

A7 Centre of Mission quarterly



December 2019



Priest in Charge
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Letter from Simon

Pause for thought.

I have a friend who has a very unusual New Year Ritual.

Every year he takes his diary and asks the Lord to bless the coming year. Well I've known him for 35yrs. Time moves on. it's no longer a paper diary he takes out it's his phone and doesn't just ask the coming of the next year and all his commitments But also every one of his contacts in his phone. What a simple and wonderful thing to do. Not just asking God to be with him in the year to come, but also everyone he knows and his time and how to best use it.

In the Bible there's a famous passage - you'll find in the pages marked Ecclesiastes. It says "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to love and a time to have. A time for war and a time for peace.

Perhaps we should take our diaries, iPad, Tablet, phones, or even Filofaxes (if you can remember them!) Ask God to bless our lives to, at the beginning of our year and hope and pray, not just for ourselves, but everyone we know and that we all trust God to give us positive times of LOVE, PEACE, and JOY for us all. But above all, in the Words from the Lord's Prayer. The Family Prayer. Is that "Thy Will Be Done." That we, with God's Help, can cope with it. Whatever that might be.



I'd like to wish everyone a Happy and Joyful year ahead.

Revd Capt Simon Cake.CA.



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.”



Phone scams are on the rise with criminals targeting households across the UK to try and defraud people out of their money.

Typically fraudsters try to cold call members of the public pretending to be from a trusted organisation – like your bank, the police, a utility provider or a computer company.

While the criminals' tactics can vary, the aim is the same. They want to get your personal or financial information, encourage you to hand over your cards or cash, or trick into transferring money into accounts they control.

Don't fall for their tricks.

How the scams work

One of the most common methods we see involves a fraudster posing as your bank or the police. They claim there's been fraud on your bank account and you need to act quickly to protect your money.

To make their call appear genuine, fraudsters often use a tactic called 'number spoofing'. This enables them to alter the phone number from which they are calling so that it matches your bank's number. Then they ask you to check your handset display in an attempt to convince you it's a real call.

Other common phone scams include:

Being told that your computer has a virus or that your internet connection is running slow.

Claiming that you're due a refund or compensation for poor service, such as for your internet connection.

How to stay safe

Fraudsters can sound extremely professional and will do all they can to convince you that their call is genuine.

But there are some simple steps you can take to keep safe.

It's really important to be wary of any unsolicited phone calls, especially when they ask for your personal or financial details.

Remember – your bank or the police will never:

Ask you to transfer money to a new account for fraud reasons, even if they say it is in your name.

Phone you to ask for your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password, even by tapping them into the telephone keypad.

Ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe-keeping.

Send someone to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book if you are a victim of fraud.

Ask you to purchase goods using your card and then hand them over for safe-keeping.

If you are given any of these instructions, it is a fraudulent approach.

If you're ever at all suspicious about a call, then just hang up the phone.

Hawick Salvation Army Lent lunches

Hawick churches recently spoke about hosting lent lunches on a Saturday, a simple meal of soup and bread with a donation box for a charity yet to be chosen.

They will also include a short lent reflection, provided by the hosting church. There is no booking required. The idea is that people just turn up, making cat available nearer the time, such as the charity we will be collecting for.

DATE	VENUE
FEBRUARY 29TH	THE SALVATION ARMY
MARCH 7TH	ST. MARY'S AND OLD
MARCH 14TH	ST. CUTHBERT'S
MARCH 21ST	WITCHESTER CHRISTIAN CENTRE
MARCH 28TH	
APRIL 4TH	TEVIOT CHURCH

Caroline
Captain Caroline Brophy-Parkin
Hawick Corps Officer



KEEP WARM THIS WINTER

If you or anyone you know is experiencing difficulty in keeping a warm and cosy house then Home Energy Scotland offers a free advice service. Phone 0808 808

2282 for simple tips to save money on fuel bills, and to check if you're eligible for any financial support. Home Energy Scotland can also organise home visits to give practical advice. Spread the word.



God in his love for us lent us this planet,
gave it a purpose in time and in space:
small as a spark from the fire of creation,
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God
for its bounty and beauty,
life that sustains us in body and mind:

plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,
riches undreamed of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;
long has earth bowed to the terror of force;
long have we wasted what others have need of,
poisoned the fountain of life at its source.

Earth is the Lord's: it is ours to enjoy it,
ours, as his stewards, to farm and defend.
from its pollution, misuse, and destruction,
good Lord deliver us, world without end!

Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000 © 1973 Stainer & Bell Ltd

We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.





St Cuthbert's

CHRISTMAS PREPARATION AT ST CUTHBERT'S

It is a time of great excitement and anticipation from a Christian perspective for those who know and follow him. For others it can at times

be just a bit too much as the meaning has been lost in a roller-coaster ride of material pressure. A tear with too much Christmas cheer, gifts exceeding realistic thrift, and family bonding in this setting might become all but peaceful! A frenzy of spiralled stress and ultimate disappointment. Hopefully though we can all 'care and share' the true meaning of Christmas within our church and outer community and share with all our love and unity.

During Advent St Cuthbert's prayer group is enjoying study, discussion and prayer in preparation for the real meaning of Christmas; re-establishing and strengthening its purpose. We are given 'home work' every week on given topics such as 'A time to repent'. 'A time to heal' and a 'Time to love'. Fortunately, not marked but shared amiably in discussion! This is followed by hot steaming tea, or fresh ground coffee and delicious biscuits. Ah for the simple pleasures of life that also run deep; rooting us in appreciation, faith and fellowship with our church sisters and brothers.

In the words of Right Rev Colin Sinclair (The Times December 7th 2019) Advent manages to raise expectations while simultaneously slowing down the whole process. It encourages people each day to open a window on an advent calendar, as if saying; "You are right to look forward, but don't rush. Enjoy the anticipation and with it, seek understanding." "Christmas is not primarily a refuge for a hard-hit high street, nor simply a children's festival. The Christmas message is good news for all. Not for some."

St Cuthbert's has also established A tree and church flower decorating group on the Saturday before Christmas followed by refreshments. It has been suggested a decoration might be chosen to put on the tree in prayer to someone special.

We wish everyone everywhere the love of Jesus within us and around us this Christmas.

Jayne Dupre Report secretary. St Cuthbert's.

St John's

A new pattern of services

From Jan 1 2020 our service pattern will be

Every Sunday 8.30am Holy Communion

1st Sunday of month: 10.30am Sung

Eucharist

2nd Sunday: 10.30am Sung Eucharist

3rd Sunday: 10.30am Family Service

4th Sunday: 10.30am Eucharist of Healing

Wednesday 10.00 am Informal Holy Communion

We will continue to worship at

Connections until

the refurbishment work is complete.

Our first Mattins service for 2020 will be on Sunday 29th March, when we will be hosting the joint Centre of Mission service.

Future Plans

Sunday 5 January St John's Day Bring and share lunch party.

Friday 10 January service at Riverside care home.

Saturday 11 January PVG Training in Edinburgh,

Sunday 12 January Ministry Leadership Team meet.

Wednesday 15 January Prayer Circle meet.

Friday 24 January service at Riverside care home.

Wednesday 29 January Vestry Meeting.

Friday 31 January St John's Book Club.

Tuesday 4 February Leadership Team Away Day

Tuesday 25 February Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party!

Friday 6 March World Day of Prayer service led by St John's.

6-9 March Bishop John's visit



A study course for adult Christians

What in the world is wrong?

New weekly study sessions begin on Feb 14, looking at the theme of evil and suffering. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact St John's for the materials.

Lent Groups

From March 1st we will be holding weekly Lent Groups which this year will focus on the meaning of the promises made by us or for us at baptism. This will culminate in our Easter Saturday service when we renew our Baptismal vows.

Update on St John's refurbishment work

We now have

- a new boiler, gas supply and meter;
- new radiators & panelling;
- level flooring throughout;
- new lights;
- a new drain for our servery;
- 2 toilets, one disabled-friendly;
- and a vestry taking shape.

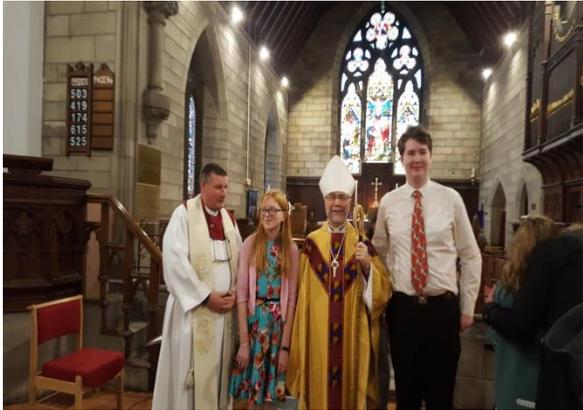
We still need electricity isolator, and updated meter, fans fitting, plastering, decorating, carpeting, final joinery work and snagging.

When will we be able to get back in the building? Hopefully some time in March. If you know of anyone who would like to make use of our new space, please let us know.

Meanwhile we have been sharing the good news of Christmas in our community and beyond

- by singing carols at the Woll Christmas dinner for carehome residents,
- in weekly sessions at Knowepark School with other local church folk,
- in our Christmas Eve Christingle Service,
- in the carol service we organise for Thornfield Care Home,
- by supporting the Churches Together Pantivity puppet show for children, helping with refreshments and stewarding,
- by using our Christmas collections to help Aberlour, the Salvation Army and Musicians without Borders, as well as continuing our commitment to Lend with Care. So far we have loaned £766 to entrepreneurs in poor countries.

The first pews have been refurbished by Selkirk Shedders and sold. They are available in two lengths 4ft 9in or 12ft 2in. Contact Selkirk Shed if you are interested. Our share of the money raised is helping to buy our new chairs.



Congratulations to Annabel and Dylan on their confirmation



St Peter's Services

Sunday mornings
 10.30am Holy Communion
 followed by tea/coffee
 1st Sunday of the month
 9.45am Family Breakfast
 10.30am Family service
 Healing/anoointing service
 3rd Sunday of the month 6.00pm 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

Confirmation service

This was a really special joint service held in St Peter's on 15th December when Bishop John Armes came to confirm Annabel (from St John's) and Dylan (from St Peter's). The families of both candidates expressed their happiness in the support and friendliness of everyone and enjoyed the shared lunch which gave them the opportunity to meet folk from all three congregations.



Rosie McLeman of Galashiels Academy - our first recipient of support from the Roxburgh Street Medical Scholarship.

Rosie said " I have always found joy and satisfaction in helping people and it would be an honour to have a career which would

allow me to do this. I have enjoyed school from an early age, and I have always strived to do the best I can. Over the past two years I have worked extremely hard in my exams and along with support from my family, friends and teachers I achieved the grades that would allow me to apply for medicine.

This scholarship has allowed me to study advanced biology and chemistry at Selkirk High School which I love while also still being heavily involved with all aspects of student life at the Academy. I am so thankful to Roxburgh Street Surgery for giving me this scholarship and helping me to pursue my dream of being a doctor."

2020

