

ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL
CHURCH MUCHALLS

MAGAZINE

May 2019



Sunday Service 10.30a.m.

Scottish Charity No. 023264

www.stternans.co.uk

The Truth of the Ascension - Rev Paul Hardingham

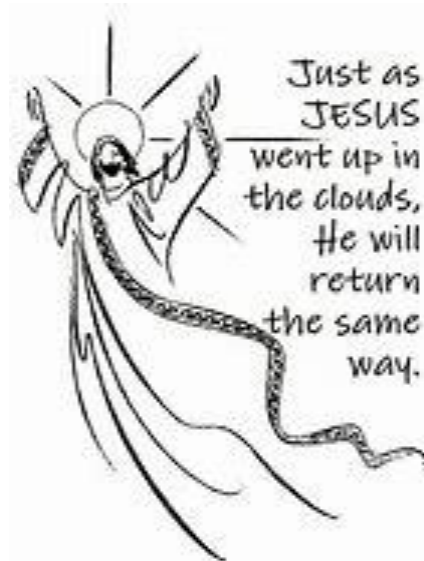
'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purpose for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's primary means of working in the world is now through us. He commissions for this task at Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community. 'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.' (Teresa of Avila).



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

(Scottish Charity No 023264)



MUCHALLS VILLAGE HALL

17th MAY 2019 – 7pm

Ticket £10 (per table of 4) – to include refreshments

RAFFLE



Contact Carl Nelson (01569 730733) for further information

Looking up into Heaven

The Church remembers the Ascension this month - when Jesus went back up into heaven. But where is heaven? How will we experience it?

The Bible is clear that Christians can expect a personal, conscious life after death. It is clear that heaven is NOT some wispy, anaemic realm with a few clouds floating around, but as real as oceans and suns, winds and planets. The Bible tells us that the triumph of Christ over dark powers will release the cosmos from sin's bondage (Rom. 8.21) and we will become more, not less, embodied. Heaven will be physically perfect, sparkingly alive, and stunningly beautiful.

The apostle Paul called the present "whole creation" as groaning like a woman in labour, waiting to be delivered. Those who believe in Jesus have the "first-fruits of the Spirit" and can expect bodily redemption and sharing the glory of the risen Lord (Rom. 8:15-25). The apostle Peter spoke of "a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness". (2 Pet. 3.13).

For Jesus's triumph over death signals our own victory. Death is not the last word, life is! And it will be life that is personal, conscious continuation beyond death.

And best of all, we will be with the risen Jesus (Phil 1.23) and see Him face to face. He promised: "I will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also." (Jn 14.3)



A little Swedish girl was walking with her father one night under the starry sky, gazing intently up at the glories of heaven. At last she said: "If the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be like?"

What's in your name? - Nell Goddard

This Spring, millions of people will be curious to know what Meghan and Prince Harry name their first baby. Journalists will fill columns of newsprint, speculating on why they chose that name, how it will fit in with the rest of the royal names, and how 'fashionable' it may become.

But we all have a name. It's perhaps the only thing that we'll possess throughout our entire lives. It's often the first thing strangers ask about us, and although we have the power to change it, few of us do. There's often a story behind why we have that name, and many people have strong feelings – whether positive or negative – towards it.

Whether we like it or not, our names define us. Although this is certainly less the case now than it has been in the past, names tell us a lot about a person – from gender to race to socioeconomic background and more. Our name can even have the power to shape our self-esteem and influence how we're seen and treated by others.

Names are particularly significant in the Bible – bound up with identity, origin, birth circumstances, or even the 'divine purpose' of that person. Right from the start of Genesis, we see the importance of names. The name 'Adam' provides a pun on the word for 'ground', from which he is formed. Abram, 'exalted father' becomes Abraham, 'father of many nations'. Samuel, the longed-for child of Hannah, means 'God hears'.

Our names form a part of our faith, too. In Isaiah 43:1, it is said that God has "summoned you by name"; a declaration that is reflected in the Anglican confirmation Service: 'God has called you by name and made you His own'.

In Ephesians 3 Paul begins his prayer for the Ephesians with these powerful words:

"For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."

Whether we love, hate, or are completely ambivalent towards our given names, this verse reminds us that, ultimately, they pale in significance to our family name – that which is given to us when we become adopted heirs of God in Christ. Belonging, community, and family ultimately goes back to God himself, and are reflected most truly in relationship with Him.



Hello
my name
is

'Talking Jesus' course gives Christians a new voice

'Now I feel confident talking about my walk with Jesus.' That's the verdict of Paula, a Yorkshire mum who has been on the Talking Jesus course and has been inspired to speak up.

She is not alone. The course is giving ordinary Christians across an extraordinary range of denominations, ethnicities and backgrounds, a new voice to share their faith.

The Talking Jesus course is a six-part video course available on USB or DVD. Paula did the course at St Michael le Belfrey, an Anglican church in York. They ran Talking Jesus for parents from the Mums and Tots group whilst their children were in a crèche.

Paula is one of thousands of Christians enthused by the course to talk about Jesus to friends, family members and work colleagues.

Since the course was launched last year, more than 4,000 copies have been distributed and 18,000 booklets have been sold.

Edinburgh church minister Gordon Kennedy said, 'The response to the course has been more than I could have hoped for. One man in his 50s, a regular at Sunday church but still young as a believer, spoke of having had three conversations with people he has met while walking his dog.

Another older man spoke of how he has taken the opportunity to speak of his faith and hope in Jesus when asked about his treatment for cancer. All those at the course have spoken of how they are praying for the five names they wrote down on week one, and many have now had opportunities to speak to some of them about Jesus.'

HOPE's executive director Roy Crowne, one of the team who made the course, says, 'The course is being used by an amazing number of churches - large and small, black and white, in cities, towns and villages: RCG, Methodist, Anglican, Baptist and new churches. Gold Hill Baptist Church, King's Church London, across its three sites, and Catholic churches are using it too.'

Talking Jesus - The Course can be ordered from hopepublishing.org.uk. It includes a DVD or USB with six training videos, plus parable-style films and an accompanying 44-page course booklet. The DVD version costs £19.99; the USB version costs £24.99. Extra copies of the booklet can be bought separately for group members from £1 a copy.



A prayer at Ascension

To complete your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, you ascended through the air into the heavens, before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way you showed that you are Lord of all, and are the fulfilment of all Creation. Thus, from that moment every human and every living creature should bow at your name. And, in the eyes of faith, we can see that all creation proclaims your greatness.

A prayer of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 - 1153). He was the main inspiration of the Cistercian Order of Monks.



LENT BIBLE STUDIES – a note from Ken Tonge

At our Lent Bible Studies, we considered a number of puzzling things about the way we live our lives. One of the things we talked about was what constitutes evil.

In describing evil where would you draw the line between things that may be inadvertently, though indiscriminately, harmful (e.g. driving cars which contribute global warming) and things that are widely condemned as intentionally causing indiscriminate harm (e.g. detonation of bombs in public places)?

The discussion inevitably led to the conundrum of God's powers and willingness to use them.

Epicurus (341-270 B.C.) put it something like this:

Is God willing to prevent evil, but is not able? Then he is not omnipotent.

Is God able to prevent evil, but not willing to do so? Then he is not benevolent.

If God is both able and willing, yet evil still arises then what is the source of the evil?

If God is neither able nor willing, then why say there is an all-powerful God?

Or, in brief – If God is all powerful then he is not all good. If God is all goodness then he is not all powerful.

It seems that when it comes to being good or bad the choice is ours. Choose wisely.



Christian Aid Week (12 - 18 May): 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up. *John A Holmer*



Summary of Vestry Meeting held in the Community Room Matters arising from_Vestry Meeting Friday 15th February 2019

Strutt & Parker- Ian reported that they 'had not been asked to do annual mandatory checks.' He is to check the Terms and Conditions and contact Strutt and Parker (agent currently away until 15th April) They only respond when asked – Ian will check re annual inspection – not being done – is it in the agreement?

The Memorial Plaque- Elizabeth Green's name has been inscribed on the Memorial Plaque. Neil Scorgie is to be consulted re moving the Plaque- ?4 pins - one in each corner. The congregation gave approval for the Plaque to be moved 5-6 years ago, but the gardens were not then sorted. Best position – exterior porch wall or window wall. Canon 35 to be reviewed. George to progress.

PVG Report- It was proposed from the last Ministry Team meeting that Russ Huddleston should be put forward as a Pastoral Visitor. He will need to attend a Safeguarding/ Pastoral Visiting Course first. Jan to look for next course. Vestry approved.

Easter Cards- The nicely presented Cards have been printed and delivered within the community. (140 to Chapleton alone) Thanks, expressed to George, Ken and Rhoda for delivering them.

Correspondence

There is a notice at the back of the church re a Golf Competition

The Bishop will be presiding at the service on June 2nd and it was suggested that we ask him to present be presenting Eucharistic Assistants certificates at that service (from Ministry Team Meeting- Sue Selway has agreed to become a Eucharistic Assistant)

Treasurers Report.

Income for February £1775.30 Expenditure £4067.12 Deficit of £1291.82.

Total funds at end of February £ 28813.66.

Income for March £12097.25 Expenditure £369.17 Surplus of £11728.08.

Total funds at end of March £35541.74

- Note the rectory payments are now up and running.
- Due to the boiler failure in February the cost of repair plus hiring of heating generator increased the expenditure in February resulting in large deficit.
- You will see in March that we have received a very generous legacy from the estate of the late Elizabeth Green. I have known this was coming for several months but did not announce until the cheque received. I have deposited the money in our Virgin Money Account. I have signed and returned the relative receipt to the Solicitors and will send a card to the family.
- Successful soup/sweet lunches, beetle drive, monthly bring and buy, sale of pews and sale of CDs and baptism prints have all contributed to increased income over the two months.
- I have received the annual quota statement showing our 2019 quota is £3397 showing we still have £2302 to pay before the end of the year. However, I have calculated that we are well within that figure so I will make no changes.
- I have been advised by Business Stream that I need to apply for the next years exemption for water charges, so I am in process of doing so.
- George is still chasing up British Telecom re the Rectory telephone and hopefully it will come to successful conclusion soon. Openreach have improved the quality of WIFI for the Rectory, but until the Line fault is fixed, the phone can be disconnected! Calls will be redirected to Irene once this is done.
- Many thanks to George for all the hours he has spent trying to get this sorted.

Property Convenors Report

Rectory -Roof tiles loose. Slater next week

Church and Extension -Back door into Rectory needs attention. Slater next week to check on church ridge tiles and replace broken tiles

Grounds -Garden Maintenance carried out.

Heating System

7th March Repaired rubber insert pellet loading buffer, in pellet store

8th March received £4.00 tonnes pellets. Received 4 tonnes pellets. Cost £1070.00. NB this puts the cost of pellets from 5.0pkwh to 5.5 pkwh.

6th April Made adjustment to heating controls to allow efficient start up of boiler..

The Future

Vestry discussed the proposal put forward by Bishop Andrew regarding the 'Future'. He would like to see a Priest appointed to serve both St Ternan's and St James's on a fixed term appointment.

He advocates the way forward to achieve this aim is firstly for both Vestries to meet with 'A place of Hope' – a church development and conflict consultancy - to examine, discuss and explore ways forward for both St Ternans and St James's, keeping their individualities but working closer together in other aspects. There will be meetings with each Vestry - with Place of Hope personnel - to address 'conflict resolution' and choose the next step – to move on or pull out. Costs of the consultancy will be met by the Diocese. It will take time, patience and understanding, to produce a clear way forward and future for both churches.

Vestry approved of taking the first step.

Ministry Team Meeting

George gave Vestry copies of the Minutes of the MTM. held on 4th February 2019 In which Rotas, visiting Preachers and special services were planned and discussed.

PVG report

There was nothing received from Jan.

Social Group Report.

The monthly bring and buy for February and March amounted to £53.00

Soup and sweet Lunches in February and March £219.00

The Beetle Drive in Skateraw Hall was a very happy and successful evening and £414.00 was raised for Church Funds.

Future Planning –

17th May – Quiz night in Muchalls Hall

13th June – 'Quid's In' performance of Resurrection

15th June – Summer fete at St. Ternans Church

6th Sept. – Musical evening in St. Ternan's by Portlethen Minister and family and Stonehaven Kilwang Bellringers. (date to be confirmed)

28/29 Sept- John Usher planning a musical workshop

Oct/Nov - Floral art Demo - in planning stages.

Thanks must go to everyone who bakes and supports all our events.

Futures Group report.

Russ gave a summary of progress on their proposed activities.

- Ken will restart the Pottery classes after Easter.
- The council to be approached re church signage at A92 road junction- vestry approval granted to investigate costs.

- George has put planned church activities on St Ternan's web site and on Facebook. WIFI will be progressed if and when activities will be needing it
- John and Eric have had an offer from Elizabeth Green's daughter and her partner to give a musical workshop on 'a Capella' - singing in the Iona Community style, possibly in September. Vestry has approved, and possible dates and costs to be ascertained.

The meeting closed with The Grace

Irene Butler

Top Ten Silliest Questions asked on a Cruise Ship

- Paul Grayson, Cruise Director for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

1. Do these steps go up or down?
2. What do you do with the beautiful ice carvings after they melt?
3. Which elevator do I take to get to the front of the ship?
4. Does the crew sleep on the ship?
5. Is this island completely surrounded by water?
6. Does the ship make its own electricity?
7. Is it salt water in the toilets?
8. What elevation are we at?
9. There's a photographer on board who takes photos and displays them the next day... the question was asked: 'If the pictures aren't marked, how will I know which ones are mine?'
10. What time is the Midnight Buffet being served?



Edith Cavell - faith before the firing squad

Nurse Edith Cavell gave her life to others - and was executed as a result. This year is the centenary of her state funeral at Westminster Abbey.

The daughter of a Norfolk vicar, Edith trained as a nurse, and because she could speak French fluently, she was invited to start a nurses' training school in Belgium.

When war was declared in 1914, she was in England on holiday but went straight back to Brussels where she cared for Belgians and invading German troops alike.

When English soldiers were trying to escape back to England, she gave them shelter - and when she was betrayed, her only defence was that if she had not helped them to escape, they would have been shot.

She had confessed to the crime of 'conducting soldiers to the enemy' - helping soldiers escape who could potentially return to the battlefield. Guilty, she was sentenced to death in a German military court in occupied Belgium.

But Edith's last words were not of revenge or recrimination. On the night before she was executed, she met with her local priest Revd H. Stirling Gahan.

She told him, *"I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end...Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty...This time of rest has been a great mercy..."*

She then said words that have become her memorial around the world: *"But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."*

Edith knew that people who had been close to her had played a part in her betrayal. She knew patriotism was not enough for these final hours. She knew that to enter into God's presence she needed to be forgiven for her own shortcomings. And just as Jesus' death had bought her forgiveness, she needed to forgive any and all who had wronged her.

After celebrating Holy Communion, the Rev Stirling Gahan began to say the words of the hymn 'Abide with me' and Edith joined him in repeating *'...When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me...'*

She then gave the priest the letters she had written to friends and family and when they came to say 'Goodbye' she smiled at him and said, "We shall meet again." She was confident that death was not the end and they would meet again in God's presence. She was 49 years old.

Edith was executed in Brussels on 12th October 1915 and at the end of World War 1 her body was repatriated. After a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, her body was reburied outside Norwich Cathedral on 19th May 1919. Her body was returned to England on the same ship that carried the body of the Unknown Soldier in 1919.

In the biography *Edith Cavell - Faith Before the Firing Squad*, Catherine Butcher explores Edith's life and faith, in particular considering how she could be so confident in the face of death.



For those on the roads - a few hymns

30 mph..... Pass me not, O gentle Saviour
50 mph..... God Will Take Care of You
70 mph..... Nearer My God to Thee
85 mph..... This World Is Not My Home
95 mph..... Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph..... Precious Memories

The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are those who mourn'- Rev Paul Hardingham

The Beatitudes, at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12), present the values of the kingdom of God. In *'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'* (5:4), Jesus appears to be saying 'Happy are the unhappy'!!

It's not wrong for Christians to be sad or grieve, as we can still experience God's blessing (*'blessed'*). Jesus promises God's comfort for our loss, mourning, pain and hurt. This is the work of the Holy Spirit into our lives. He is described as the *'Comforter'* (John 14:16) ie *'the one who comes alongside us to help'* (lit). He assures us of Jesus' presence to share our sadness, make us aware of His love and strengthen us in our sorrows. Jesus has been in this place Himself, when He shed at the tomb of His close friend Lazarus (John 11:35).

There is also a godly grief which the Spirit brings into our lives, as we reflect on our messy lives. Peter wept bitterly after denying that he knew Jesus (Matthew 26:75). He makes us aware of our spiritual poverty, including our failures and shortcomings when it comes to loving and serving God. The Holy Spirit is also alongside to assure us of God's forgiveness and cleansing as God's children (Romans 8:16).

The Spirit also helps us to share the Father's broken heart for our suffering world and for the communities of which we are part. Jesus Himself wept over Jerusalem, because its inhabitants failed to see what was happening in their midst (Luke 19:41).

We can live under God's blessing in sadness, as He is able to turn our tears to joy, even though our comfort will only truly be complete in heaven. *'God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable.'*



Epitaphs found on headstones

In London:

Here lies Ann Mann
Who lived an old maid
But died an old Mann.

In Hartscombe::

On the 22nd of June
Jonathan Fiddle
Went out of tune.

In Wimbourne:

John Penny
Reader if cash thou art in want of any
Dig four feet deep and thou wilt find a penny.

In Pennsylvania:

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas
Instead of the brake.

In Maryland:

Here lies an Atheist
All dressed up, and no place to go.





May Day Prayer

Might of the Triune our shield in distress,
The paschal Christ's might with his peace to bless,
Spirit's might, Healer of salvation's state,
The gracious King's might, precious Father great.

Bless us ourselves, the children that we own,
Our generations bless that shall be sown,
Bless the sire who gave unto us our name,
And bless her, O God, from whose womb we came.

The cross of Christ be our shield down today,
The cross of Christ our shield up on our way,
The cross of Christ round be our shield and stay,
Taking at our hands the blessing of May,
At our hands blessing of the Beltane Day.

An ancient Celtic prayer from Benbecula

Ministry Team

Bishop of Brechin

Right Rev'd Andrew Swift Tel: 01382 459 569

George Masson Tel: 01569 739283

ROTA - MAY 2019

Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastora IAssistant/ Address/Chalice	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sidesperson	Cleaning/Flowers Teas
05/05/19 3rd Sunday of Easter	ARMA ISLES <i>Russ Huddleston</i>	Ken Tonge Carol Masson George Masson <i>Sue Selway</i>	ACTS 9: 1-20 REVELATION 5: 11-14 JOHN 21: 1-19	Eric Hargreaves	Sue Selway Carol Masson
12/05/19 4th Sunday of Easter Vocation Sunday	REV JANE NELSON <i>Irene Butler</i>	Eric Hargreaves Jan Horn Sheila Usher <i>Sheila Usher</i>	ACTS 9: 36-43 REVELATION 7: 9-17 JOHN 10: 22-30	Carl Nelson	Sue Manson/ Di Driver Rhoda Nelson
19/05/19 5th Sunday of Easter	JOHN USHER <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Moirra Hurry, Service Manager, PILLAR, Kincardine: Promoting Positive Mental Health	George Masson Sue Manson Katie Gill <i>Muriel Hargreaves</i>	ACTS 11: 1-18 REVELATION 21: 1-6 JOHN 13: 31-35	Sue Selway	Sheila Usher Katie Gill
26/05/19 6th Sunday of Easter	GEORGE MASSON <i>Russ Huddleston</i>	Jan Horn Ken Tonge Carol Masson <i>Sue Selway</i>	ACTS 16: 9-15 REVELATION 21: 10,22-22: 5 JOHN 14: 23-29	Jan Horn	Rhona Vassilikos Carol Masson
02/06/19 7th Sunday of Easter Sunday after Ascension Day	BISHOP ANDREW <i>Irene Butler</i>	Eric Hargreaves Sue Selway Di Driver <i>Ken Tonge</i>	ACTS 1. 1-11 EPHESIANS 1: 15-23 LUKE 24: 44-53	Eric Hargreaves	Muriel Hargreaves Peggy Tonge/ Oksana Huddleston