

ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL
CHURCH MUCHALLS

MAGAZINE

February 2017

'For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That Whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish
But have Everlasting life."
-- John 3:16

Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

Scottish Charity No. 023264

www.stternans.co.uk

Peter Smart writes ...

In January, I spent a few days in Berlin, a city that now shows an open face to the world but still wracks itself with the sadness and guilt of the Second World War and the subsequent period during which the city (and the whole of Germany) was divided.

Close to the Reichstag (parliament) building and the Brandenburg Gate, there are powerful symbols of national atonement. The most important of these is the memorial and museum dedicated to the countless Jews who were slaughtered by Hitler and his Nazi regime. In a corner of the park close by is a smaller memorial to the Sinti and Roma ('gypsy') people who received similar treatment of incarceration and extermination. Finally, there is a third memorial to the homosexual community, which was also reviled and persecuted by Hitler. Today, the Brandenburg Gate is thankfully seen as a metaphor for peace and reconciliation.

At dinner one evening, I was talking to a doctor, just old enough to remember the Berlin Wall. His family lived in the west of the city, and he recalled how they were allowed occasionally to go through one of the check-points to visit family trapped in the east, but the same opportunity was not available to them to visit the west. What a postcode lottery!

Here and there signs and museums speak of the period that Berlin was a divided city for more than 40 years. There are bits of the wall; railway stations that were in the east, but now serve the whole of Berlin, Germany and beyond; and the dismal architecture of the Soviet era. Now here is the Reichstag building, with its massive glass dome designed by Norman Foster, open to the public to visit, and spectacular block upon block of modern offices and meeting rooms for the unified parliament and its civil servants. And there is Unter den Linden – now a wide thoroughfare lined with shops and cafes and embassies. Only Marlene Dietrich was missing from Unter den Linden! Berlin is a vibrant open city, thank God, although it has its problems of drugs and vagrancy and sleeping rough, as does any large city these days.



My sightseeing in Berlin got me thinking. What has the world learned? The Nazi genocide of the Jews, Roma and gays has more recently had its echoes in countries as diverse as Burundi, Bosnia, Serbia, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Yemen. The division of countries continues, with Korea being the most extreme example. There, some members of a family enjoy all the trappings of democracy and wealth in South Korea, whilst other members live under the shadow of a despotic dictator in the north, where many are starving. Indeed, Kim Jong Un is so unpredictable, that civilian airliners heading between Europe and Japan take a wide berth of North Korea for fear of being shot down.

Anti-Semitism is still rife in many parts of the world. Even the UK is no longer seen by many Jews as a country of first choice. Islamophobia exists in many countries, including our own. And so on. How does all this fit with Jesus' new commandment that we must love one another as He loves us? **Where**, in the words of the song from the musical *Oliver!*, **O where is love?**

Jesus doesn't say, love one another, except for -gays/Muslims/Jews/Poles/Scots/English/ black people/disabled people/etc (delete as appropriate, as they say in magazines). For many of us, Jesus new commandment is difficult to put into absolute practice. But, please, please, do try. He will support you in your endeavours. It will be your contribution to a better, safer world.

Prayer of thanks for God's light *By Daphne Kitching*

Father of all creation,

Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter.

Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm.

Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace.

In Jesus's name.

Amen.

How will you express love this Valentine's Day? *The Rev Paul Hardingham*

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: *'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus i.e. spouse, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking? Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch - helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: *'speaking the truth in love'*.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?



The finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls - 70 years ago - Tim Lenton

Just 70 years ago this month, on 7th Feb 1947, the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a cave at Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine) - in an echo of a biblical story, by a shepherd looking for a lost sheep.

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been called the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century. After an initial lack of interest - some of the scrolls were advertised in a small ad in an American newspaper - many more were discovered in nearby caves.

For the first 40 years the study of the thousands of text fragments was monopolised by fewer than a dozen international scholars, which prevented quick publication of the texts. But in the early 1990s, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) nominated Hebrew University Professor Emanuel Tov as chief editor, and the publication was divided among about 100 international scholars. By 2001 most had been published.

Numerous biblical manuscripts were discovered that were around 1000 years older than those already existing - and surprisingly, they are almost identical, indicating the great care taken by copyists down the ages.

One more manuscript that has come to light in recent years refers to the predicted birth of a wonderful child and provides a fascinating background to the New Testament messianic hope. It has been reconstructed from twelve small fragments, giving less than two columns of writing. **Most** of the scrolls are in Hebrew, but others are in Aramaic, the language spoken by many Jews - including Jesus - between the sixth century BC and the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD. One of the most intriguing manuscripts from Qumran is the Copper Scroll, a sort of ancient treasure map that lists 64 hidden treasures around Israel. None of these has been uncovered.



Letter from Bishop Nigel

Dear Colleagues

MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

At Diocesan Synod this year, Saturday 11 March, 9.30am – 3.30pm at the Diocesan Centre at St Johns Church Dundee we will be discussing the proposed changes to the Canon on Marriage which will allow same sex couples to marry in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

These changes are to be debated and voted on at the General Synod in Edinburgh in June 2017 and the preliminary discussion in March is to gauge the mind of dioceses and to assist their representatives going to General Synod.

Opinions range about these proposals: some people's minds are made up, others are uncertain, and many of us still have unanswered questions. So, our Diocese is providing two identical evening meetings in February for people to come together, to listen, to discuss and to ask those questions.

I will chair the evenings at which the Dean of Argyll & the Isles, the Very Reverend Andrew Swift will present the different viewpoints on same sex marriage and will explain the exact changes proposed, and how the new arrangements might work.

Each Charge should ensure that its Lay Representative attends together with all clergy who are required to attend Diocesan Synod. The meetings are open also to Readers and members of congregations. For convenience one evening meeting is in Dundee, the other in Brechin, so please choose the location or date that suits you.

I look forward to seeing you.

7.30pm Wednesday 15 February ST MARY'S CHURCH QUEEN STREET BROUGHTY FERRY DUNDEE DD5 1AJ Free parking in close by local authority carpark

7.30pm Tuesday 21 February THE BRECHIN ARMS PUB 44 ST DAVIDS STREET BRECHIN DD9 6EQ Free parking in close by local authority carpark

(As I need to know the feelings of St Ternan's congregation before I attend Synod and vote on your behalf it would be helpful if you could attend one of these meetings.) Many Thanks.

Irene Butler Lay Representative

The tragedy of the Solway Martyrs *Ted Harrison*

'The Killing Time' is the name given to one of those sad times in history when Christians were pitted against Christians. In Scotland in the 1680s the forces of The King, based in London, came into direct conflict with the Presbyterian Covenanters who refused to swear the Oath to 'his sacred majesty' the king, saying that the only head of the Church was Jesus Christ. Covenanters were fined, imprisoned or worse. The army was used to quell growing civil unrest.

One of the most notorious incidents during that time was the execution of The Solway Martyrs, Margaret McLachlan a widow aged 63 and Margaret Wilson, aged 18, who were tied to a stake and drowned by the rising tide of the Solway Firth near Wigtown in 1685.

Margaret McLachlan was seized while she was at prayer. Margaret Wilson and her younger sister Agnes were betrayed by someone they thought was a friend after declining to drink the toast of the king. The sisters were thrown into jail in Wigtown, where Margaret McLachlan was already being held. All three were accused of being 'disorderly'.

In court the three women faced a notorious persecutor of the Presbyterians. They were inevitably found guilty. They were given the opportunity to swear the Oath of Abjuration, but refused. Agnes' father paid £100 for her release, but the two Margarets were sentenced to death by drowning.

Margaret McLachlan was the first to die and Margaret Wilson was forced to watch. As she writhed in her last few moments, Margaret Wilson said, 'I see Christ wrestling there.'

Then it was the younger woman's turn. As the tide rose about her around her, she sang psalms and recited from the Bible. Friends implored her just to say the words 'God save the King' and save herself. 'God save him if He will,' she replied. At the very last moment a soldier gave her one final chance to take the contentious oath. 'No sinful oaths for me; I am one of Christ's children. Let me go.' Her head was pushed beneath the water and a soldier cut her throat.



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Romance, marriage and all that stuff - *the way children see it....*

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

How would the world be different if people did not get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favorite is.....

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10 (smart fellow)

The beauty of pearls - out of darkness and trial

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking goodly pearls; who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it " Mathew 13:45-46

Have you noticed how often the Queen wears pearls? Is it because pearls are the birth-stone for June (when she celebrates her official birthday)? Or because she loves their natural beauty? Or is it because pearls represent wisdom and purity? We will never know.

Natural pearls form when an irritant - usually a parasite or grain of sand - works its way into an oyster. As a defense mechanism, the oyster secretes a fluid to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of this 'nacre' is deposited until a lustrous pearl is formed. A cultured pearl undergoes the same process, though here the irritant is a surgically implanted bead or piece of shell.

Pearls can come from either salt or freshwater sources. Once the irritant is in place, it can take up to three years for the pearl to reach its full size and nacre thickness. Of all the pearls produced, only about five per cent are of true gem-quality.

There is a parallel with the way pearls are formed in nature, and the way we grow as Christians. To form 'pearls of wisdom' in humans, three conditions should be present:

Timing - Just as an oyster must mature for about three years before it can transform an irritant into a pearl, so Jesus spent three years maturing his disciples, and when we go through tests as Christians, timing is crucial. Like the disciples, we need to spend time with God, building our relationship with Him. We need to know His promises, so that when testing times come, we already have the precious Word of Truth as our nacre-forming ammunition! With His truth in our hearts we can cover every negative thought with layer upon layer of truth.

It may seem that our struggles will never end, but rest assured God will never give us more than we can bear, and He will never leave us or forsake us.

Irritant - What is the irritant in your life? I have faced a few that have forced me to my knees, forced me to fast, and forced me to cry out to God! My irritants came in the form of sickness, divorce, bereavement, friendship failures, financial frustrations, to name a few. Yet through them all, God built up layer upon layer of His Word and His Love in my life, until my 'irritant' became a testimony to His faithfulness. Every problem has resulted in another layer of 'nacre' of His grace.

Darkness - Natural pearls are formed in the deepest, darkest waters, and we will find ourselves in dark places whilst our pearls of wisdom are being formed. Illness and emotional pain may lead to isolation and depression. Yet I have emerged from deep darkness with more wisdom, more compassion, a greater ability to empathize with others in trouble, a greater love for God, and a greater passion to share His love. All of my best jewelry designs are based on my personal faith journey.

No wonder Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven as a precious pearl. No wonder He is also the Pearl of Great Price!



Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After awhile, they rose to leave and told her; "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But, really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

Summary of Minutes of Vestry Meeting - 9th January 2017

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM VESTRY MEETING 7TH NOVEMBER 2016

- **World Map.**

Presentation was discussed, and it is proposed to have a Welcome Table to display leaflets, Visitors Book and if visitors wished, an invitation to indicate where they come from on the maps which would be displayed on a free standing foldable screen near/behind the table. George to investigate screen purchase cost.

- **Christmas Cards.**

All the Christmas Cards were distributed, and thanks expressed to all the people who helped, from purchasing the cards, label sticking and distribution.

- **Listed Status**

No further information at present.

- **The Bishop**

The Service at St James to mark Ann Geldart's retiral has been changed to 5th February 2017. It will be joint service, with St Ternan's invited to join their members. A retiral card and Gift Voucher will be given from St Ternan's Church.

- **Alter:nativity**

Eric, George and John were involved over the two days. It was a clever and most enjoyable presentation of the Nativity, and very well attended.

- **Community Christmas Celebration**

- The collection of £233 was donated to the Parkinson Disease Society from the cheery and happy community Christmas celebration evening.

3: MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Landlord: Irene is to continue as the named Person with Aberdeenshire Council

4: TREASURERS REPORT

Income for month of November £2494.52

Expenditure: £1009.50 giving a surplus of £1485.02

Total value of funds at end of November is £27,634.57

The Annual Accounts have been signed off, having been sent down to the Bishop for signing, and returned.

The Annual Financial Return has gone to Alan Duffus

OSCR annual return has been processed and acknowledged.

Carol has reapplied for exemption of water charges on the advice of Business Stream

5. PROPERTY CONVENORS REPORT

Rectory:

- Joinery work completed to doors
- Further Estimates awaited for work in Parish Room and woodborer infestation in loft.

Church and Extension:

- Estimates awaited for necessary floor work following two further surveys.
- Loft inspection carried out, Awaiting reports and estimates.
- Audio System: Under review. Smaller system would be more suitable.
- Galvanised strips over chancel roof need attention. Slater W. J. Donald to assess.

Grounds:

- All work completed. Rabbits evident!! Garden seat being refurbished for Contemplation Area.
- Spring Bulbs planted

6: PVG

No additional information/report received.

7: SOCIAL GROUP REPORT

- January -Bring and Buy Sale raised £20
- 28th January-Coffee Morning, Muchalls Village Hall 10-12 noon
- 12th February Next Bring and Buy at Church
- 26th February Soup and Sweet Lunch

8: THE FUTURE

- Vestry revisited Peters Smart's Paper on thoughts for discussion regarding the future of St.Ternan's, much of which has been St. Ternan's Congregation's consensus.
- With regards to Same Sex Marriage within the Scottish Episcopal Church there are to be two open Diocesan meetings regarding this matter :-

5th February 7.30pm
21st February 7.30pm

St Mary's Broughty Ferry
The Brechin Arms, Brechin

These are billed for clergy and laity and will be led by the Very Rev Andrew Swift, Dean of Argyll and the Isles.

- It was proposed that St Ternan's members should have an opportunity to have a paper (closed) vote at a congregational meeting to allow Irene to take their view forward. It could be in conjunction with the Soup and Sweet Lunch on 28th February.

9: A.O.C.B.

- Ministry Team. To be reconvened
- Vocation Sunday. George to progress ideas.
- Church Inventory – To be completed
- Documents Inventory – To be updated
- List of 'Jobs' – To be reviewed and updated.
- Eucharist assistance licences to be renewed.

Date of Next Meeting - Friday, 17th February, 2017 at 1.30 p.m.

Rhona Vassilikos



The Sentinel's long wait- *Richard Bewes*

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many...." (Luke 2: 34)

To Homer's waiting watchman of the Greek epic, *The Iliad* would fall the duty of lighting a beacon that would relay the victory of the Wooden Horse across the Aegean Sea - that Troy had at last fallen! With that, the sentinel was relieved from his long wait.

In his account of the presentation of the infant Jesus in Jerusalem's temple, Luke writes of the relief of another lone watchman – a devout Jew, Simeon – aware of the God-given message that he would live to see the Christ of the world. Taking the Baby from Mary and Joseph's arms, he uttered a song of praise that – like a beacon - has been relayed everywhere, in words known as *The Nunc Dimittis*:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, accord
to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which
thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to
lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel*
(Luke 2: 29-32 KJV)

Luke then records Simeon's next words: "This child is destined to cause the fall and rising of many...." Here was a Figure who had come for the whole world universally - Gentiles and Jews alike. But there would be a cutting edge to His coming. Simeon spelt out some mighty truths:

Our chronologies turn on Jesus Christ. Simeon had been part of the Old Order. But from now, our very calendars would be dated from the arrival on earth of a universal world Saviour. Secondly,

Our characters turn on Jesus Christ. Whether nations or individuals were to 'fall or rise' would turn on the question, *What did you do with Jesus?* His coming represents Make or Break time for us all!

Our confidences turn on Jesus Christ. Here in the Christian Gospel is a blazing beacon – both to 'lighten' believing Gentiles, and to be 'the glory' of the true Israel – that is, the faithful people of all time who place themselves under His saving rule!



A national initiative is underway, looking forward to HOPE 2018.

Introducing Friday Focus

Churches across the UK are preparing for mission together in 2018 to make Jesus known. Friday Focus 2017 provides the opportunity for us to pray where we are, and unite across our nations on Fridays (whenever possible) supporting all ongoing mission across the UK and preparing the way for HOPE 2018.

Many Christian denominations, agencies and churches are already part of HOPE 2018 (www.hopetogether.org.uk) There are many local and national initiatives being planned to make Jesus known to people in our villages, towns and cities during 2018. The aim is to see the entire church mobilised to work together for a year of mission, so that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared in words and action. The dream is to see 10 percent church growth in these next two years. But without prayer and seeking the empowering of the Holy Spirit, our work will not be as fruitful.

Each week Friday Focus takes a different theme: supporting national initiatives of prayer and mission; key seasons in the church's calendar; the different people groups highlighted in the Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org); the people we know and meet; the communities we are part of, and the places where we live.

Leaders from denominations, mission and prayer organisations and networks are writing the reflections based on a Bible passage, and there will also be a written prayer to accompany each theme. You can use Prayer Focus for private prayer or in church services and prayer meetings. Colossians 4 verses 2-3 sums up what we long to see from this year of praying together. We want to see every individual and church devoting itself to prayer - being watchful and thankful. We want everyone to be asking God to open the doors for mission opportunities and asking for clarity as we talk about Jesus. We want to encourage each other to make the most of every opportunity, to give the reason for the hope we have, with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Do join in - *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.* Colossians 4: 2-3

Friday Focus Prayers for February 2017

February 3 *Prodigals* *Luke 15: 11-24*

Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son who rejected his father and left home. But his father waited for him and welcomed him home with a party! Many of us know prodigals. Let's commit to pray for them to come home; that they might 'come to their senses' and realise their loving heavenly Father is waiting to welcome them back.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your generous love and grace to us. We bring before you the prodigals we know. We ask for you to have mercy - on us and on them. We pray that they may hear your call to come home. Give us open hearts and open homes to welcome them back. Amen

Jane Holloway, World Prayer Centre

February 10 *Reconciliation in families* *Ephesians 6:4*

This passage invites husbands and wives to love and respect each other, laying down their lives for each other. When this is our aim, we go a long way to providing the role model that our children need to be witnesses to the love of Christ, encouraging them rather than 'exasperating' them, and building the kingdom of God as a family.

Heavenly Father, in Jesus you commanded us to love you, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. May this love begin in our homes, bringing healing where there is brokenness, understanding where there is frustration, joy where there is sadness and hope where there is despair. May we lay down our lives, as Jesus did, for our families and for those in need. Amen

Father Simon Penhalagan, Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism

February 17 *What I have I give to you* *Acts 3:1-10*

Peter and John could not bypass need. They had been called by Jesus Christ and filled by His Spirit. Moved with compassion for the beggar, they gave what they had. They had Jesus. They boldly stepped out in faith in Jesus' name. In the face of need, is knowing Jesus the motivation for all we are doing, and are we confident to share Him with others?

Wonderful Saviour, author of compassion, fill us with the language of mercy. Never let our love grow cold and in the face of need may we always be so close to you that we can say 'What I have I give to you.' Lord let us always be filled by you; excited by you and living for your kingdom coming.

Amen.

Fred Drummond, Evangelical Alliance

February 24 The Millennial Generation Psalm 33:11; 20-22

18-35 year olds have been dubbed the missing generation. They have left the church building and aren't fitting into traditional structures. But the *Talking Jesus* research (www.talkingjesus.org) tells us that they are very open to having conversations about Jesus. Let's pray for fresh outpouring of the grace of God on this vital generation that they may know God's dream for this world and all He has purposed for them.

But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you (Psalm 33:11; 20-22).

Kiera Phyo, Tearfund



Sir George - the man who gave his name to Mt Everest Tim Lenton

The man who had the highest mountain in the world named after him died 150 years ago, on 1 December 1866. Sir George Everest, who was born in 1790 in Wales but baptised in Greenwich, spent much of his life exploring and surveying India.

Eventually he became Surveyor-General there, and his diligence, accuracy and innovative skill were much admired. His successor, Andrew Waugh, honoured the "master of geographical research" by naming the world's highest peak after him when he could find no local name.

In fact the mountain is called Chomolungma (Mother Goddess of the Earth) in Tibet, and the Nepalese call it Sagarmatha (Goddess of the sky). Before Waugh, the British called it Peak XV. There is some doubt as to whether Sir George ever actually saw the mountain that bears his name, but his triangulation network was extended by Waugh and used to locate the summit. Sir George retired in 1843 and returned to live in England, where he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was knighted in 1861, and in 1862 he was elected Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society. At the age of 56, he married 23-year-old Emma Wing, who bore him six children.

He died in Paddington but was buried in Hove. Two of his brothers were ministers. Curiously, although the mountain is universally pronounced Ever-rest, Sir George pronounced his own name Eve-rest, with Eve as in Adam.



24th February Matthias the Apostle- the chosen one

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?



Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

THE WAY I SEE IT : Resisting Temptation *Canon David Winter*

Immediately after His baptism in the river Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judaea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 1st March. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, I suspect most of us will recognize their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular stroke for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and you will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, abandon your principles and reap rewards. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.





God, our Creator
By Nigel Beeton

O shout for Joy across the Earth!
O shout the glory of the Lord!
Come, praise Him now for all He's worth!
Come join our praise in one accord!

Great are the deeds the Lord has done!
Great are the works that He has made!
He made the earth, the sky, the sun;
The mountain and the woodland glade.

The mighty, roaring waterfalls
The wondrous clouds that bring us rain
The birds, the beasts, He made them all
So let us praise His holy name!


He gave us life, He gave us breath,
He bids the beating of our heart;
And, when He bids it cease in death
Then we shall never be apart!

Ministry Team

Interim Minister: Bishop of Brechin Right Rev'd Dr Nigel Peyton
Tel: 01382 562244 (office)

George Masson Tel: 01569 739283

ROTA ---- FEBRUARY 2017

Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address/Chalice	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sidesperson	Cleaning/Flowers Teas
05/02/17 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	JOINT SERVICE	ST JAMES	STONEHAVEN		Kathleen Northcroft
12/02/17 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	REV JANE NELSON <i>Irene Butler</i> Audrey Smith	Russ Huddleston Jan Horn Carl Nelson <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	DEUTERONOMY 30: 15-20 1 ST CORINTHIANS 3: 1-9 MATTHEW 5: 21-37	Jan Horn	Rhona Vassilikos Carol Masson
19/02/17 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	GEORGE MASSON <i>Irene Butler</i> Carl Nelson	Sue Manson Ken Tonge Di Driver <i>Ken Tonge</i>	LEVITICUS 19; 1-2, 9-18 1 ST CORINTHIANS 3: 10-11,16-23 MATTHEW 5: 38-48	Carl Nelson	Muriel Hargreaves Audrey Smith
26/02/17 Sunday Before Lent	JOHN USHER Address: Ken Tonge <i>Sheila Usher</i>	John Usher Carol Masson Katie Gill <i>Sheila Usher</i>	EXODUS 24: 12-18 2 ND PETER 1: 16-21 MATTHEW 17: 1-9	Bob Mathewson	Sue Selway Rhoda Nelson
01/03/16 ASH WEDNESD AY 7.00PM	REV JANE NELSON  Lent Begins Ash Wednesday	VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER	JOEL 2: 1-2, 12-17 2 ND CORINTHIANS 5: 20B-6: 10 MATTHEW 6: 1-6; 16-21		
05/03/17 1 st Sunday in Lent	BISHOP NIGEL <i>Sheila Usher</i> John Usher	Carl Nelson Sheila Usher Jan Horn <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	GENESIS 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7 ROMANS 5: 12-19 MATTHEW 4: 1-11	Jan Horn	Sue Manson/ Di Driver (No flowers) Peggy Tonge

