

ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH MUCHALLS

# MAGAZINE

**July-August 2018**



Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

**Scottish Charity No. 023264**

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

## Vacancies, vacancies, vacancies ... by Peter Smart

I'm looking forward to being back with St James' and St Ternan's in July and August. I'm feeling much more relaxed. We had a few days in France straight after Easter, with a room looking straight across the promenade to the Mediterranean, which was far from blue, calm and inviting for much of the time we were there, but we got in some walking and sightseeing, and enjoyed plenty of fresh sea food. And I've got to know, once more, the pleasure of reading for the sake of reading, going back to the English translation of some of the books I studied for my A-level German (more than 50 years ago!) and some of Paul Theroux's travel writing.

But enough of me. 'Vacancies, vacancies, vacancies ...'. Everywhere I turn I come across another church in vacancy. During the past couple of months, I've shuttled between St Andrew's Brechin and St Mary and St Peter's Montrose, neighbouring Episcopal churches in vacancy. Neither is able to afford a full-time priest, but each is able to afford a greater bit of one than either St James' or St Ternan's. In the meantime, both are being largely lay-led week-by-week. This is symptomatic of many of our churches, reliant on lay readers and other licensed lay ministers to do much of the Lord's work in our churches, with valuable support from priestly friends as required. We should shout 'alleluia' for our lay leaders, 'praise the Lord'. Where would we be without them?

It's not just the Episcopal church that is grappling with vacancies. The Kirk is in the same situation. Round about us there are vacancies in Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Marykirk and Luthermuir, Brechin and Farnell. The list goes on.

I understand that the kirk is in a better position than us when it comes to paying clergy, as stipends are paid from the centre, from quota on all congregations, whereas Episcopal congregations have to pay our own stipends. On the other hand, neither denomination has sufficient clergy to fill all the vacancies that exist, and with aging and potentially dwindling congregations, it's likely that we shall both have to seek some innovative ways of working. In our own locality, we pray that Bishop-elect Andrew will help us find an acceptable way forward that offers leadership, team working between ordained and lay, pastoral support and an outward facing approach to mission. We haven't managed to find the way forward over the past 3½ years even with Bishop Nigel's help and support. But God will show us His way forward in His time. Andrew is fully aware of the challenge. It is incumbent on us to work with him for the benefit of Episcopalianism here in the north of his new Diocese.

In the meantime, we need to pray for Andrew, for our own congregations, for Jane and our lay leaders, for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and for faith to do what God is wanting us to do. Bless you all and see you soon.



## **Inner peace**

If you can start the day without caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,  
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,  
If you can conquer tension without medical help,  
If you can relax without wine,  
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,  
.....then you are probably the family dog.

## **Afternoon Tea**

We held a very successful Afternoon Tea in the Church on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The committee wish to thank all who helped in any way, stall holders and those who came along and supported us. £530.00 was raised for Church funds. The table top sale the previous week raised £32.00.

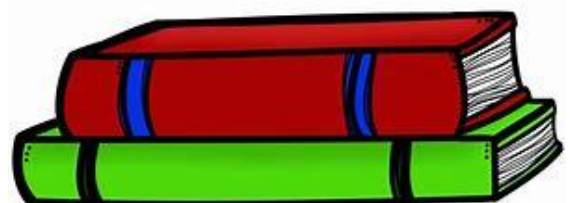
Well done everybody.

## **Social Committee.**

### **Ten Years of Book Sales** *Sources: Bookseller and Together magazine.*

In 2017 there were £22 million worth of religious books sold in the UK, some 2.5 million copies. This was 1.4% of the total sales of books in the UK in 2017. The largest growth area was in religious but non-Christian book, because the Oxford University Press published its translation of the Qur'an, which yielded more than £3 million in sales.

The top religious title in 2017 was the extremist self-published tome Mohammed's Koran: Why Muslims kill for Islam, by English Defence League ex-leader Tommy Robinson and Peter McLaughlin, a former academic whose Muslim baiting views have seen him banned by Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. The book had sales of £101,000. Information on Christian books is rarely published by Nielsen, the company from which the data used above comes. But SPCK, the Christian publisher with which IVP merged in 2017, says that their research shows that 82% of committed Christians have been helped on their faith journey by books; 58% said they had been helped them to live a better Christian life, 31% said they had been helped to share their faith, and 12% said books had helped them become a Christian.



## **God is able to use us to meet others' needs** Rev Paul Hardingham

We are all familiar with the story of the Feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21). It reminds us that *God is able* to use us in meeting the needs of others. As Jesus says to the disciples: 'you give them something to eat' (16).

*We need to share God's compassion:*

Jesus responded to need, by showing 'compassion' (lit: gut reaction, v14) on the crowds. This isn't simply feeling sorry for others but being ready to act on their behalf. It's being prepared to enter into their experience and see them as *God sees* them. You cannot demonstrate compassion at a distance!

*We need to share God's heart:*

It is said that *'The buck stops here!* God wants us to take responsibility for those in need. The disciples tried to pass the buck, telling Jesus to *'send the crowds away'* (15). Are we looking for God-given opportunities in church, work or our communities to demonstrate God's love to those who cross our path? It will be costly, involving our time, energy and money e.g. listening to a colleague, shopping for a neighbour or visiting a friend in hospital.

*We need to share what we have:*

This story reminds us of the challenges of meeting peoples' needs! The disciples only had five loaves and two fish to feed 5000+ people! It is not simply a matter of what we have, but what God can do with it. They offered what they had to Jesus and He multiplied it to feed the people, leaving 12 basketfuls of leftovers. Are we prepared to let God use what we have: our words, prayer and acts of love?

*'Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for that one person.'*

## **Love and Marriage – Ken Tonge's address of 10th May (abridged)**

The theme of the readings for the day has been love, ending with the emphatic sentence from John's gospel - "This is what I command – LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

So, given this theme in our readings, I thought today I would tell you a love story.

63 years ago, round about this time of year, Peggy and I met one another. Not by accident – I had spent some time during the Winter trying to find out who this amazing redheaded girl was, who I had seen on the bus when I was coming from night-school. My milkman friend, Joe, he was my best pal and knew everyone, was enlisted to help. This was the olden days when milk was delivered in bottles to your doorstep. From his researches, Joe discovered that she went to the Lyndale dance hall at weekends. The Lyndale was a large Art Deco room above Burton's tailoring shop in our local town – the dancing was to live music with a swing

band playing quicksteps, foxtrots, waltzes, Latin-American dances and some of this new rock-and-roll stuff that getting popular through the likes of Bill Haley.

So, following this tip-off, I went to dance at the Lyndale and, what joy, after a couple of weekends she turned up at the dance. My idea of perfection. Of course, I hadn't a clue, at the time, of what her voice sounded like, what sort of family she came from, what sort of food she preferred, what sort of films she liked, what sort of books she read, and so on. Based on nothing more than what I could see, I had this idea of Peggy representing perfection. It was a slow romance. A few dances and a sort of agreement – perhaps the Lyndale again same time next week? Yes – that was OK. And a few weeks later, “Can I walk you home?” And that was agreed. Going to the pictures came next. And I happily sat through weepy Jane Wyman and Rock Hudson movies. And I guess Peggy sat and listened to strange wireless programmes like the Goon Show.

Over that Summer of 1955 and the Winter and Spring that followed we gradually fell in love and sometime in 1957 we decided that we wanted to be together forever.

In those days that meant marriage – none of this living together to see how it works out before tying the knot. You had to have your parents' permission too, and Peggy was still under age. Also, with Peggy's roots firmly embedded in the West of Ireland, being married meant being married in a Catholic Church. No other church would do; the Registry Office would not do. If the ceremony were conducted anywhere except in a Catholic church, then it was regarded as invalid and the participants would be living in sin.

A work colleague, who had been in the same situation said that it was no big deal; you just went to instruction classes and signed up to join the Catholic church and that's it. So, I went to Peggy's priest each week and underwent instruction on the Catholic faith. And right enough – there seemed to be so much in common with Anglicanism that it might not be a problem. The Parish Priest was a nice man who generously shared his Balkan Sobranie cigarettes – the ones with black paper and a gold tip - during our meetings. At the end of the series of meetings he presented me with the paper to sign to convert to the Catholic Church. OK no bother.

But then he also wanted me to sign to bring up our children in the Catholic faith. Children that we did not have and might never have. At that I bridled. No, I could not sign up to that. I strongly believed that education should be free from doctrinal straight-jackets. At that time, I was highly principled and would not sign away the rights of those as yet unborn. It was that old masculine failing – hubris.

It was the end. The romance could not continue. Like Romeo and Juliet, we were torn apart. We were totally distraught. And it was my stubbornness that caused it. Then, suddenly, unexpectedly, it all changed. Peggy's mother gave permission for her

daughter to marry out with the Catholic church. And Peggy, at risk of eternal damnation, at risk of being alienated by most of her family, and in an outstanding act of love towards me, enrolled as a communicant member of the Church of England. So, we married in my church and the first act of our married lives was the sharing of communion. It had been a traumatic time thanks to my high-principled stubbornness. Nowadays I am far less principled – I would happily sign and just cross my fingers behind my back.

But one has to ask – why does a supposedly caring, welcoming organisation such as the church put up these barriers? Surely the church should make it easy to become a member not turn potential members away.

Our own church has not been much better when it comes to imposing painful rules. But we are beginning to see some of these broken down. We have had women clergy for quite some time. More recently, changes to the church's rules on marriage have recognised, in a much more enlightened and compassionate way, the complex nature of human sexuality. And I DO like it when the minister, before communion, says – “ALL are welcome at this table”. A true reflection of the idea that God has no favourites.

Bishop Bruce Cameron recently said that he believed the church must change or die. It can't just carry on doing the same things over and over and expect different outcomes. Thankfully the church is facing up to some difficult questions and is slowly coming up with answers which are not simply “because that's what we've always done” or “because it says in the bible”. The bible is a good book but even the newest bits of it are two thousand years old and may not be relevant in today's overcrowded and environmentally threatened world. However, the bit of the bible that will always be of vital importance – that will never go out of date - is what we heard today from John's Gospel – “I give you this command – LOVE ONE ANOTHER”.

So, back to my little love story. Fast forward 60 years and I am happy to report that our, once young, couple are still in love. But it's not been one of those fairy tale “and they lived happily ever after” 60 years of course. There have been happy times. There have been sad times. There have been hard times. And if any married couple says they've never argued - well we would find that hard to believe. 60 years ago, we really didn't know what we were letting ourselves in for but, knowing what we now know, we would not change our minds and we thank all who have helped us in our journey.



## **A Few Thoughts on a Wedding Anniversary Ken & Peggy Tonge**

As many readers will know, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary recently. Despite attempts to keep it a secret, knowledge of the date seeped out into the community and it was no surprise to discover that our celebration was to become a more public affair than we had planned. As to why 60 years should be more important than 57, 58 or 59 years - we guess it might be something to do with us having 10 fingers and toes. Were we cloven hoofed perhaps 4, 8, 12 would be important anniversaries.

On the actual day, our family treated us to a splendid breakfast of scrambled egg with smoked salmon and a celebratory glass of ersatz champagne (i.e. prosecco).

On the following Sunday the congregation of St. Ternan's treated us not only to generous gifts of garden tokens and a huge bouquet of flowers but also to a splendidly nostalgic lunch reminiscent of those parties of the late 1950s – triangular sandwiches, sausage rolls, cocktail sticks loaded with cubes of cheese and silverskin onions, etc. And there was a cake decorated with a picture of an innocent looking young girl and boy. The church's HiFi system was pressed into service to provide a background of rock'n'roll music (but we refrained from showing off our jiving skills). They say nostalgia ain't what it used to be; but that's not true. It was a happy event showing the thoughtfulness of our friends at St Ternan's for which we are really grateful.

A question on many lips was, of course, "What is the secret for achieving a 60-year marriage?" The main requirement is, we think, fairly obvious. You have to marry young and live to a ripe old age. Sadly, for many couples, this does not happen. The bit of the wedding ceremony that says, 'Til death us do part' may sound like a long time at the time. But it doesn't always work out like that and the relative uniqueness of our celebration was tinged with some sadness for others on that account.

On Sunday 10th of May the theme of the Bible readings had been love so it had seemed appropriate then to talk about love and marriage in the address. Elsewhere in the magazine you will find an abridged version of that address which we trust will be of interest to those who are concerned with the future of the church as a loving institution.

To finish, again, we thank our friends in the church for the love and care shown in joining in our celebration.

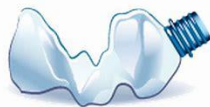
## **A Plastic Revolution - Rev Paul Hardingham**

The recent Blue Planet II series exposed just how much plastic waste is an issue in our seas. The Prime Minister has called plastic waste *'one of the great environmental scourges of our time.'* The best estimates suggest 10 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans, contaminating and killing sea life. How should we view this issue from a Christian perspective?

When God created the universe, He saw *'everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good.'* (Genesis 1:31). He calls us to share in His care of creation: *'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.'* (Genesis 1:28). Our rule over living creatures is not an excuse to exploit them in a selfish way. As those who made in the image of God, we are entrusted to care for them with responsibility and trustworthiness.

Why do the sea creatures being killed by plastic matter? Because of human rebellion against God (see Genesis 3), our relationship with God and His creation was damaged. No longer do we live with living creatures in harmony and interdependence. Yet after the flood, when Noah rescued the animals in the ark, they are included in God's everlasting promise to protect the earth: *'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you.'* (Genesis 9:9,10). This also points to God's cosmic plan to restore all creation to Himself.

What is our response to be? Where is God calling us, as His people in this time and place, to make a stand in protecting His creation? Time for a plastic revolution?



## **New Bishop**

At

the Electoral Synod on June 2<sup>nd</sup> The Very Rev Andrew Swift was elected as Bishop for the Diocese of Brechin. He has been Dean of Argyll and The Isles since 2012, Rector of Dunoon and Rothesay in that diocese since 2010 and a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod from 2011.

He has been a Depute Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute since 2016. He previously served in the Diocese of Gloucester, following a career as a shipbuilding executive, Civil Service research engineer and a junior officer in the RAF. He was born 1968 in Aberdeen and grew up in Dunblane. He studied at the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Oxford.



The Very Rev Andrew Swift is married to Mary, a native of Stranraer, and they have three children - Frances (16), Peter (19) and Eleanor (21). For leisure, the family enjoy narrow-boating on the Scottish canals with their Collie, Molly.

On hearing the news of his election, the Very Rev Andrew Swift said "It is a wonderful and humbling honour to be elected as the next Bishop of Brechin. I would like to thank the electoral synod for their trust in me and look forward very much to working with all the Scottish Episcopal Churches of Brechin to help them build up their confidence, witness and mission in Dundee, Angus, the Mearns and Carse of Gowrie. I am also praying for my fellow candidates in the election - thanks and blessings for them all."



The Lord does not shine upon us, except when we take His Word as our light. *John Calvin*

### Notes from Vestry Meeting held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### 1. Matters arising from Vestry Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018

- **Strutt and Parker**- There has been no further update from Ian to date.
- **Pastoral Care**- John Usher has received his PVC clearance
- **Quid's in Theatre Group**- A very successful evening attended by 50 people. £150.00 was raised which has been sent to support Chris Tunstall, who is Fund Raising for Leukaemia
- **Constitution** - John Thom, Diocesan Register has confirmed that we are covered re charity giving.

2. **Ministry Team** -meeting was held on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and the next 5 months schedule has been agreed.

#### 3. Treasurers Report

Income	April £2172.77	Expenditure: £2684.45	Deficit £511.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,742.17</b>		

#### 4. Property Convenors Report

- **Rectory** -SW Bedroom – decorating to be done when Tenant and painter can appoint a date. Saltire to install Multipurpose stove in Rectory this week.

Flooring in Parish Room awaiting attention where fireplace was removed.

Rectory – outside/out buildings, Outstanding repairs from Quinquennial work: Estimated cost £2,500.

- **Church and extension**- All light bulbs replaced in Chandeliers, and thanks to Ian for completing this.
  - **P.A.System**- Vestry approved of two new speakers for sound system to be purchased, following successful trial of two loaned by Jimi Troup. The greater clarity of sound was significant. Speaker Purchase - £600.00
  - **Grounds**- Trees: 21 trees within Church grounds and Muchalls Cottage have had attention from Tomas of Tilia Trees Care, with further 10 pending. The cost of work completed in church grounds to date: £2,484
  - Ground between church and Rectory to be prepared later in the year for turfing
  - Raised bank at west end of church needing detailed survey work before drainage work can be undertaken. Later in the year.
  - Estimate cost of ground care from Ewan for this summer £2000. To monitor frequency of lawn cutting.
  - **Boiler**- New supplier of biofuel – Puffin Pellets- giving better and consistent quality.
5. **PVG Report: Safeguarding audit**- Discussion ensued re Guidance issued and Questionnaire distributed. Jan had completed the form and asked for Vestry to look over it and approve. There were one or two minor changes.
6. **Social Group Report**-
- The May Bring and Buy amounted to £20.00. and thanks, were expressed to everyone who help and support the initiative.
  - There is to be an Afternoon Tea on 16<sup>th</sup> June with teas, and home bakes etc. There will be a limited array of stalls. Posters are available for distribution.
  - Granite City Brass Band have been approached with a view to performing later in the year. A reply is awaited.
  - Muriel is hoping to arrange a Floral Art Event later in the year.
7. **The Future**- David Fleming – St James- is exploring the development of a 'Northern Cluster - Brechin, Laurencekirk, Montrose, Arbroath, Stonehaven and St Ternan's Vestry felt it had unrealistic expectations as there are not sufficient personnel. We are already going along a path that works effectively for us. There has been no acknowledgement of our diligence and appears to be no realistic understanding of our situation. Irene will contact Kerry Dixon suggesting we wait until September after appointment of the new Bishop before progressing this. Would a Hub, which would support other small churches which would require resources and manpower, be more effective?

8. **Data Protection Act-** Changes are imminent regarding Data collection, Eric is the appointed Congregational Records Officer and currently holds church congregation information and Carol has access to these records. (Mailing Magazine etc) Eric is to circulate a letter seeking acknowledgement that personal data may be held by our church. Henceforth anyone not responding will be removed from the list.
9. **Church Property Inventory-** A more formal standardised Church Inventory Document has been produced and we will need to transfer our Inventory Information on to it.
10. **Charge Review Process**
  - Quinquennial Review Visit was scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. No information was received re information required etc. Irene has requested a delay until September.
  - Guidelines have now been received and an additional meeting of Vestry to review and discuss the information sought has been scheduled for Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, at 2p.m. in the Community Room.

## **Irene Butler**

### **You know you are living in 2018 when....**

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of five.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. You e-mail your children upstairs to tell them dinner is ready.
6. Your reason for not staying in touch with various friends and family is that they are not on Facebook.
7. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the shopping.
8. Every TV advert has a Facebook link at the bottom of the screen.
9. Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for total panic and you have to go back and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.

## THE WAY I SEE IT - Holidays and Holy-days *Canon David Winter*

'Going to go somewhere nice for your holidays?' is the standard hairdresser's opening gambit at this time of year. 'Yes', I reply, 'I'm staying here'. They laugh politely, but clearly that's not their idea of a holiday.

In an average life holidays go through stages. Do you remember your late teens, and the thrill of independence - hitch-hiking with a friend across *Germany*, or scuba diving, or climbing mountains or camping (in the rain)? Then it's couples, and memorable meals in little cafes in Italy or France. Next, perhaps, it's children - warm sunshine, beaches, Spain or Cornwall. Then it's retirement, and apart from grand-parent duties it's cruises ('cheaper than staying at home!' they tell me, but I don't believe it).

The final stage is where I am now, the holiday season as a time when the fever of life cools, when there's room on the buses and trains, and blissful idleness punctuated by the occasional theatre outing or visit to Lord's to snooze and watch county cricket.

Each phase has its appeal, and each can fulfil the fundamental principle of a holiday, which is hidden in the very word. It is, of course, a holy-day, because God commanded us to rest as well as work, and space and time to think, reflect and pray are precious holiday gifts.

At the different stages of life our holiday needs are different. What it should offer is a change from the normal, a new environment (even if it's only the local park) and new experiences to treasure during the months of winter. God invented the Sabbath because we needed it. Enjoy your holy-days, wherever or whatever they are.



## **We are given gifts for a good reason - Lester Amann**

If we are not practical, it's good to know we can call on plumbers and electricians to sort out our house problems. Some people are gifted with practical knowledge and skills, and we could not do without them.

Other people are more creative and artistic. Such folk may not be able to build a house, but they can fill it with beauty and meaning through their music, painting, sculpture and books.

The Bible mentions Bezalel and Oholiab, who lived in Moses' time. Bezalel's specialty was working with metals; cutting and setting jewels and carving wood. Oholiab was an engraver, a designer and a weaver. Together, these two men had great skill, understanding and creativity, and made the Tabernacle the beautiful dwelling that it was.

Many years later, King Solomon commissioned Hiram, a native of Tyre, to make objects for the Temple out of gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood. He also made coloured cloths and linen. Without Hiram's expertise, the magnificence of the Temple in Jerusalem would not have been realised or remembered!

Such people should encourage us as we seek to discover God's plan for our lives. We, too, are called to be faithful in serving God through using whatever particular gifts He has given us. Faithful obedience is what matters, not whether or not we end up in a position of responsibility, or in a quiet backwater. 'Success' for a Christian is not fame, but a deeper walk, and more fruitful walk, with God.

In fact, the majority of Christians are called to serve God without fame or recognition. Our aim should be to simply love God and to express this in the service of others, with whatever skill or gift we have been given. If we give ourselves to God, He will prepare us and use us in the way that best suits our gifts and personalities. We might not have the special skills of Bezalel, Oholiab and Hiram, but there is always something we can do for God. Let's seek out God's gifts and use them for His glory.



6<sup>th</sup> July

## Thomas More, Reformation martyr

These days, lawyers and politicians are held in the lowest esteem by the public, along with tabloid journalists and estate agents. St Thomas More was both a lawyer and politician, who is today much admired for holding steadfastly to his faith-based principles. He lived in dangerous times, when anyone, even queens, who displeased King Henry VIII could find themselves in a condemned cell in The Tower of London.

Sir Thomas More held the office of Lord High Chancellor and at one time was the king's most trusted adviser. But when King Henry took personal control of the Church in England in order to divorce his first wife, More courageously opposed him.

Thomas More was a social philosopher and the author of 'Utopia'. This book described an imaginary republic governed by an educated elite who employed reason rather than self-interest for the general good of everyone. He was himself one of the pre-eminent scholars of his age. As a Christian theologian he supported orthodox doctrine, vigorously opposed heresy and argued strongly against the new Protestant ideas taking hold in Europe. Although holding the highest political and legal office he was far from being a pragmatic politician and opportunist lawyer. In every matter he was a man who held firmly to what he believed was right in God's eyes.

When Thomas More fell from favour with the king, as a result of his unflinching views, he was falsely accused of taking bribes. When this charge failed, his enemies accused of supporting a celebrated seer of the times who was strongly critical of the king. This too failed. He was then required to swear to the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Henry's position as head of the Church of England. This he could not do in conscience. He was put on trial and condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered for his treason, a punishment later changed to beheading. He died in 1535 and on the scaffold his final words were 'I die the King's good servant, but God's first.' He has been officially declared a martyr saint by the Roman Catholic Church.



## Diary of a Momentous Year: July 1918 - WHEN FRIENDS COME TO HELP - Canon David Winter

It is called 'World War 1' and certainly no previous conflict had spread its ugly fingers so widely. Of course, we tend to think of the Western Front. Our default image of the War is of men in trenches, of mud and blood and soldiers with drawn bayonets going 'over the top'. In fact, the War was being fought on many Fronts: the Eastern Front (Germany/Russia, about to end with the new Russian regime); the Ottoman Front, in the Middle East; the Italian Front (Italy and France against the 'Central Powers'). Then there was the Ocean Front (U-boats against Allied shipping), the only one where the

Germans were winning.

Not surprisingly, in view of all that, the War became one of resources, human, military and economic; and by 1918 the Allies had a great advantage. Hard-pressed armies were being continuously refreshed by the arrival of well-trained and committed troops from many quarters, notably Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and decisively the United States. These soldiers, and many from other

countries in the British Empire, were now being equipped with newly designed, modern equipment. At last the Allies outnumbered the Germans in tanks and aircraft – and the new planes were faster, better equipped and armed. All of this was, of course, evident to the German High Command, and persuaded them to launch in July 1918 what one historian, Gary Sheffield, has described as perhaps the defining battle of the War, the second Battle of the Marne. It was a desperate attempt to inflict a heavy defeat on the Allies – not in the vain hope of winning the War, but of getting a better bargaining position in the peace negotiations that everyone expected. Launched on July 15<sup>th</sup>, it succeeded in driving the Allies back across the Marne. But they had been prepared for it, and three days later launched a massive counter-attack. Two French divisions captured 15,000 men and 500 tanks in a single morning, and then went on to drive the Germans back across the Marne. From now on the Allies knew they could win the War, and the Germans finally accepted that they could not.



### **Some miscellaneous observations on life:**

I used to recommend the regular use of incense (as a deterrent to bats), partly because I'm very High Church. But even that is not now guaranteed to do the trick – clearly bats have gone up the candle in their churchmanship.' *The Rt Rev Graham James, Bishop of Norwich*

Moving in the right circles is not the same as making progress.

Great opportunities come to all, but many do not know they have met them. The only preparation to take advantage of them is simple fidelity to what each day brings. A E Dunning.

Egotist: a person who suffers from too much vitamin I.

Discretion: when a husband is sure he is right and then asks his wife.

Desk: a waste-paper basket with drawers

Woman's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting

The trouble with these 'Do You Want Money?' adverts is that when you read them you always discover that you either have to work for it or mortgage something to get it.

'Just think,' exclaimed the enthusiastic young husband coming home from the July sales, 'By the time we get all this furniture paid for, we'll have genuine antiques!'

Summertime: when you don't pay your bills, and your creditors think you're on holiday.

The greatest consolation for many holiday-makers is that they have found where NOT to go next time.





*Mary of Magdala* By Daphne Kitching

*(Lk 23:49, Jn 20:1-18)*

She watched, she followed,  
she wept, she loved.  
She looked into darkness,  
she turned to the light.  
She didn't know Him,  
then she did -  
in His speaking of her name,  
then she did!  
And everything was different, forever,  
because the living Jesus spoke her name,  
Mary.

He is alive today and always.  
He still speaks to those who will turn and listen.  
He knows my name.  
He changes everything for me as he did for Mary.

**Ministry Team**

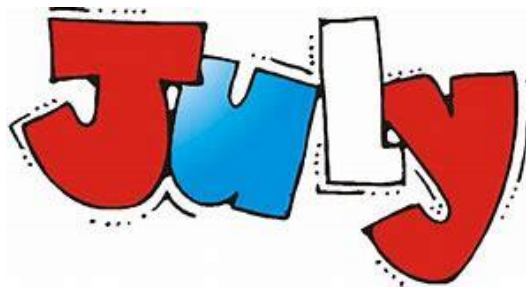
**Interim Minister: Very Rev Dr Francis Bridger  
Tel: 01382 739035**

**George Masson Tel: 01569 739283**



**ROTA - JULY 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>01/07/18 PENTECOST 6</b>	<b>GEORGE MASSON Sheila Usher</b>	Sheila Usher Carol Masson John Usher  <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	2 SAMUEL 1: 1, 17-27 2 CORINTHIANS 8: 7-15 MARK: 5: 21-43	Carl Nelson	<b>Sue Manson/ Di Driver</b>  Katie Gill
<b>08/07/18 PENTECOST 7</b>	<b>REV JANE NELSON Irene Butler</b>	Jan Horn Sue Selway George Masson  <b>Sheila Usher</b>	EZEKIAL 2: 1-5 2 CORINTHIANS 12: 2-10 MARK 6: 1-13	Sue Selway	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Rhoda Nelson
<b>15/07/18 PENTECOST 8</b>	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON Irene Butler</b>  <b>Address: Howard Drysdale Mission to Seafarers</b>	Di Driver Eric Hargreaves Ken Tonge  <b>Sue Selway</b>	AMOS 7: 7-15 EPHESIANS 1: 3-14 MARK 6: 14-29	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Rhona Vassilikos</b>  Peggy Tonge
<b>22/07/18 PENTECOST 9</b>	<b>PETER SMART Irene Butler</b>	Carol Masson Jan Horn George Masson  <b>Ken Tonge</b>	JEREMIAH 23: 1-6 EPHESIANS 2: 11-22 MARK 6: 30-34, 53-56	Jan Horn	<b>Sue Selway</b>  Katie Gill
<b>29/07/18 PENTECOST 10 JOINT SERVICE St James 10.30am</b>	<b>CANON JOE MORROW</b>				<b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>



**ROTA - AUGUST 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>05/08/18 PENTECOST 11</b>	<b>GEORGE MASSON</b>  <i>Russ Huddleston</i>	Sue Manson Eric Hargreaves Ken Tonge  <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	EXODUS 16: 2-4, 9-15 EPHESIANS 4: 1-16 JOHN 6: 24-35	Carl Nelson	<b>Sue Manson/ Di Driver</b>  Carol Masson
<b>12/08/18 PENTECOST 12</b>	<b>REV JANE NELSON</b>  <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Sue Selway John Usher George Masson  <i>Sheila Usher</i>	1 KINGS 19: 4-8 EPHESIANS 4: 25-5: 2 JOHN 6: 35, 41-51	Sue Selway	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Rhoda Nelson
<b>19/08/18 PENTECOST 13</b>	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON</b>  <i>Irene Butler</i>	Carol Masson Sheila Usher Carl Nelson  <i>Ken Tonge</i>	PROVERBS 9: 1-6 EPHESIANS 5: 15-20 JOHN 6: 51-58	Jan Horn	<b>Kathleen Northcroft</b>  Katie Gill
<b>26/08/18 PENTECOST 14</b>	<b>PETER SMART</b>  <i>Sheila Usher</i>	Jan Horn <b>Di Driver</b> <b>John Usher</b>  <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	JOSHUA 24: 1-2A; 14-18 EPHESIANS 6: 10-20 JOHN 6: 56-69	Eric Hargreaves	<b>Rhona Vassilikos</b>  Carol Masson
<b>02/09/18 PENTECOST 15</b>	<b>ARMA ISLES</b>  <i>Irene Butler</i>	Sheila Usher Ken Tonge John Usher  <i>Sue Selway</i>	DEUTERONOMY 4: 1-2; 6-9 JAMES 1: 17-27 MARK 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Carl Nelson	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Rhoda Nelson

