mission and develop appropriate facilities in their church buildings.

Meanwhile Tim and Kate joined Church Army. Kate became a commissioned evangelist and they moved to Telford in Shropshire, where Tim worked amongst the homeless. Together they led youth groups and worked with toddlers and young families, most recently in Guernsey in the Channel Islands.

Tim and Kate have three grown-up sons, two daughters-in-law and two grandchildren. They hope to see more of family now they are back in the UK.

Tim says "I am delighted to have been appointed as the Church Army Pioneer Evangelist for the A7 Centre of Mission, which I see as a sort of church funded community support worker. I look forward to getting to know the people of Hawick, Selkirk and Gala. I'm a keen walker and runner, and can't wait to follow in St Cuthbert's footsteps from Melrose to Lindisfarne."

The Church of the 'Airwaves' through BBC Religious Broadcasting

For me it was a wonderful surprise when I learned that the BBC Radio 4 (FM) Sunday morning Worship was to be broadcast from Holy Trinity Church in Melrose. As an ardent listener to BBC radio religious broadcasts it was heartening to hear that on Advent Sunday 2019 it would be live worship from within the Scottish Borders.

As a member of my church choir and also as a member of the Halle Choir in Manchester the opportunity to go on pilgrimage with BBC Religious Broadcasting was not to be missed. I was fortunate to be able to go to Rome and Assisi in 1992, the Holy Land - Jerusalem and Galilee in 1995 and to Turkey – Istanbul then onto Izmir and Patmos beginning our visits to 'The Seven Churches' of Asia in 1998. What a privilege!

The choir of *circa* 100 selected voices comprised of an ecumenical group drawn from around the UK. Initially I did not know a soul and wondered what on earth I had let myself in for but soon many friendships were formed.

The broadcasting was mainly for the daily service 9.45am each weekday (Radio 4 LW). From the many churches and sites we visited each day, we would record for the following day's service. The Sunday morning services - 8-10am were broadcast live and indoors. We had several challenges recording outdoors as you can imagine. For instance at the top of Masada in hot sunshine (over 100 degrees) no shade just a sun hat and a bottle of water or in contrast in pouring rain. Our spirits were never daunted though by low flying aircraft, noisy traffic and inquisitive passers-by, who insisted in joining in or giving applause. All very comical and a short break from the intense concentration!

At the core of these services is the Gospel and they always include the saying or singing of the Lord's Prayer. Those who lead and are involved in any other way, as producers or technicians, are deeply committed to this ministry.

For many who are housebound or for others who are unable to attend worship for whatever reason, the services, including Choral Evensong; Wednesdays 3.30pm repeated Sunday 3pm on Radio 3, are a blessing indeed.

Religious broadcasting unfortunately is always under threat and so we pray that the powers that be will be inspired and recognise the essential importance and value of this Christian witness, which must be encouraged to continue and hopefully flourish.

Muriel Lounsbach.

The Gala Relief Fund is planning to hold a free Christmas Lunch at the Focus Centre on 20th December for people in Galashiels area who live alone. if you do know anyone who may be interested in this could you let them know please and to contact Judith at :- 01896 753296 mail@judithcleghorn.co.uk



Ethel's knitting stall in Why Not? raising money for the Foodbank

SAFEGUARDING – URGENT-VERY IMPORTANT

Bishop John has made a video regarding safeguarding in our churches please go to <https://Edinburgh.anglican.org.wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Safeguarding-Video-lower-res-mp4> and WATCH the Bishop's message and then you must book yourself in (via Sheena) for training on Saturday 11th January if you are involved in pastoral visits, giving home communions, on the Vestry or Leadership Team, work with Messy Church or any other activities where you represent St Peter's.

Donald Urquhart, the Provincial Protection Officer came and spoke to the congregation about safeguarding earlier this year but it is now imperative that St Peter's makes sure that we protect all the vulnerable people in our congregation and others who use our church building.

I like the imagery in this article that I recently found in Eddie Askew's book "Breaking the Rules"

'Some peasant women in Nicaragua were discussing the nativity scene set up in church. One said, "Mary wouldn't have been wearing those beautiful blue and white clothes. She'd have been dressed like the poor, like us." Another said, "and she had rough hands like ours...."

The birth of my new granddaughter reminded me of the softness of a baby's skin. I imagined Mary's hands, the skin roughened by work in a peasant home, holding Jesus. I thought of Joseph's hands, the hands of a carpenter, skin thickened by his trade, teaching Jesus to walk. Rough but caring hands, comforting, clothing, feeding the baby. Hard hands, but softened by love.

As the baby grew, the hand of God was rough in Jesus' life. From wilderness experience to the life of a wanering teacher, it wasn't easy being God's son. He had to face the doubt, the questions, the growing hatred, and the rejection of the establishment. And, finally, the cross. And there the soldiers' hands were rough, calloused and callous, and so was the wood. No softness there.

But through the roughness, love was let loose into the world. A love alternatively gentle and abrasive, comforting and challenging, pruning and healing.

And because of the roughness, the suffering and the pain in Jesus' life, the poor of Nicaragua can recognise God-with-us and identify with him. If the hand of God had only been gentle he would have been less relevant, easier to ignore.'



This prayer follows the article:-

Lord, it's so easy to sentimentalize your story.
To let the drifts of Christmas snow,
so clean, pollution free,
cover the rough edges of real life.
So tempting to recreate you
in an image more to my taste.
To crystalize the fruit of suffering
into something sweeter,
and clothe reality in silk
rather than sackcloth.
Rewrite your gospel,
and make your coming – and your going, Lord –
a charming tale acceptable in all the best circles.
The suffering and the violence removed
a home video suitable for all the family.

The truth is different, and it must be so if it's to be relevant to life,
No yuppie, you, Lord.
No census average, the awkward corners smoothed away,
Your lifestyle simplified to fit market research,
The junk mail bouncing through your letterbox.
You were a carpenter who knew the unplanned edge of things
And felt the splinters of rejection. Took rough with smooth –
More rough than smooth, I think – and welcomed suffering,
Not for its own sake, but to identify yourself with those who suffer.
The rough handed poor who scrape their knuckles
In the stony soil of want.

At times, forgive me Lord, in arrogance,
I think I have a God to share with them, something to teach.
But then I realize you're nearer them than me.
And learning has to be the other way,
Their God, rough handed, sometimes hungry
Without a place to put his head
Is calling me to face reality.

That's hard to take.
May I just think about it, Lord?

Christmas Bucket List

1. ~~Buy Presents~~ *Be*
2. ~~Wrap Gifts~~ *someone in a hug*
3. ~~Send Gifts~~ *Love*
4. ~~Shop For~~ *Donate Food*
5. ~~Make Cookies~~ *Memories*
6. ~~See The Lights~~ *Be*



CRISTINGLE APPEAL

The children and families from the Squad and Messy Church have chosen local charity Borders Additional Needs Group for their Christingle appeal. At B.A.N.G. families support each other and encourage children to live up to their full potential. "Every child is celebrated for his or her uniqueness and we look at children as individuals first and then consider their special needs."

Please support the children in their fundraising for B.A.N.G.



**PHONE
SCAM
ALERT**

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre, is warning people of a new Amazon scam that has seen victims lose over £400,000 in just two months. Unsuspecting

members of the public are being mercilessly targeted with automated calls which tell them a fraudster has used their personal information to sign up for an Amazon Prime subscription. The victim is then instructed to **press 1** to cancel the transaction before being directly connected to the real scammer who poses as an Amazon customer service representative.

NEVER, EVER PRESS 1 AS THIS DIRECTS YOU TO THE FAKE CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISER WHO ASKS YOU FOR BANK DETAILS OR TO ENTER A CODE WHICH GIVES THE SCAMMER DIRECT ACCESS TO YOUR COMPUTER, IPAD OR SMART PHONE. THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR ANY CALL – COULD BE FROM “YOUR BROADBAND, TV OR PHONE SERVICE PROVIDER, INCOME TAX, BBC TV licence ..” WHERE YOU ARE ASKED TO PRESS 1 TO BE REDIRECTED TO SOMEONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU – THEY WILL ACTUALLY HELP THEMSELVES TO YOUR MONEY.

Don't get flustered into talking to the caller just HANG UP.

I have received 4 of these call this week – one at 08.00am with a female voice and the others at different times of day and male voices.

Advent Wreath and Candles

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. The Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red colour points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday. The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, preparation, joy, and peace. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.



St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity SC006210

Useful Numbers

Priest, Rev Simon Cake 07710 523856

Vestry Chairman John Marsden 01896 751474

Treasurer John Maltman 07551 35580

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 07780 009355

elizabeth.watret@gmail.com

Caretaker Phil Todd 07787 729639

Services

Everyone is welcome to attend any (or all) of our services

Sunday mornings

10.30am Holy Communion followed by tea/coffee

1st Sunday of the month

9.45am Family Breakfast

10.30am Family service

2nd Sunday of the month

6.00pm Healing/anointing service

3rd Sunday of the month

9.00am Sunday Squad

3rd Tuesday of the month April – September 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



GALASHIELS FELOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

First Thursday each month prayer walk starting in
Market Square at 8.15pm