

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE



THE KINGS VISITING THE CHRISTCHILD AT EPIPHANY

JANUARY 2020

£1 Recommended donation per issue

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Church Diary January 2020

Sun 5 th	9.45am Family breakfast 10.30am Family Service, Rev Simon Cake 12.45 Epiphany lunch
Thurs 9 th	10.00am Communion 8.15pm GFoC prayer walk from Market Square
Sun 12 th	10.30am Communion service 6.00pm Healing service
Mon 13 th	6.00pm bottle top sort
Tues 14 th	7.30pm Vestry meeting
Thurs 16 th	10.00am Communion
Sat 18 th	12.30-2.00 Soup 'n' Pud lunch
Sun 19 th	9.30am Sunday Squad 10.30am Communion service 6.30pm Week of Christian Unity service @ St John's, Langlee
Thurs 23 ^d	10.00am Communion
Sun 26 th	10.30am Communion service, Mark Calder, Embrace the Middle East
Mon 27 th	6.00pm bottle top sort
Thurs 30 th	10.00 Communion service
Sun 2 nd Feb	9.45am Family breakfast 10.30am Family Service

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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.

Simon's 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 to 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.



Buildings Convenor

There is still a need for someone to step forward and take over the work the Mike did in overseeing the integrity of both the Rectory and the Church buildings. You don't need to be able to climb ladders!

Work in progress



Some photos of our new piano cabinet taking shape



Starting in January our hymns will be chosen by a number of different people. Preachers will continue to choose songs that reflect their theme, Leaders will also choose music. CDs will be used during Communion



Please write your favourite hymns and/or worship songs in the new book at the back of church so that these too can be included in our services.



Here is a lovely photo of Grace and Ursula at the Anniversary of the Ordination of Women service. They have both supported us at St Peter's as visiting clergy over the years and in fact Grace did part of her training in our church.



TWELFTH NIGHT

BY

MJH

The glitter's gone, the holly's down, the tinsel's thrown away,
again we're back to normal
It's just another day.

But is it Lord,
Your years begun
it's us that got away.

Help us to see you grow each year
A child, a teacher, man,
once crucified that we might live to your almighty plan.

Forgive us Lord, when we ignore the purpose of your year,
Renew us in your love, your hope
and cast away all fear.

Send us out
that we might be the glitter newly gone
To shine as love of your unforgotten Son.

Advent Flowers

Some people may have spotted a difference in church with regards to flowers. In the past years we have not had flowers during advent, however there is no liturgical reason in the Episcopal church for not having flowers. I understand this differs from the Catholic church. Advent, the start of a new year for the church, begins four Sundays before Christmas. During this season, we wait, prepare, reflect, and watch hopefully for the coming of God through Jesus in the real world - a world filled with good and bad, happiness and sorrow. Advent is the time for us to celebrate "God with us," which is the literal translation of "Emmanuel."

So, when I was asked to put flowers in church, I did a little bit of investigation and found that the beginning of Advent is a time for the "hanging of the greens", where we can decorate the church with evergreens, plants and trees that keep their leaves all year round. This helps to symbolise the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus. The Advent wreath is a symbol of the beginning of the Church year. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. I decided to build the flowers up over the 4 Sundays of Advent and especially because we had a confirmation service, a time of celebration, it was only right that flowers should be displayed.

On the first Sunday, the alter flowers were in place and the Advent wreath was made. The second Sunday saw additional evergreen arrangements and for the third Sunday, additional flowers were added to the greenery and poinsettias were brought in. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red coloured leaves symbolise the blood of Christ and also symbolises remembrance. The fourth Sunday is ramped up for Christmas day and the number of arrangements were increased.

Doing the Advent flowers has helped me personally too. With an ageing congregation, a reduction in people able to help with the big celebration Sundays and with the Saturday before Christmas being so busy, it has enabled me to spend a shorter time each Saturday preparing for Christmas.

I also found this description of Advent colour recently regarding flowers.

The colours of Advent are either purple (symbolising suffering/repentance/Christ's royalty/the connection between the birth and death of Jesus) or dark blue, like a predawn winter sky before the sun rises or the light of Christ comes (symbolising expectation/hope of faith/heaven/the Virgin Mary).

The altar flowers for Advent reflect the darkness before Christ and get lighter each Sunday. Below is a guide for the Advent altar flowers.

First Sunday of Advent/Hope: Dark blue, dark purple, dark green.

Second Sunday of Advent/Preparation: Lighter blue, lighter purple, lighter green.

Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete or Rejoice/Joy: Lighter green, pink/rose and even a little white for the Virgin Mary.

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Love: Light blue light purple, light green.

Something to work towards for next Advent!

Karen



Hangings of the greens

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

The **hanging of the greens** is a **Western Christian** ceremony in which many congregations and people adorn their **churches**, with **Advent and Christmas decorations**. This is done on or directly before the **start** of the **Advent** season, in preparation for **Christmastide**. The **service** involves the placement of evergreen vegetation in the **parish**. Items such as the evergreen wreath, in Christianity, carry the **religious symbolism** of **everlasting life**, a theological concept within that faith. As such, during the **liturgy**, "Biblical passages and other readings help explain the significance of the **holly**, the cedar, the **Advent wreath**. **Christmas trees** are frequently erected during the hanging of the greens

100 CLUB



beginning of January.

As some of you are aware Susan runs a 100club to raise funds for the church. Membership costs just £1 a month and you could be the lucky winner of £25 This can be paid to Susan monthly in advance of the draw or annually from the



While we are talking about money donations of £1 a month would be gratefully received towards the cost of ink and paper for the church magazine.

Please pay this to our treasurer, John Maltman or put a donation in the green box at the back of the church



SINGING TO LEARN NEW HYMNS

When different hymns have been chosen for services then Nancy will teach us the tunes and words of these before the start of the service.



After months of technical glitches we're pleased to say the church website is now back in reasonable order. Many thanks to Brian Pudner for tidying it up. Please go to

www.stpetersgala.co.uk and check it out. We would appreciate feedback and suggestions for

further tidying and improvement. Please send detailed corrections and adjustments directly to Brian at brianpudner@gmail.com. For major changes and comment get in touch with John Marsden (john@mustardseedsshared.org) for consideration by the Vestry.



Nativity 2019

Some of the cast of our Squad's Nativity play.

It was a most uplifting and entertaining service that was enjoyed by all who were in church on Sunday 22nd December.



Something to think about

In 1925, the *New York World* publication celebrated the birthday of Abraham Lincoln with a cartoon that has become something of a classic in America. Two Kentucky farmers are pictured talking over a picket fence. One asks, "Anything new happen lately?" The other responds, "Nothing much. A new baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's place, but nothing much ever happens around here."

Can you imagine the same thing happening in Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born? Can you picture some people standing just outside the Inn? "Anything new happen around here?" "Nothing much, just a baby born down in the stable, but nothing much ever happens around here."

The point of the cartoon in the *New York World* was obvious: when Lincoln was born, no one knew how much he would impact history. But what makes the birth of Jesus Christ different? This is the ultimate question for us as Christians.

Why is the birth of Jesus so different from the birth of Lincoln or from the birth of other great figures in history? Why is his birth so different from the many Christian saints?

Throughout the centuries there have been numerous people who have had a tremendous impact on history and probably in our own lives; but, as great as these people were, they only have the power *to influence* us. In other words, these people do not possess within themselves the power to *change* and *transform* us.

During the Christmas season, we contemplate the newborn Christ in the manger. The difference between the birth of Jesus and the birth of other great figures in history is this: the baby that we contemplate in the manger is *a divine person!* And because Jesus Christ is a divine person he has *within himself* not only the power to influence us *but the power to change and transform us!* You see, Jesus is God, God who became man, God who took on our human flesh and united our humanity to his divinity. And divinity has the power to change and transform us. This is

precisely the reason he can change us: because he united our sinful human nature to his perfect divine nature; God became man so that we could share in the divine life of God.

The birth of Christ, then, is not simply an event of the past. The fact that God became man means that every human being is affected; it's analogous to a divine electrical shock that has gone out and touched every human person in history. The divine life of God in Jesus Christ is spread through the entire human race through what we call grace, and grace changes and transforms us.

God loves us so much that he became one of us to change us. We all need interior change. Are you struggling with sinful habits? Do you feel that you are far from God? Have you made decisions in your life that have led you away from the Lord? Do you want to be closer to him? This is what Christmas is all about: Jesus Christ has come to us with the power to change and transform us. But we have to reach out to touch that power! We can look to role models, we can look to influential historical figures, we can read self-help books, but none of these have the divine power to change us. Only Christ does!

How beautiful that he makes himself so approachable. He's a baby who wants us to embrace him so that we can experience his transforming love. Christ wants us to embrace him and he wants to embrace us, not just at Christmas but also at every moment. We cannot change without God's grace that comes to us in Christ.

The birth of Christ is different because he has the power to change us. Don't let this Christmas pass by with the attitude that we are celebrating the birth of just another great historical figure. No, let this Christmas moment seize you with the reality that what we celebrate is the living truth that God loves us so much that he became one of us to change us forever!

Note: This is an edited post from a blog written in 2009.

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 357580

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