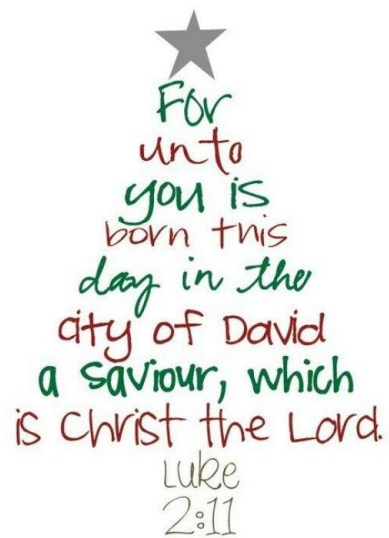


ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH MUCHALLS

# MAGAZINE

**December 2018-January 2019**



For  
unto  
you is  
born this  
day in the  
city of David  
a saviour, which  
is Christ the Lord.  
Luke  
2:11

Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

**Scottish Charity No. 023264**

**[www.stternans.co.uk](http://www.stternans.co.uk)**

**God with us - Rev Paul Hardingham**

*'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.'* (Isaiah 7:14)

This promise to King Ahaz in eighth century Judah is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at the first Christmas (Matthew 1:23). However, the promise of *'God with Us'* is as relevant to Ahaz, as it is to us today. He was facing the military threat of Syria and Israel invading his country and Isaiah calls upon him not to panic or be afraid, but to trust in God, who is in control of the situation.

For us, Christmas often highlights the difficulties that we face in our lives, e.g. the stress of preparing and entertaining family and friends; the financial pressures of putting on a good Christmas; a time when we find ourselves alone or facing our first Christmas without a loved one. The message of Immanuel is the same for us! We don't need to panic or be afraid, because the baby born in Bethlehem reminds us that God really does care:

God is for me and with me: He is on my side and by my side. He's not against me and I am never alone.

God is for me: everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of random events or mistakes.

God is with me: when others show they are not, by what they think or do.

God is with me: circumstances may change, but God will strengthen me in the midst of them all.

God is with me: He isn't far away but had made the journey into my world. This is the heart of the Christmas message, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey stuffing and pudding!



# St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church, Muchalls

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018

16 <sup>th</sup> December 3.30pp	Community Celebration of Christmas
23 <sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am	Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> December 09.30am	Christmas Day Service



## Christmas throughout the Christian world

For nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas Christians recognise a period called Advent. It means 'coming'. It is a time of spiritual preparation. 'Coming' refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace.

Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by setting aside time to pray and address global poverty.

Christmas Day is celebrated as the anniversary of Jesus' birth, although the actual date is not known. Most Christians celebrate it on 25<sup>th</sup> December. However, the Orthodox Church (the ancient churches in Eastern Europe and parts of Asia) follows a different calendar and celebrates on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Christians make a point of taking communion on Christmas Day. Many make it the first thing they do as the clock strikes midnight.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January the Christmas festival continues with a celebration of Epiphany, which means 'the appearance'. Christians remember the visit of wise men (magi) to Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas tradition of exchanging gifts originally honoured these men, who were the first non-Jews (Gentiles) to worship Jesus. It forms a reminder that in Jesus God was giving Himself for the benefit of the entire world.



Orthodox Christians use this day to recall the baptism of Jesus as a grown man. The significance of Jesus being baptised was that He identified Himself with human beings in all their need. They mark the day by praying for God's blessing on rivers, wells and water sources.

Christmas has never been just an escapist festival for Christians. Those who treat it seriously recognise that not all the world is able to face the days with frivolity or joy. The day after Christmas, Boxing Day, was historically marked as the feast of St Stephen. He was the first man to be put to death rather than give up his belief that Jesus was God. And two days later a day remembering the Massacre of the Innocents recalls Herod's attempt to destroy Jesus by killing all male babies in Bethlehem. Although not so widely marked as Christmas Day, it gives Christians the opportunity to pray for children in today's world who suffer as a result of the actions of adults.

### **With Christmas in mind....**

- What do you call a cat in the desert? - Sandy Claws.
- What goes oh oh oh? - Santa walking backwards.
- What did the dog get for Christmas? -A mobile bone.
- Who delivers presents to sharks at Christmas? - Santa Jaws.
- Why do turkeys never go hungry at Christmas? -They're always stuffed.
- Which Christmas carol is most popular with new parents? - Silent Night!
- Why is turkey so popular at Christmas? - Because the weather is a lot warmer over there.
- What is the best Christmas present in the world? -A broken drum - you just can't beat it!



### **TREASURERS REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2018**

- The accounts for the year show a deficit of £11,066 with a closing balance of £23,794.
- The weekly congregational giving is down £299 this year but deeds of covenant increased by £660. However, I have to report that two gift aid donations have been stopped which means a decrease of £180 per month. This will make the considerable difference to our income over the next financial year of £2160 and also the tax recovered figure. The tax recovered this year is up £310. Donations are down £386 and Community room donations are also down £51.
- Fundraising is down this year by £781 but rectory income has remained at £8896.
- On the outgoings the cost of ministry payable to visiting preachers has increased by £45 and our quota has increased by £326.
- Our charitable donations have decreased by £253.
- Due to the work carried out following the Quinquennial Inspection property expenses have increased considerably despite the efforts of raising £18144 in grants. However, the Property Convenor will elaborate on these figures in his report.
- Heating and Lighting is listed at £6778 – refund from rectory tenant £579 giving a net total of £6199 which includes boiler service and any breakdowns. Again, Property Convenor will elaborate.
- Looking at the larger picture our deficit was caused by the work carried out to meet the Quinquennial Inspection recommendations. However, it is hoped that we should not have any more improvements to make in the near future.
- However, I should point out that without the rectory rental we would be going deeper into deficit. I was told at the recent meeting with Diocesan Officials to try to wipe this deficit if possible but realistically this will not be possible over the next financial year.
- Sadly, the prospect of advertising for a new priest in charge recedes further into the background.

- I would like to thank Colin for his support in completing the gift aid returns, Mike Harding our Auditor for his support and the Vestry for their continued support to myself. Mike Harding has intimated he will audit next year but that will be his last.  
**Carol Masson Vestry Treasurer**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2018**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Congregational & Voluntary	£ 15,343.00	£ 15,313.00
Special Collections	£ 551.00	£ 706.00
Investment Income	£ 183.00	£ 372.00
Rectory Rental	£ 8,896.00	£ 8,895.00
Garden Fete	£ 530.00	£ 690.00
Sale of CD's/Baptismal Paintings	£ 55.00	£ 65.00
Fund Raising Events	£ 582.00	£ 1,193.00
Returned Direct Debit		£ 128.00
Grants	£ 18,144.00	£ 1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 44,284.00</b>	<b>£ 28,362.00</b>



**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2018**

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Quota -Provincial /Diocesan	£ 3,912.00	£ 3,586.00
Cost of Ministry	£ 1,584.00	£ 1,539.00
Church Expenses	£ 177.00	£ 275.00
Property Expenses	£ 18,122.00	£ 10,529.00
Organist/Organ Repairs	£ 2,065.00	£ 520.00
Administrative Costs	£ 1,256.00	£ 1,250.00
Charitable Expenditure	£ 645.00	£ 898.00
Quinquennial Inspection	£ 27,589.00	£ 540.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 55,350.00</b>	<b>£ 19,137.00</b>
Surplus/Loss for the year	<b>-£ 11,066.00</b>	£ 9,225.00



**ALL FUNDS ARE UNRESTRICTED  
STATEMENT AND BALANCES AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2018**

<b>Bank and Cash in Hand</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Opening Balances	£34,860	£25,635
<b>Surplus/Loss for the year</b>	<b>£11,066</b>	£9,225
Closing Balances	£23,794	£34,860
<b>Reserves</b>		
Bank of Scotland- general fund	£1,666	£4,244
Bank of Scotland- community fund	£5,924	£9,508
Virgin Money	£16,204	£21,108
	<b>£23,794</b>	<b>£34,860</b>

(Strutt Parker holds £250.00 which belongs to St Ternan's Church)

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf**

### Christmas Dilemma by Megan Carter

What a dilemma for a slimmer  
Eating all that Christmas fare,  
Getting fatter, what's it matter?  
It's only once a year.

Food a-plenty, plates all empty  
Waistbands bursting, no room left,  
Soon we'll reach for the Alka Seltzer  
That's the truth, I do not jest.

Now the party has begun,  
Crackers and cheese and party hats  
Turkey with trimmings, presents with  
ribbons,  
Figgy pudding – do we still eat that?

Celebrations, assignations, party frocks with  
lots of bling,  
But the reason for the season  
Is the Baby in the manger, came to earth as  
a stranger  
Peace on earth and joy to bring.

### It may be Christmas, but does it meet Health and Safety....?!

*Just wait until political correctness gets hold of some well-loved carols...*

#### **The Rocking Song**

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;  
We will lend a coat of fur,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:

*Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants, both due to risk of allergy to animal fur, and for ethical reasons. Please lend little Jesus a nice cellular blanket instead, or perhaps micro-fleece material. Please note, only persons who have been subject to a DBS check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock baby Jesus. Persons must carry their disclosure with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before rocking commences.*

#### **While Shepherds Watched**

While shepherds watched  
Their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
The angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around

*The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.*



### **Little Donkey**

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road  
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load

*The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. Also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four-hour plodding period. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.*

### **We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

*Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable - as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc, gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipient's name or perhaps give a gift voucher. Also, we would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of a satnav, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption.*

### **Rudolph the red nosed reindeer**

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer  
had a very shiny nose.  
And if you ever saw him,  
you would even say it glows.

*You are advised that under the Equal Opportunities for All policy, it is inappropriate for persons to comment with regard to the ruddiness of Mr R Reindeer's nose.*

### **God's Special Gift- Rev Paul Hardingham**

For those of us about to spend Christmas with a new child or grandchild, we will know how very special the arrival of a baby is! This Christmas we celebrate again God's gift of Jesus: *'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'* (2 Corinthians 9:15). What can we say about this baby?

*He is God Himself:*

The unthinkable has happened: God has become a human being! The eternal, creator God enters the world of time and space, both fully human and fully divine. This divine baby can bring hope to our messy world, because He has fully become part of it. He doesn't stand apart, but demonstrates a commitment to be with us and on our side in the midst of sin and suffering.



*He is human like us:*

Jesus fully engaged with the jungle of human experience. By His cross and resurrection, He can release us from the power of wrong, hurt and shame to secure for us a life of love, peace and forgiveness. Remember, the crib and cross are made of the same wood!

*He is one with us:*

In the coming of Jesus, God doesn't draw us simply into a cosmic event, but into a relationship. Just as you or I can hold and hug our children and grandchildren, so we have a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives. As Emmanuel, 'God is with us' (Matt 1:23). Therefore, the question is: *Are we with Him? Are we ready to make space for Him at the centre of our Christmas Celebrations this year?*



*'At Christmas time, when we receive presents, we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.'* (J John).

### **The hour-glass of Christmas - Rev Richard Bewes**

*But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son..... (Galatians 4:4)*

Have you ever used one of those old-fashioned glass 'egg-timers'? Thousands of sand grains sink down from the wide top of the glass until they trickle through the tapered centre, only to fill the bottom as the glass widens out once more. By then you know your egg is boiled.

It is this very 'hour-glass' that describes the shape of Christmas – and all that stems from it. At the top of the glass, the dimensions were wide: God promised that salvation would come to the whole world through His people Israel. They would act as God's 'light' to the world. Then, as the centuries went by, and Israel constantly rebelled against the Lord, the hour-glass narrowed: until by the end of the Old Testament, it was down to a faithful remnant.

400 years more, and the sand-glass has narrowed down to a tiny hamlet by the name of Bethlehem... and the reduction now to a single grain – a manger-Child - of whom it would be said, *"He became flesh and lived among us."*

The solitary Man from Galilee turns out to be what Israel could never have been. All rested upon Him - the personal and unique fulfilment of an eternal sacrificial plan for a dying world. The apostle Paul would one day describe Him as 'our great God and Saviour' (Titus 2:13). Here was the narrowest point in the Christmas hour-glass.

But, inevitably, the process - having narrowed in shape from Eternity down to the Child born as world-Saviour - was to widen out again. With the disciples and then the birth of the Church, the international witness spread ever-wider....to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. We are still part of that widening process now!

The Man born to be King at tiny Bethlehem now stands at the right hand for us all. *He is still a man; not even an 'ex-man,' but glorified Man*, beckoning us all – beckoning YOU to follow Him onwards from this very Christmas to partake with Him in the Glory to come!



## **SUMMARY OF VESTRY MINUTES - FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Acceptance of Annual Accounts**

Mike Harding has approved the accounts and signed them off.

Bishop Andrew has had a copy emailed.

The accounts and financial schedule will be sent to Alan Duffus, Diocesan Treasurer, and financial schedule to the Diocesan Office following our AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

September: Income: £1773.08 Expenditure: £ 699.61 Surplus: £1073.47 Total funds at end of September: £24867.24

October: Income: £2946.54 Expenditure: £2179.54 Surplus: £ 767.00 Total funds at end of October: £25634.24

Pending; OSCR submission to be completed after the AGM.

Business Stream – Application for Water Exemption.

Grateful thanks expressed by Vestry to Carol for all the work involved.

### **Quinquennial Review Report**

Following a lengthy review and discussion, amendments of points raised were agreed by Vestry and will be re-submitted. A separate report will be available for the congregation once it is finalised.

### **Matter Arising from previous minutes**

**Strutt and Parker** Ian has consulted with them regarding an energy survey. He reported they did respond; they had an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) accredited assessor to undertake survey of the Rectory in 2011, to be renewed every 10 years, next due 2012. Surprisingly, the Wood Burner could have a negative impact on the EPC rating. A copy of the full 2011 report was made available to Vestry.

Ian is to ask re additional duties/commitments/visits Thanks expressed to Ian for progressing this.

### **Memorial Plaque**

George has contacted Robertson's. There is a high risk that the original plaque may break on removal. He will get a costing for a larger granite plaque and names will need renewing.

### **Sub Committee – Increasing Congregation**

A Brainstorming meeting had produced a comprehensive list of ideas/suggestions which was submitted to Vestry. There are implications - some legal, costings, manpower, training etc required for some items on the list. It was felt that, after discussion, 3-4 items should be chosen for a more detailed 'business' plan.

It was suggested we await Russ's return to discuss further.

### **Christmas arrangements/Christmas Cards**

It was agreed that we should pay half the cost of the cards this year with Newtonhill Parish Church

### **Remembrance Wreath**

Carol has bought a wreath on behalf of St Ternan's congregation which George will lay at Cookney Memorial on Sunday.

### **Property Convenors Report**

**Rectory:** Completed. Decorating of Parish Room

Outstanding - Decorating SW bedroom – date to be agreed between tenant and decorator.

**Parish Room** - Repair flooring near old fireplace: General tidy up

Garage roof - New guttering being fitted by tenant. – South side done, North side to be completed.

Estimated cost of repairs previously identified - outstanding £2500

**Church and extension:**

Completed – Organ repairs £545.00

Slater replaced 5 tiles on church Roof- Gale damage. £103.20

Grounds: Gardener - has done autumn tidy up and applied weed killer.

Survey still required re North side of Church banking/drainage.

Heating: 4.1 tonnes of pellets received - £ 947.10

Emergency lights checked.

**PVG Report**

Jan investigating the legalities for the need for PVG for several members of the congregation

**Social Group Report**

October Monthly bring and buy raised £15.00.

2 soup/sandwich lunches - one for Bishop Andrew and the Harvest Lunch raised £178.50

Granite Brass Band has not yet responded – possibly next year?

Floral Art Evening – 23<sup>rd</sup> November at Skateraw Hall – posters displayed and tickets available. Light snacks - mince pies and shortbread with coffee/tea.

**A.G.M**

To be held after service on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Reports to be done in preparation and put at back of church. Vestry: Rhona to come off this year.

**A.O.C.B**

Ministry Team Rota - Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December to plan services for the future.

Pastoral Care - Need to support the frailer members of the congregation who no longer attend

Community Celebration for Christmas- George meeting with Chapleton Representatives.

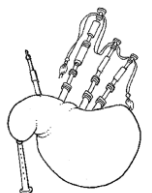
**Dates for Vestry meeting** -11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to be submitted to Bishop Andrew as he would like to attend one of them.

**Rhona Vassilikos**

**With New Year's Eve (Hogmanay) in mind**

What's the difference between a piper and a mother-in-law?

Not everyone loathes their mother-in-law.



Bagpipes and the Loch Ness Monster have two things in common – they attract tourists and terrify little children.

My New Year's Resolution is to get better at pretending to know the words to Auld Lang Syne.

How do you get two pipers to play a perfect harmony? Shoot one!

## Charity Donations

During the past couple of months, we have made the following donations to charities: -

21/10/18      £125.00 to Indonesian Tsunami Appeal

11/11/18      £100.00 to Lady Haig Poppy Appeal

## Carol Masson

***If you like the appalling jokes in Christmas crackers, you'll like these....***

- What's the smell of bad eggs? EGGTINCT (Extinct)
- What's the expression on an auctioneer's face? FOR BIDDING
- Why is it dangerous to have a nap in a railway carriage? BECAUSE THE TRAIN RUNS OVER SLEEPERS
- When is longhand quicker than shorthand? WHEN IT'S ON A CLOCK.
- What do bees do with all their honey? THEY CELL IT.
- What do you get if you cross a jeep with a dog? A LAND ROVER
- What happens when a horse gets to the bottom of his nose-bag? IT'S THE LAST STRAW
- If an Indian woman is squaw, what's an Indian baby? A SQUAWKER
- What do you do with an angry candle? WHEN IT FLARES UP, PUT IT OUT

## New Year, New Life - Rev Paul Hardingham

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. We may look back to the old year with sadness or regret, but how can we make a fresh start at the beginning of 2019? The apostle Paul writes *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, if you want a new start, you need to ***forget the things which are behind***. Paul pictures himself as an athlete running for Christ, yet not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and failures to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to ***focus on the things that lie ahead***. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and career, or family and children?



Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, and God will say, *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, *'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'*

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. - *Corrie ten Boom*

### **Rearrangement of Church Furnishings.**

As some may remember the repair and redecoration of the church was carried out with the permission of the Diocesan Building Committee granted under Canon 35. Simultaneously, under that same Canon, we were allowed to carry out a re-ordering of the church furnishings for an experimental period.

That experimental reordering involved the removal of some pews to create more useable spaces at the front and at the back of the seating area.

It is now necessary to decide if the new arrangement has been successful and should be continued on a permanent basis. If the congregation so decides (Diocesan Buildings Committee requires publication of the intended changes and approval at a congregational meeting) then a Canon 35 application will be sent in.

The effect of making the changes permanent will be to dispose of the pews, presently stored around the west end, and the removal of the pew (not fixed in place) which fits between the north wall and the font. It had been intended that this pew should be reduced in length to give more space around the font, but with the acquisition of so many comfortable chairs it seems that this pew might be removed entirely.

The Canon 35 application would request permission to put in place the recently acquired tables and chairs to create a cafe style environment at the west end as a step towards widening access to our underutilised facilities.

**Ken Tonge (on behalf of Vestry and the Future Vision Group)  
November 26th 2018**

**If you have any comments or objections to this proposal please get in touch with Irene Butler (Chairman of Vestry) as soon as possible**





## What about the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century they had acquired names: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial. If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine; and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road!



### So wise (Matthew 2:1-12) By Daphne Kitching

So wise, those men from the East,  
to search for the promised One,  
to follow the star.

So wise and so brave  
to leave their lands  
to follow the star.

So wise and so humble  
to kneel in worship

having followed the star  
to its and their creator,  
the source of wisdom  
and life and light and hope.  
Having followed the star  
to Jesus.

So wise.

## Overheard on the wise men's journey to Bethlehem!!

"OK, we got the gold. We got the frankincense. We got the myrrh. Think we should also get something more practical, like nappies, maybe?"

"I thought this was supposed to be a weekend trip... my wife is going to be furious."

"All this star-gazing from the back of a camel is making me sick."

"What's so WISE about wandering around the desert for three years?"

"You know, I used to go to school with a girl name Beth Lehem."



## The River-Bank Preacher - Preb Richard Bewes

*"A voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare the way for the Lord" (Matthew 3:3)*

Just as we face a New Year right now, so the ancient people of God were facing a new era altogether around the year 30 AD, as a man of fire made his presence felt, out by the river Jordan.

Since the departure of Israel's last recognised prophet 400 years earlier, no definitive preached word had been heard in Judea. And then – in came this wild man from the wilderness - all hair and leather! What schooling had he received, apart from heaven itself?

History has indeed served us at times with powerful preachers, albeit possessing minimal academic credentials! One such was the unschooled D.L. Moody of Chicago in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – whose last-ever letter contained 38 spelling mistakes. Yet millions responded to his riveting messages, both sides of the Atlantic. London's Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury - the influential Ashley Cooper – compared him favourably with Britain's supposedly top preacher, Canon Liddon of St Paul's Cathedral. "Moody will do more in an hour," said Shaftesbury, "than Canon Liddon in a century!"

So, it had to be with John the Baptist. There in Judea a new class of religious leadership had formed, in the Pharisees and Sadducees – but they were formal, dry and overlaid with tedious platitudes.

Now here was a man who was evidently the Elijah-like messenger foretold in the last sentence of the Old Testament; a man who would 'turn hearts' and baptise the repentant, there by the banks of the Jordan. And Jesus Himself arrived – not that HE needed to repent... but His stepping into the water seemed to be identifying Him with the suffering, sinful humanity He had come to save. Indeed, it was He whom John was promoting.

'A voice crying in the wilderness' - that's all John ever claimed to be (Isaiah 40:3), as He prepared the way for Jesus.



Let's pray for the preachers around us this year – that the authority of their opened Bibles and the centrality of Christ may characterize their ministry – from Week One!

### **8<sup>th</sup> January- The Saint Day for Nathalan - an early farmer in Scotland**

Many saints have fed the poor, but not many were interested in actual food production. Nathalan (died c.678) was, so perhaps he might be the patron saint of anyone who produces food – and gives most of it away to those in need.

Scotland in the 7<sup>th</sup> century must have been a hungry place, especially as far north as the Aberdeen district. According to his Legend in the Aberdeen breviary, he was a nobleman who decided to cultivate his land as a way of serving God. He wanted to feed the people in times of famine. It is not known what food he managed to produce but Nathalan was well-loved for providing what he could.



### **Why universities would never give God a Ph.D.**

1. He has had only one major publication, and it wasn't even in English.
2. It had no references.
3. It wasn't published in a refereed journal.
4. Some even doubt he wrote it by himself.
5. It may be true that he created the world, but what has he done since then?
6. The scientific community has had a hard time replicating his results.
7. He never applied to the ethics board for permission to use human subjects.
8. He rarely came to class, just told students to read the book.
9. Some say he even had his son stand in for him, and teach the class.
10. Although he set only 10 requirements, all of his students have failed the test.







*The Peace of God Poems of the Western Highlander*

When war did cease upon the earth,  
The stars looked out, the heavens rang,  
The small Lord Jesus came to birth,  
A lilt of peace His Mother sang.

A lilt of peace 'mid snow-clad sheen,  
Goodness-peace, forgiveness of sin,  
Confession-peace, penitent-clean,  
Peace with God and the peace within.

Peace with God and goodwill to men,  
The peace of triumph on the Tree,  
The rising peace that followed then,  
The peace of God for you and me.

The peace of God, lake-waters by,  
The peace of God, mist o'er the sea,  
The peace of God, ascending high,  
The peace of God, unceasingly.

**Ministry Team**

**Interim Minister: Bishop of Brechin  
Right Rev'd Andrew Swift Tel: 01382 459 569**

**George Masson Tel: 01569 739283**

**ROTA - DECEMBER 2018**



<b>Date:</b>	<b>CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address/Chalice</b>	<b>Readers/ Intercessions:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Sidesperson</b>	<b>Cleaning/Flowers Teas</b>
<b>02/12/18 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>GEORGE MASSON Sheila Usher</b>	Sue Manson Carl Nelson Eric Hargreaves <b>Sheila Usher</b>	JEREMIAH 33: 14-16 1 THESSALONIANS 3: 9-13 LUKE 21: 25-36	Sue Selway	<b>Sheila Usher (no flowers)</b> Carol Masson
<b>09/12/18 ADVENT 2</b>	<b>REV JANE NELSON Irene Butler Carl Nelson</b>	Di Driver Sue Selway Carl Nelson <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	MALACHI 3: 1-4 PHILIPPIANS 1: 3-11 LUKE 3: 1-6	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Kathleen Northcroft (no flowers)</b> Katie Gill
<b>16/12/18 Advent 3 10.30am</b>	<b>JOHN USHER Sheila Usher</b>	Katie Gill Jan Horn Eric Hargreaves <b>Ken Tonge</b>	ZEPHANIAH 3: 14-20 PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 LUKE 3: 7-18	Carl Nelson	<b>Muriel Hargreaves (no flowers)</b> Rhoda Nelson
<b>16/12/18 3.30pm</b>	<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>CELEBRATION</b>	<b>OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
<b>23/12/18 ADVENT 4 CAROL SERVICE</b>	<b>ERIC HARGREAVES Irene Butler</b>	TBA	TBA	Jan Horn	<b>Sue Selway (no flowers)</b> Peggy Tonge/ Oksana Huddleston
<b>24/12/18 Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm</b>	<b>REV JANE NELSON ?</b>	<b>Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer</b>	ISAIAH 52: 7-10 HEBREWS 1: 1-4 (5-12) JOHN 1: 1-14	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Volunteer
<b>25/12/18 Christmas Day 09.30am</b>	<b>ERIC HARGREAVES Irene Butler</b>	<b>Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer</b>	ISAIAH 52: 7-10 HEBREWS 1: 1-4 (5-12) JOHN 1: 1-14	Volunteer	Volunteer
<b>30/12/18 First Sunday after Christmas</b>	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON Sheila Usher</b>	George Masson Sue Manson John Usher <b>Sue Selway</b>	1 SAMUEL 2: 18-20, 26 COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17 LUKE 2: 41-52	Sue Selway	<b>Di Driver/ Sue Manson</b> Carol Masson

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

**ROTA - JANUARY 2019**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address/Chalice</b>	<b>Readers/ Intercessions:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Sidesperson</b>	<b>Cleaning/Flowers Teas</b>
<b>06/01/19</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	<b>GEORGE MASSON</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Carol Masson Sheila Usher Ken Tonge <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	ISAIAH 60: 1-6 EPHESIANS 3: 1-12 MATTHEW 2: 1-12	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Rhona Vassilikos</b> Rhoda Nelson
<b>13/01/19</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>REV JANE NELSON</b> <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Jan Horn Katie Gill Di Driver <b>Ken Tonge</b>	ISAIAH 43: 1-7 ACTS 8: 14-17 LUKE 3: 15-17; 21-22	Jan Horn	<b>Kathleen Northcroft</b> Peggy Tonge/ Oksana Huddleston
<b>20/01/19</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>JOHN USHER</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Sue Manson Sheila Usher George Masson <b>Sheila Usher</b>	ISAIAH 62: 1-5 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1-11 JOHN 2: 1-11	Carl Nelson	<b>Muriel Hargreaves</b> Carol Masson
<b>27/01/19</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON</b> <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Ken Tonge John Usher Carol Masson <b>Sue Selway</b>	NEHEMIAH 8: 1-3; 5-6; 8-10 1 <sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 12: 12-31A LUKE 4: 14-21	Sue Selway	<b>Sue Selway</b> Katie Gill
<b>03/02/19</b> <b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	<b>ARMA ISLES</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Jan Horn Carl Nelson Eric Hargreaves <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	MALACHI 3: 1-4 HEBREWS 2: 14-18 LUKE 2: 22-40	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Sheila Usher</b> Rhoda Nelson

**ROTA - JANUARY 2019**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address/Chalice</b>	<b>Readers/ Intercessions:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Sidesperson</b>	<b>Cleaning/Flowers Teas</b>
<b>06/01/19</b> The Epiphany of the Lord	<b>GEORGE MASSON</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Carol Masson Sheila Usher Ken Tonge  <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	ISAIAH 60: 1-6 EPHESIANS 3: 1-12 MATTHEW 2: 1-12	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Rhona Vassilikos</b> Rhoda Nelson

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

<b>13/01/19</b> The Baptism of the Lord	<b>REV JANE NELSON</b> <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Jan Horn Katie Gill Di Driver  <b>Ken Tonge</b>	ISAIAH 43: 1-7 ACTS 8: 14-17 LUKE 3: 15-17; 21-22	Jan Horn	<b>Kathleen Northcroft</b> Peggy Tonge/ Oksana Huddleston
<b>20/01/19</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	<b>JOHN USHER</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Sue Manson Sheila Usher George Masson  <b>Sheila Usher</b>	ISAIAH 62: 1-5 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1-11 JOHN 2: 1-11	Carl Nelson	<b>Muriel Hargreaves</b> Carol Masson
<b>27/01/19</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON</b> <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Ken Tonge John Usher Carol Masson  <b>Sue Selway</b>	NEHEMIAH 8: 1-3; 5-6; 8-10 1 <sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 12: 12-31A LUKE 4: 14-21	Sue Selway	<b>Sue Selway</b> Katie Gill
<b>03/02/19</b> The Presentation of the Lord	<b>ARMA ISLES</b> <i>Irene Butler</i>	Jan Horn Carl Nelson Eric Hargreaves  <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	MALACHI 3: 1-4 HEBREWS 2: 14-18 LUKE 2: 22-40	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Sheila Usher</b> Rhoda Nelson