

Scottish Episcopal Linked Charges of Wigtownshire

All Saints Church, Challoch with St Ninian Fellowship

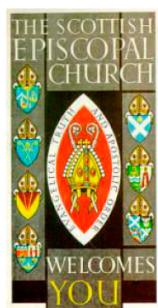
(situated on the A714 Newton Stewart to Girvan
Road

about 2 miles out of Newton Stewart)

Issue No 51

DECEMBER/JANUARY

2017/18



Notes from the Annual General Meeting.

There was a good turnout for the AGM which regrettfully was Michaels last Sunday with us.

As usual there were reports from the various groups within the church and the annual financial report, copies of which can be obtained from the Vestry Secretary if you were unable to attend the meeting.

The Vestry was re-elected en bloc and is

Lay Representative Veronica Almgill 01988 402550

Alt Lay Representative Kathryn Ambler 01988 500908

Peoples Warden Brenda Brookes 01671 403988

Vestry Member Liz Barfoot 01671 820292

Gerry Ewan 01581600381

Sam Shuttleworth 01988 700107

Margaret Turner 01988 500449

The Vestry is not up to full strength, we have one co-opted member Lynne Wright but there is still room for anyone who feels they have something to offer. The posts of Vestry Treasurer and Secretary were filled at the next Vestry meeting. Below is Michaels closing report to the congregation.

A full year of worship and work. Worship: alongside Sunday worship we had full seasons of worship at Advent/Christmas & Lent/Easter. The worship leaders do a sterling job in maintaining Matins and Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament and have spent time on several training and discussion sessions. Matins remains popular with several people and is balanced by the Holy Communion service at Whithorn Priory which is for the whole congregation. This means that 3 Sundays out of 4 (sometimes 4 out of 5) there is a full celebration of Holy Communion by All Saints.

The Lent Course was once again well attended and was a mixture of learning, challenge and fun; this year on the Creeds and formularies of the Episcopal Church. The Christian Fellowship do an excellent job throughout the year with monthly meetings on a Wednesday and host the Lent courses as well.

Speaking of Challenge: I know people were uncertain of the background and thinking of the SEC decision to conduct equal (same sex) marriages. Margie and I ran a short course of 3 sessions looking at the Biblical, doctrinal and

cultural issues underlying this decision. We made it clear that we were not intending to change minds, only inform. All sessions were exceptionally well attended and everybody felt able to participate honestly. The SEC has made very generous arrangements to protect people's conscience if they were troubled by this decision. Nobody from those who clean, play the organ, or officiate need feel pressured to take part or be judged for (or not) taking part. At present there is no need for All Saints as a church to decide to allow equal marriage: something to be discussed with the new incumbent, perhaps before appointment!

I am very sorry to be leaving as priest-in-charge, but family situations mean I need to be elsewhere. I have discussed honestly with the Vestry about my experience of being in Wigtownshire and the way my post is currently structured. They are in conversation with the bishop. My heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Vestry for their support and good-humour during my time with you. The past 12 months has meant many decisions on the re-ordering of the church without falling out!

Above all my thanks to all of you for being so welcoming and working with my foibles and hang-ups. I am going to miss you all tremendously. Being priest-in-charge of All Saints has been a privilege and a joy and the post is very attractive to an imaginative priest. The re-ordering of the church is just the first part of engaging in our mission to our widespread community. Learning how to use this new space and facilities is the next opportunity. From Lesley and 1 - thank you.

Michael

I am sure we will all miss Michael but we have to move forward on a much strengthened base, and hopefully we can live up to the confidence he has in us.

The Vestry has decided that for a while we should meet monthly and if you have any concerns please discuss them with any Vestry member so that they can be dealt with.

Margaret Turner Vestry Secretary

A FEW FESTIVE FACTS

Traditional stuffing for the bird contains onion, sage, marjoram and thyme. Before refrigeration birds were hung for longer before cooking and the oil in the herbs and onion are mildly antiseptic and prevented food poisoning.



Turkey eaten at Thanksgiving and Christmas gets its name from the sound that it makes, "turk, turk" not the name of the country.

When the Pilgrim Fathers first landed in America they rejected the feasting formerly associated with Christmas Day. They instituted a Harvest Thanksgiving instead. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln declared the fourth Thursday in November as a national holiday.



Frankincense is obtained by tapping the bark of the *Boswellia Carteri* tree to collect the resin. It is dried and when burnt it produces aromatic smoke which is used as a symbol for prayer in many churches .

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with staging the first nativity scene to include animals in 1223. Only the gospels of Matthew and Luke describe the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Neither of them include the presence of animals, although the shepherds possibly brought their sheep.

Celebration of Christmas was banned in 1647 by Puritan sympathisers. No holly or ivy, no singing or dancing and definitely no church.



Wassail comes from an Anglo Saxon word, "was hael" meaning, "be well". There are many variations of the drink. A popular one was called, " Lambs wool". It comprised hot ale, eggs, sugar, cream, spices, crab apples and pieces of toast. This may where the term "Drink a toast to.." comes from.



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was first sung in 1949 by Gene Autry.



The government removed the tax on beer and cider in 1830 to try and restrict the high consumption of gin. They might have tried encouraging a former favourite, posset. You make this with hot milk, wine and sugar, lemon and spices.



It was sometimes given to invalids to help them sleep.

The first British Christmas stamps were issued in 1966. The Danish postal service had some time previously issued special Christmas seals for the envelope. These sold so well that the proceeds were used to build two hospitals for sick children. These are 2 of the 2017 stamps.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



FUND RAISING

As we go into the new year we have to think of our financial health and fund raising is very much a part of that. So there will be a Fund Raising Meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 10.30am in the meeting area in church.

We already have our Second Sunday Sales which have become a valuable source of funds during the year, and we would like to thank all who bake or donate items for sale and we also thank all who regularly buy items.

If you are unable to make the meeting but have ideas for future fund raising events please let any Vestry meeting know so that we can put a programme of events together.

Remember that now we have an area in church that can be used for meetings so if you have any creative ideas about how to use that area please do let us know.

There is one sure way to help raise funds by Gift Aid and if you are a UK taxpayer this is a very easy way to increase your weekly giving If you need and further details of how the scheme works please talk to any Vestry member.

MEETING WITH THE BISHOP AND THE DEAN

Wed. 22nd November 2017 6 pm at All Saints

Present the combined vestries and worship leaders from Stranraer,
Port Patrick and Challoch

The Bishop read the Canon by which the WEC (Wigtownshire Episcopal Churches) had been set up and he and the Dean said that they had come to listen. The WEC remained, although in abeyance following Michael's retirement. This means that St Johns continue with Canon Nigel Newton having oversight and we and Port Patrick arrange services with the help of visiting clergy and our Lay leaders, with the help of our own vestries and guidance from the Diocese when asked for. All three churches were agreed that the rectory was in the wrong place both in facilitating the work of the priest and for ease of access for any church member. The Dean said he thought it would have worked if it had been a family home rather than a base for ministry. The Bishop said Glenluce had been chosen so that no one church felt that the priest "belonged to them" as it was situated near any of them. Both the Dean and the Bishop seem loathe to relinquish the present position re the house.

Financial problems loomed large during the discussions. all three churches are having difficulty in maintaining the status quo, with our church paying 50% of the WEC costs. If we were to go alone with a half time priest we could not manage as we are living on our reserves. The difficulty in finding priests who wish to live in this area rather than retire here a problem. If we had a full time priest of our own we should need about £45,000 a year. (Sam will fill anyone in on our financial position, please ask him).

The former rectory was sold by the Diocese and the new rectory purchased with the proceeds. If the new rectory were sold some, if not all the money, might be available to buy some new place around Newton Stewart. However maintaining it and supporting a new priest still presents a difficulty. Neither the Bishop nor the Dean warmed to this idea but ruled nothing out in theory. Looking to the future if the three churches stay under one priest the bishop said he was not looking for any close links between churches and we would continue to develop our own individual styles of mission and ministry but under the leadership of one priest. Other possibilities were aired; house for duty where a non-stipendiary priest would lead services in exchange for a house. Links with Castle Douglas or Gatehouse where curates or visiting clergy from the central belt might be based for a time to "experience" rural ministry etc.

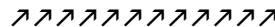
The Bishop said it was now time for each congregation to listen to ideas and possibilities among themselves and in the New Year he and the Dean would

receive from the three churches together the way in which they saw themselves developing and moving forward in mission to their area. We were left with the impression that the Bishop wants the three churches to remain under one priest.

Now it is over to ALL our people to pray and think and imagine what would be possible for All Saints either on our own or under the WEC banner. We need your ideas; the vestry cannot do it all. Whichever way we go if we are to keep an Episcopal presence in Newton Stewart and the Machars we seriously need more money. God will provide but only through us! I am sure I have not covered everything. Do ask any vestry member or worship leader for more.

One good thing! The visitors were united in praise for our alterations and the space worked well for the meeting.

Veronica Almgill Lay Rep



This is an article taken from Inspires Online which is the free e-newsletter from the Scottish Episcopal Church if you haven't tried it yet it is a great place to keep up to date with what is happening in the wider church in Scotland

It's beginning to look a lot like.... Advent

Looking Forward Together – Each day throughout Advent you will be able to watch a short video in the Scottish Episcopal Church's (SEC) digital Advent Calendar. The opening of each daily Advent calendar 'window' on the SEC [website](#) will reveal a short video reflecting a variety of Advent related themes and reflections – highlighting how the Church is living out the Advent promise and how individuals and groups respond to the call of Advent and look forward together to the Birth of Christ.

Did you know this newsletter and our weekly pew sheets are available online? Along with special updates of events and services so why not visit

OUR WEBSITE www.all saints challoch.wordpress.com

CHURCH RENOVATIONS

The renovations to create a meeting area at the back of church are now completed. It is so much easier to have a conversation after church and to get to know each other better.

It was lovely to be able to host a joint meeting with Bishop Gregor, the Dean and the three WEC Vestries and Eucharistic Assistants as we discussed the way forward for the Episcopal Church in Wigtownshire.

We have used this space a few times for the smaller midweek holy communion services and it does work very well.

It will of course be very useful for things like Lent courses, and it gives an area where children can sit comfortably during services. Perhaps we could even have a Coffee Morning there as part of our fund raising next year. If you have any other ideas please do let us know.

There have been a few problems adjusting to the new heating and sound systems but hopefully these will be ironed out quite quickly

Flower Rota—Any problems contact Anne 01671 403 928

December

No flowers during Advent
Until December 21st after
Communion all ladies
And anyone wants to help
are asked to decorate the
church for Christmas

January

Details yet to be
finalised see Anne
If you have any
queries.



The Episcopal Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church today elected the Rev Canon Anne Dyer as the new Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney.



Canon Dyer is Rector of Holy Trinity church, Haddington (since 2011). Her wider church involvement includes being a member of the Scottish Episcopal Institute Council and a member of General Synod.

Being in the first group of women for each of these Orders, Canon Dyer was ordained Deacon in 1987 and Priest in 1994 in Rochester. She served as Warden of Cranmer Hall, Durham and before that was Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese of Rochester. Prior to ordination Anne Dyer read Chemistry at St Anne's College, Oxford and was a Business Systems Analyst with Unilever before training for ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and studying theology at King's College London.

Canon Dyer is Chair of the East Lothian Foodbank and is a regular lecturer across Edinburgh and the Lothians on the subject of fine art and theology.

On hearing of her election Canon Dyer said "I am delighted to be elected by the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church to serve as Bishop in the United Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney. It will be a privilege to lead the people of this diocese as they continue to make known the love of God to those in their communities and beyond. I am looking forward to both the challenge and excitement of serving and worshipping together in diverse locations across the diocese and to joining the College of Bishops."

Canon Dyer is the first woman to be elected Bishop in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church voted to allow the election of female bishops in 2003. The See of Aberdeen & Orkney became vacant last November when the Rt Rev Dr Robert Gillies retired as Bishop of the Diocese.

Article taken from Inspires Online November 2017

GREEN GROWETH THE HOLLY



Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy;
Though winter blasts blow ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.



Gay are the flowers,
hedgerows and ploughlands;
The days grow longer in the sun,
Soft fall the showers.



Full gold the harvest,
grain for thy labour;
With God must work for daily bread,
Else, man, thou starvest.



Fast fall the shed leaves,
Russet and yellow;
But resting buds are snug and safe
Where swung the dead leaves.



Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy; The God of life can never die,
Hope! saith the holly.



A sixteenth century poem said to
have been set to music by Henry VIII



SERVICES AT CHALLOCH (unless otherwise stated)
for DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017/18

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday	9.00am 10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved sacrament Choral Matins
	3.00pm	<u>Reserved Sacrament@ Whithorn Priory</u>
Sunday 10th December Advent 2	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Eucharist
Sunday 17th December Advent 3	9.00am 10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament
Thursday 21st December	10.30am	Reserved Sacrament
Sunday 24th December Advent 4 CHRISTMAS EVE	9.00am 10.30 am 11.30pm	Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament Christmas Carols First Eucharist of Christmas
Monday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament
Thursday 28th December Holy Innocents Day	10.30am	Reserved Sacrament
Sunday 31st December Christmas 1	9.00am 10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament
Sunday 7th January	9.00am 10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved sacrament Choral Matins
	3.00pm	<u>Reserved Sacrament@ Whithorn Priory</u>
Sunday 14th January	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Eucharist
Sunday 21st January	9.00am 10.30am	Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament
Thursday 25th January	10.30am	Reserved Sacrament
Sunday 28th January	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Eucharist

Who's Who at Challoch

Priest In Charge Vacant

Worship Leader/Pastoral & Eucharistic Assistant Veronica Almgill

Worship Leader Liz Barfoot

Worship Leader/Pastoral & Eucharistic Assistant Gerry Ewan

Worship Leader/Eucharistic Assistant Jenni Gray

Worship Leader/Pastoral & Eucharistic
Assistant/Sacristan Rosemary Green

Worship Leader/Eucharistic Assistant Margaret Turner

Worship Leader/Pastoral & Eucharistic Assistant Anne Yate

Eucharistic Assistant Janet Hughes

Sacristan/ Peoples Warden Brenda Brookes

Sacristan Julie Obey

Secretary Margaret Turner

Treasurer Sam Shuttleworth

Property Convenor

Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Anne Yate

Lay Representative Veronica Almgill

Alt, Lay Representative Kathryn Ambler

Flower Organiser Anne Yate

People's Warden Brenda Brookes