

**ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH MUCHALLS**

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## **Be joyful - God's favour is upon you!** *Numbers 6:22-27*

How would it feel to go into the rest of this month joyfully confident of God's favour resting on you? What difference might it make to how you'd approach the things you'll do, the conversations you'll have, the decisions you'll make?

Confidence comes in knowing that God is the source of every blessing.

We see something of his intent on the first page of the Bible when God blesses the creatures He has made - to be fruitful, to multiply, and flourish. And He blesses human beings too - as made in His image and called to steward the earth, to exercise loving rule over other creatures. God's plan to bless creation is reinforced with the call of Abraham in *Genesis 12*, when God promises to form a people through whom He will extend blessing to all nations.

The Lord reinforces His larger purpose in the ongoing blessing of the Israelites mediated through the priests. He knew they'd need a regular reminder.

For them, as for us, comes the reassurance that the Lord and the Lord alone is the one who blesses His people. For them, as for us, the blessing declares that God cares for us and keeps us, delights in us and forgives us, watches us and restores us. That's how God marks out those who belong to Him. No wonder that these words of blessing shaped the worship of Israel through the centuries as, in different contexts, the people of God echoed the promises made and occasionally glimpsed how it would spill over to others.

And the words speak to us and shape us in the process of doing so. It's somehow too easy to look for blessing in all the wrong places, to be uncertain of the Father's love for us, unaware of His enfolding grace, unsure of His gift of peace. It's too easy to forget that every day His face lights up as He sees us, because His favour rests on us. Because of the God He is, we're not only encouraged to live under the reality of being treasured by Him but emboldened by the conviction that there is nothing worth having that He withholds from us.

This God who, as Paul says in *Ephesians 1:3*, has 'blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ', is the same God today.



**Church Bells** *By Megan Carter*

We hear the bells give out their sound  
They tell of God's unfailing love  
Of Him who sits enthroned on high,  
Touching earth from heaven above

Their voice is heard throughout the land,  
Let them ring, let them sing  
Of One who reigns, always the same,  
He is our God, our coming King.

In times of war and times of peace  
We hear their chimes throughout the days  
And know that God is always near  
An ever present help always.

Campanology tells a story,  
Bringing hope to those who hear,  
The ringing bells proclaim a message  
Telling all that God is near.

## **The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the merciful' - Rev Paul Hardingham**

*'One difference between grace and mercy is that grace is getting what we don't deserve (favour), and mercy is not getting what we do deserve (justice).'* (R.T. Kendall). Jesus calls us to show mercy in our everyday relationships: *'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'* (Matthew 5:7).

How are we to show mercy to others?

Firstly, we are to ***be merciful to those in need***, as illustrated by the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus uses this parable to challenge the lawyer about who showed mercy to the man, who was mugged on the road. *'The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'* Jesus told him, *'Go and do likewise.'* (Luke 10:37). Our mercy will be demonstrated as we look out for those who are hungry, sick, outcast or lonely and show them practical love in meeting their needs.

Secondly, we are to ***be merciful to those who have wronged us***. The natural response, when somebody upsets or hurts us, is to get our own back and seek revenge. We feel justified when we see things going wrong in their lives. However, we are called to demonstrate the same mercy and compassion that God shows us, leaving the situation in his hands: *'Do not take revenge, my dear friends...if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'* (Romans 12:19,20). The promise of this beatitude is that those who show mercy who will also receive mercy, for it is a divine quality of God himself.

*'The quality of mercy is not strain'd. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath: it is twice bless'd...it is an attribute to God Himself'* (William Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice).



## **Making the most of your time - Rev Paul Hardingham**

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

Firstly, **see time is a gift from God**. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, **commit your time to God**. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.



Thirdly, **set aside time for God, others and ourselves**.

How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said,

'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.



'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' (Martin Luther).

## TARZAN AND JAN (E)

It was our 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and, yes, you're right, Jan did deserve a treat. We decided on Kenya and camping to get the real 'back to nature' experience. I was a bit reticent as my last camping experience was mixed, to say the least. We were on a trip to the Empty Quarter in Oman and, yes, you're right again, apart from us and our Omani Special Forces Guide, it was very empty!!

I struggled to put up our tent ... Jan was much better (once a Girl Guide ....) and she and Abdulla worked quickly to erect it. A combination of the Omani Special Forces and Kincardine and Deeside Girlguiding is a fearsome combination ... perhaps we should send them to the Straits of Hormuz.

So, I was delighted to arrive in Kenya at our Camp to find that our 'Tent' was almost the size of a House. And it had a shower. And a loo - which flushed. Our hosts (Masai Warriors who were so charming, knowledgeable and eager to please) told us to just let them know when we wanted a shower and they would take the, forever boiling, pot on the camp fire and pour it into a canvas bag which they then raised on an intricate pulley system and tip from the top of the Tent when you shouted 'ready'. Jan got lots more water than her share as I'm able, with my hair, just to 'wash and go'.

We took the Scottish rain with us and the Kenyans were delighted as the 'Rainy Season' hadn't arrived earlier in the year when it was due. As it was their winter, it was quite cool in the evening .... What was that in our (king size) bed as we turned down the covers on our first night ...? Hot water bottles ☺. A nice touch.

All the Kenyans we met were so friendly – always a smile on their faces. The camps we visited are very much a partnership with the Masai community who owned the conservancies we visited with the aim of giving maximum benefit to community by ethical tourism and to minimise their environmental impact on the land to ensure that the wildlife can thrive in its natural environment. The Camp staff were an interesting mix of Muslims and Christians ... they were either one or the other, but they all seemed to co-exist harmoniously – a lesson for us all.

So, what did we see on our Safari ... well everything more or less with the exception of a Leopard.

There were probably four big highlights:

1. A group of around 30 hippos returning to the River ... there were no polite 'after you' that's for sure. You'd never guess how good these huge, lumbering animals are at hiding. We only saw one hippo grazing and drove over to see it and then rest of the family appeared out of the nearby bushes on their rush to the get into the safety of the water.
2. In torrential rain an elephant family had taken advantage of a puddle that quickly became a lake. The baby and teenager elephants were having great fun .... At one point, rolling on their backs with all four feet were pointing up to the skies. Mum looked on impatiently ... if she had a watch, I'm sure she would have been tutting and looking at it
3. A male lion had entered our Conservancy pride's territory and enticed one of the lionesses for a romantic week away. Which had been my plan too of course. He was a handsome fellow ... Jan kept going on and on about his lovely mane. Ok, Ok, Jan. He was very attentive to his lioness if you know what I mean.
4. But the biggest highlight was a wee mini drama played out before our eyes. Our eagle-eyed guides spotted a cheetah Mum who had just killed an Impala and she and her four cubs were enjoying their feast. Our guides explained, to have four Cubs, indicated she must be a really good Mum. We were to see for ourselves just how good later.

The cubs were cuteness personified, eating and playing. Then the Heavens opened. The cubs and Mum retreated under a nearby tree for shelter. Much mirth at the cubs literally dipping their paws in the puddles and retreating (just like our cats at home). The puddles became ponds and then a lake and then a river, all in the space of 20 minutes. Time to head back to camp for sundowners and dinner said our Guides. But just as we left that spot, our Guides spotted splashes up ahead – it was two male cheetahs and they were heading the way of Mum and her family.



Our Land Rover was positioned brilliantly to see what happened next.

Mum suddenly got wind of the approaching males and meowed to her cubs. No hesitations about wet paws now. They scarpered.

Mum put herself between her cubs and the two males and was doing everything she could to divert attention – part teasing, part fighting.

Meantime the Vultures swooped on the Antelope kill. Twenty or Thirty from the surrounding treetops. A cacophony of noise, feathers, blood, bone and water .... I now know what is meant by the term feeding frenzy. That antelope was a carcass in about 90 seconds. We'd never seen anything like that. And we are glad to report that Mum won the day too and all her cubs lived to fight another day.

So many lovely memories of a beautiful part of the world, lovely people and some amazing sights.

**Colin Horn**

## Medical terms for non-medical people

- Artery: the study of paintings
- Bacteria: the back door to cafeteria
- Barium: what doctors do when patients die
- Caesarean section: a neighbourhood in Rome
- Catscan: searching for kitty
- Cauterize: made eye contact with her
- Coma: a punctuation mark
- Enema: not a friend
- Fester: quicker than someone else
- Labour Pain: getting hurt at work
- Nitrates: cheaper than day rates
- Outpatient: a person who has fainted
- Post-operative: a letter carrier
- Recovery room: place to do upholstery
- Terminal illness: falling ill at the airport



## The story behind the hymn: How Great Thou Art

This well-loved, world famous Christian hymn began in Sweden, moved to Germany and Russia, and thence to England and the USA, where it became world famous as the signature song of George Beverly Shea in the great Billy Graham Crusades.

In about 1887 Carl Boberg was a young lay-pastor in Sweden, walking home from church near Kronoback, Sweden, and listening to the church bells. Suddenly a violent storm blew up, with lightning and thunder and wind – and just as quickly it departed. In the calm following the storm, a rainbow appeared, and all nature was at peace. Boberg was inspired to write a poem, 'O Store Gud', on the greatness of God in Nature. He set it to an old Swedish folk tune, and it was first sung in Varmland in 1888.

'O Store Gud' became popular, and it began to spread. By 1907 it had been taken to Germany by a wealthy Baltic Baptist nobleman. From there it moved to Russia in 1912, where it was called *Velikiy Bog* – or 'Great God'. By 1925 it had been translated into English 'O Mighty God' by a professor at North Park College in Illinois. But this gave way in 1949 to a different English translation, done by a British missionary to the Ukraine, Stuart K Hine, who called it *How Great Thou Art*, and rewrote some verses.

It was Hine's version which went on to gain wide popularity in the USA. It was first recorded by a Bill Carle in 1958, and then the Manna Music version of the song was popularised in the 1950s at the Billy Graham Crusades. It was sung in the 1955 Toronto campaign, and then it really took off in 1957 in Madison Square Garden, New York, where Shea sang it 100 times during the campaign.

George Beverly Shea's recording of the hymn has been ranked number 204 on the top recordings of the 20th century. Billy Graham once said: "The reason I like '*How Great Thou Art*' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honouring song.'

and there  
My God  
how great  
thou art

*How Great Thou Art* was voted the United Kingdom's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise programme, and it was second on the list of the 'favourite hymns of all time' in a 2001 survey by *Christianity Today* magazine.

## 9/11 – 18 years on

*Back in 2002, one year on from 9/11, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, reflected on the terrible attack. All these years later, we think it is worth looking back on what he said.*

'For myself, the view of the skyline of New York from a plane is one of the most majestic I have ever seen. Dominating it until 9/11 2001 were, of course, the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. The shattering attack on those soaring symbols of Western capitalism on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 not only altered radically the skyline of New York, it also made us more aware than we have ever been of our vulnerability to sudden and unpredictable change. Jesus makes of the skyline an unusual metaphor for belief and behaviour. His followers should not be motivated by defensive and self-protective concerns, but rather should be like a shining city whose bright lights are clearly visible in the darkness for miles around. 'You are the light of the world' Christ had already told his followers. They were not to hide the truth, but rather to bear confident witness to it.

The terrible events on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 impacted on both the physical landscape of Manhattan, and upon the landscape of the human spirit. But we Christians in the West must not lose our nerve. In times of darkness, the light must shine forth brightly.

I have become more convinced than ever of the durability of the Christian faith and its deep relevance to life today. Christianity is flourishing in every corner of the world, people of all ages and all backgrounds continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and to answer His call. They certainly did so in New York in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th. A short distance from where the Twin Towers once dominated the Manhattan skyline stands St Paul's Chapel. It is one of the oldest churches in New York; George Washington used to worship there over 200 years ago. Although the chapel was covered in a dense pall of dust and smoke on 11<sup>th</sup> September, it escaped the devastation virtually unscathed. Its' remarkable survival has made it a special place of pilgrimage.



It also served as a centre for fire fighters and emergency teams, with volunteers providing meals round the clock and a rudimentary place to rest on sleeping bags or on camp beds. It has been above all a place of support and sanctuary, a tangible sign of God's presence when 'tower and temple fall to dust.'

As the witness and example of St Paul's Chapel in New York reminds us so powerfully, the Church must continue to strive to live out its mission as a 'city set on a hill'. It has to remind us that no amount of change, no matter how frightening or painful it may be, can separate us from the love of God. For, it also points us towards that heavenly city, where the skyline will be eternal and indestructible. In the words of the hymn:

*City of God, how broad and far  
Outspread thy walls sublime....  
In vain the surge's angry shock,  
In vain the drifting sands;  
Unharm'd upon the eternal Rock  
The eternal city stands*

**Request by Daphne Kitching**

(Lk 11:1b)

Well Lord God, here I am,  
believing in you,  
trusting in Jesus,  
knowing that you sent your Spirit  
to connect us.  
But sometimes the signal seems weak,  
As though I've wandered out of range.

Lord, I want to grow closer,  
to hear your voice  
and know your guidance  
in the nitty-gritty  
of the life you have given me.  
I know it's been said before, Lord,  
but please, teach me to pray.

**Summary of Minutes of Vestry Meeting on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**1. Matters arising from Vestry Meeting Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

- a. **Strutt and Parker**- Ian has contacted Strutt Parker again asking about their commitment regarding the service they provide re the Rectory Letting and ongoing service and inspection. He awaits a reply.
- b. **Memorial Plaque**- to review again in October.
- c. **PVG** -Russ still has to return the forms to Irene
- d. **The Ecumenical Service**- was very well received and all attendees were very complimentary about the event. They wish it to continue, and next year a similar service will be held at Maryculter Trinity Church.
- e. **Pillar Meeting**. Pillar meeting did take place and was well received. To date, there has been no further communication with them regarding a workshop or use of our facilities.
- f. **Place of Hope Update**. -Two Representatives from Place of Hope met with St Ternan's Vestry on June 28th 2019. It was felt to be a useful and reassuring discussion, and a report of the initial Meeting sent back to Vestry. There is to be a further meeting with St Ternan's and St James' Vestries, separately, at dates still to be decided. (post meeting -the next meeting will be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October) (See report later on in magazine)

**2. Treasurers Report** -This report covers month May and June

- a. Income for May amounted to £1768.33 and expenditure £1069.26 giving a surplus of £599.07.

- b. Income for June amounted to £1691.37 and expenditure £2491.80 giving a deficit of £800.43  
Total funds at end of June £34549.49
- c. The saga with the rectory telephone has been finalised and the phone in the rectory has been cut off. All calls for the church will go straight to Irene Butler's number. Should we ever have a Minister in situ in the Rectory it will be a case of reinstalling the line. I was advised we would be refunded some of the rentals we have paid this will show on final account but this has not been sent to me yet.
- d. Carol has had a run in with both the bank and Strutt Parker as on the balance sheet presented to Vestry there is no income for the Rectory for May and June. This is to do with Strutt Parker's banking system she was told. They were informed by Carol that it was not good enough and that we depended on this money. Carol updated the meeting that the money had finally gone into our account. Please note this is nothing to do with our tenant as he has a monthly direct debit to Strutt Parker.

## 2. Property Convenors Report

- a. **Rectory** -Outstanding-Outside toilet door and pellet store door waiting for estimate to have these doors repaired or renewed. Repair decorative panels on front door of the Rectory Back door into Rectory waiting for estimate to door frame and other parts on door that require attention.
- b. **Church and Extension**- Replaced bulbs in Disabled toilet light and one bulb in chandelier within the church. Thanks to Ian Butler for his assistance.  
Received Grant from the Dunderdale Trust of £1,481.21 towards cost of replacing ridge tiles and Vestry door. Total est. cost for both £2,991.20 Grant payable on completion of work.  
Post box now installed on left hand side of church main door entrance. The church has now a postal address: **St Ternan's Church, Muchalls, Stonehaven. Aberdeenshire AB39 3PP.** Cost of post-box £41.78  
There are three areas of the carpet / steps edging, one near the pulpit and two on the right-hand side near the Altar requiring attention. Di to contact Carpet Right.
- c. **Grounds**-Garden Maintenance carried out. For May £160  
Community service people strimming area of ground to the North of Rectory and Church.  
Thanks to Di Driver for the great job she is doing with the flower beds  
Received plants from Aberdeenshire Council to brighten grounds up.
- d. **Heating System**-17<sup>th</sup> June Received 4 tonnes pellets. Cost £924  
Emergency lights and fire extinguishers checked

## 3. Ministry Group Report.

The Cluster Meeting: Among other items discussed it was suggested that the Treasurers from the churches within the Northern Cluster might find it useful to meet together. It was NOT a pooling of finances - more to share experiences. It was also suggested that the Property Convenor's in the cluster might meet.

## 4. Futures Group Report

Eric Hargreaves has visited 5 Primary Schools re 'Keeping Children Safe on the Internet.' It was well received by the schools who suggest the letter written by Eric, with details etc, to be given out to Parents on return to the new term in August. The presentation and a Q&A session devised by RGU (Mr Ian Harris of the School of Computing Science and Media Design) will be on 28th August at 7pm in St Ternan's church and is directed at the

parents, carers and friends of the children.  
Eric and Jan are have updated the St Ternan's information leaflet

## 5. Social Group Report

The monthly bring and buy for May amounted to £30.00

The Quiz night in May was a great success thanks to Quizmaster Carl Nelson and £335 was raised for Church funds.

13th June – Quids In performance of Resurrection was very good and enjoyed by all who attended. They donated £42.50 which was 40% of takings.

15th June – Afternoon Tea at St. Ternan's Church was well attended weather was favourable and we raised £581.50 for church funds. Our thanks to Morag and the Stoney Fiddlers for entertaining during the afternoon.

6. 30th June – The Granite City Brass Band performed in the Church and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The Band was delighted with the acoustics in the Church and have agreed to come back again and do another concert. We have sent £100 to Portlethen Dementia Group and £59 to church funds.

## 7. A.O.C.B

- a. **Harvest Festival:** 1st Sunday in October - 6th – Morag and Peter will give a presentation of their Charity work, to be followed by a soup and sweet lunch.  
AGM Proposed date. 24th November 2019
- b. **Refuse Bins in the Kitchen.** George has advised there needs to be extra vigilance to waste disposal as we could be charged if we are found to be non-compliant with guidelines. Food waste to go in small blue 'sink' bin, Paper, foil and plastics in the Blue bin and any other waste in the black bin – just as our household waste does at present.
- c. **Bishop Ted's Book on St Ternan's.** 20 more books ordered. It is proposed that there should be some for sale down in the Tolbooth Museum in Stonehaven.

## Date of next Meeting

20th September 2019 2pm in the Community Room.



## **That's impossible! - Tony Horsfall**

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. Ephesians 3:17-19

How can you describe the indescribable? How can you measure the love of God? Who can find words to convey the joy of knowing such amazing love?

The apostle Paul gives us a model for the love of God that is mathematically impossible. Objects normally have only 3 dimensions, but here he gives us 4, such is the greatness of the love he has in mind.

It is wide, embracing every person without exception.

It is long, lasting for eternity.

It is high, coming down from heaven to save us.

It is deep, taking the Saviour to the cross and the darkness of the tomb.

Paul wants us to begin to understand (grasp) with our minds how great is God's love.

More than that, he wants us to experience (know) it for ourselves, in our hearts.

When this happens, with the help of the Spirit, we will become rooted, like trees with roots anchored in the ground. We will become established, like a building resting on a firm foundation. In other words, we will be secure.

Why not ask God to take you deeper into His amazing love?



## **Place for Hope Conversations with St Ternan's Muchalls & St James Stonehaven.**

The Right Reverend Andrew Swift, Bishop of Brechin, had invited the vestries of both congregations to take part in conversations to explore the idea of a shared 3-year Interim or Transition Ministry to support the two congregations in future development.

Ian Murray and Russell McLarty – Place for Hope volunteers - met for two hours with each Vestry on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and this sheet provides a summary of these first conversations.

Over the next months we can meet vestries individually and, when appropriate, in joint meetings to see if there is an agreed way forward.

### **St Ternan's Muchalls**

- We are a welcoming and warm congregation who all know each other well and who look out for each other
- Our church is a peaceful, quiet place kept warm with the wood burning boiler and with glass doors for people to see into the church
- Our worship follows the liturgy but is adapted with a 'low church' ethos where different people are involved in leading and with spoken responses where the Gospel is read by members.
- Around 20 people regularly attend the Sunday Service
- Our Social Group goes out into the community with events in other community buildings raising money for other needs and for church
- The new housing development nearby could bring new members

### **Ideas & issues**

- We need a 'leader' who can share in our work to attract more people and who can be a 'presence' in the wider community
- Without new people coming to church the future will be closure
- We see a challenge of finding someone who can work with the two different congregations with very different styles of worship
- We are open to the idea of the Rector leading worship every other Sunday where we would want to continue to have members lead on other Sundays
- A big question is about where the Rector would live. This ought not to be in either Rectory and might best be in rented accommodation but not in the communities beside either church.
- There would be challenge of affording costs of share of Stipend, accommodation & upkeep of the buildings.

**Folk were generally hopeful and encouraged by the Bishop's listening to their situation and offer financial support some sort of Interim or Transition Ministry**

### **St James, Stonehaven**

- We are a very welcoming congregation
- In Scottish terms we have a high-middle church liturgy which suits the church building in Stonehaven
- Our people work very well together and thoughtfully looking to solve things together by talking things through
- Around 30 people attending the 3 different services
- A dry rot 'crisis' in the roof led to Heritage Lottery Grant with conditions of opening the church to visitors. This inspired our exhibition on history of church & the organ as a mission opportunity

- We engage with the wider community with the 'Book Browse' initiative with free coffee & tea and June Market Stall in town
- Biscuit church is an initiative with parent & toddlers with Children's Service a way of connecting with younger families

#### **Ideas & issues**

- Importance of having a Rector as a presence in the town helping to promote growth rather than our being in 'maintenance' mode
- Maybe a 'Transition-Type' ministry would
  - encourage and enable us in our worship & mission
  - respect the ethos and identity of each congregation
  - provide a much needed 'pastoral presence'
- As we move forward it seems important to look more widely than the two congregations to share resources and expertise in Diocese
- As we move forward, we need a future vision of the Diocese to see how any Transition Ministry might help towards that vision

**People were hopeful that there might be a way forward though still very real reservations as to whether anyone could be found with the qualities to meet the challenges of this ministry**

**All things come from You, and of Your own do we ... not give back much! - Ven John Barton**

Soup of the Day, £4.95; roast rump of lamb with vegetables £15.50. Let's forgo pudding, but add a glass of wine, say £5. Plus tip = Total £28.

That's from the menu on the *George & Dragon* website. I hear it serves good pub grub. My imaginary meal was £28 for one, £56 for two.

Come to think of it, that's more than I set aside for *God's* work last week.

On Sunday mornings, at the Offertory, we will hear the Minister say: 'Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.'

And we will reply: '*All things come from You, and of Your own do we give You.*'

It's a quote from the Old Testament. King David had been collecting materials to build and decorate *God's* Temple. He had himself given huge amounts of silver and gold, and all the tribal chiefs had collected contributions from the people. Then there's this surprising comment:

'The people had given willingly to the Lord and they were happy that so much had been given. King David was also extremely happy.'

*So, giving money away makes you happy!*

The story continues with the King, praying aloud to *God* like this with all the people watching: "Everything in heaven and earth is yours... all riches and wealth come from you... my people and I cannot really give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already."

*Giving to God is us only giving back what He has given.*

How much should we give back to *God*? The Bible makes reference to setting aside one tenth of our income for *God*. It's called a tithe. That is, 10%.

Then there is the story of the widow who gave a tiny amount to the Temple in Jerusalem, but it was a real sacrifice because it was all that she had. When *Jesus* saw it, He said she had given more than rich people.

*It's not the amount we give, it's the percentage of what we have that matters.*



## Say it slow

On a beautiful late summer's day, two American tourists were driving through Wales. They reached Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyllyllantysiliogogoch (yes, that place in Wales) and stopped for lunch.

Still gazing in fascination at the place name on the sign outside, one of the tourists approached the waitress and said: "Before we order, I wonder if you could settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very, very, very slowly?"

"Sure," the girl shrugged. She leaned over the counter and said: "Burr-r-gurr-r-king".

## 15<sup>th</sup> September: St Adam of Caithness - the way NOT to tithe

Teaching people to 'tithe' can be a delicate matter. Some clergy teach 'tithing' well, and inspire their people to great generosity of spirit. Other clergy teach 'tithing' at least well enough, and get their people's sluggish cooperation.

But - there are clergy who teach 'tithing' badly - and then, watch out! St Adam (bishop 1213 - 22) is a good example of how NOT to do it.

Adam was a young Cisterian monk who became abbot of Melrose. Then in 1213 William, king of Scotland, appointed him as bishop in a remote area where his own kingly power was weak and that of the Norse earls was strong.

Adam attempted to enforce law and order, including canon law, and particularly the payment of tithes. The people sullenly obeyed most of his teaching about the law and order and didn't care a fig one way or another about canon law. But tithing was a subject on which they had passionate views!

The customary offering at this time was a span of butter to the clergy for every twenty cows that a person owned. Adam said this was not enough. He wanted more butter. He increased the tithe to one span for every fifteen cows. Then one span for every twelve cows. Then one span for every ten cows that a person owned.

And so, Adam managed to double his butter income. But any modern-day Diocesan Board of Finance thinking of doubling the parish share should beware what happened next.



For the people revolted. One night they forced their way into his bishop's house at Halkirke and burnt him and his followers to death. The only good news was that his body, although 'roasted with fire and livid with bruises, was found entire under a heap of stones, and buried honourably in the church.' Thus ended Adam, and the people kept all their butter tithe - presumably spreading it on toast?

## Flying Bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally, he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is . . . you're NOT my flight instructor?"



### **Priorities** - by Daphne Kitching

In a minute,  
Later,  
One day,  
Maybe,  
Soon.  
I haven't time this morning,  
Perhaps this afternoon.

We'll really do it sometime,  
Next week,  
Next month,  
Next year.  
Now I'd like to be with you,  
That's strange,  
There's no-one here.



### Asking

I never go forth to meet a new day  
Without asking God as I kneel down to pray  
To give me the strength and courage to be  
As patient with others as He is with me!

*Anonymous*

### **Ministry Team**

**Bishop of Brechin**

**Right Rev'd Andrew Swift Tel: 01382 459 569**

**George Masson Tel: 01569 739283**

**ROTA - SEPTEMBER 2019**

| <b>Date:</b>                                 | <b>CELEBRANT/<br/>Pastoral Assistant/<br/>Address/Chalice</b>       | <b>Readers/<br/>Intercessions:</b>  | <b>Readings:</b>   | <b>Sidesperson</b> | <b>Cleaning/Flowers<br/>Teas</b>                     |
|--|---|---|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>01/09/19<br/>Pentecost 12</b>             | <b>ARMA ISLES</b><br><br><i>Sheila Usher</i><br><br>Sue Selway      | Katie Gill<br>Sheila Usher<br>John Usher<br><br><b>Sue Selway</b>         | ECCLESIASTES 10: 12-18<br>HEBREWS 13: 1-8, 15-16<br>LUKE 14: 1,7-14  | Carl Nelson        | <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b><br><br>Rhoda Nelson         |
| <b>08/09/19<br/>Pentecost 13</b>             | <b>REV JANE NELSON</b><br><br><i>Irene Butler</i><br><br>John Usher | Di Driver<br>George Masson<br>Jan Horn<br><br><b>Sheila Usher</b>         | DEUTERONOMY 30: 15-20<br>PHILEMON 1-21<br>LUKE 14: 25-33             | Jan Horn           | <b>Kathleen Northcroft</b><br><br>Carol Masson       |
| <b>15/09/19<br/>Pentecost 14</b>             | <b>JEAN SOUTER</b><br><br><i>Irene Butler</i>                       | Carol Masson<br>Sue Manson<br>Sheila Usher<br><br><b>Ken Tonge</b>        | EXODUS 32; 7-14<br>1 <sup>ST</sup> TIMOTHY 1: 12-17<br>LUKE 15; 1-10 | Sue Selway         | <b>Sue Selway</b><br><br>Katie Gill                  |
| <b>22/09/19<br/>Pentecost 15</b>             | <b>RUSS HUDDLESTON</b><br><br><i>Sheila Usher</i>                   | Katie Gill<br>Sue Selway<br>Ken Tonge<br><br><b>Muriel<br/>Hargreaves</b> | AMOS 8: 4-7<br>1 <sup>ST</sup> TIMOTHY 2: 1-7<br>LUKE 16: 1-13       | Eric Hargreaves    | <b>Sue Manson/<br/>Di Driver</b><br><br>Rhoda Nelson |
| <b>29/09/19<br/>Pentecost 16</b>             | <b>JOHN USHER</b><br><br><i>Irene Butler</i><br><br>Eric Hargreaves | Di Driver<br>Eric Hargreaves<br>George Masson<br><br><b>Sue Selway</b>    | AMOS 6: 1A, 4-7<br>1 <sup>ST</sup> TIMOTHY 6: 6-19<br>LUKE 16: 19-31 | Carl Nelson        | <b>Rhona Vassilikos</b><br><br>Oksana Huddleston     |
| <b>06/10/19<br/>Pentecost 17<br/>HARVEST</b> | <b>ERIC HARGREAVES</b><br><br><i>Irene Butler</i>                   |   |  | Jan Horn           | <b>Sheila Usher</b><br><br>Carol Masson              |