

CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church

LEST
WE
FORGET

The War Commemoration



11th November 2015

*He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide,
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore. MICAH 4: v1 - 5*

Autumn 2015
Vol 18:3

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SUNDAY SERVICES



Communion

Sunday 1st November

All-Age Communion at 9:30am.
Traditional Communion at 11am
in the church
3pm in the Kirk Hall
with common and individual cups

Weekly Services

9.30am First Morning Service
Crèche in Cross House

9.45am All-Age Worship
Term time in Springfield School

11.00am Second Service

6.30pm Evening Service
in Kirk Hall

Monthly Communion

Sunday 29th November
at 12:15pm
Individual Cup

Front cover photograph by
Stephen Blake

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VIEW FROM THE MANSE

by Rev Dr Stewart Gillan

One of the more recent languages in the world is that of human rights, which came of age in the aftermath of WWII, notably in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly – Paris, December 1948. Vowing to prevent the atrocities of that war from ever happening again, the member nations (eight abstaining, none dissenting) asserted the fundamental equality of dignity and rights in all human beings. Articles 13–15 of the Declaration address rights to move within and between countries, to leave and return to any country including one's own, to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution (but not from prosecution from a non-political crime), and right to a nationality.



I recently wrote an introductory sketch to a book on South Africa set in the pivotal years of political change, written to acknowledge those whose struggle against apartheid formed part of their Christian discipleship. The two characters I invented for the sketch Potso (meaning question) and Karabo (answer) seemed to veer towards human rights of their own accord. I urge similar dialogue today:

Potso and Karabo are sitting on rocks in a township Peace Garden, created by young people in an effort to reclaim the township following a State of Emergency when services like rubbish removal had stopped. They had arranged bits of debris and discarded items around a leafless tree set down in stones. Many similar Gardens had been set up but were quickly destroyed by security forces.

Potso and Karabo are resuming a conversation they have been having for some time.

Potso:	I've been thinking –
Karabo:	My compliments –
Potso:	about a question.
Karabo:	I'm proud of you.
Potso:	A silly question –
Karabo:	Never –
Potso:	but it troubles me: what is human about human rights?
Karabo: (looking at him)	What is human about human rights?
Potso:	That's it.
Karabo:	Not a trick question?
Potso:	No tricks.

Karabo: (stares at the leafless tree.) Upon reflection, I am obliged to say we are what is human about human rights.

Potso: Come again?

Karabo: They are birth rights. You have to ask who they are before you ask what they are. We have them by virtue of being born human.

Potso: Simple, so simple, too simple.

Karabo: The Declarations say they are innate, inherent, inalienable.

Potso: All those words.

Karabo: Yes.

Potso: You've been reading again.

Karabo: They haven't banned reading. Only the books!

Potso: But are they not also vulnerable, human rights?

Karabo: In what way?

Potso: They can be violated. And are.

Karabo: That is true, but the violation does not strip us of our rights. That is not possible.

Potso: Still, it is part of what we are saying when we say they are human rights, is it not?

Karabo: Explain.

Potso: They are inherent but they are also insecure in this world.

Karabo: I see what you mean but I would say it is us who are vulnerable, not our rights. They are secure even when we ourselves are not.

Potso: How can you separate things like that? When we are violated so are our rights!

Karabo: Yes, I agree. But our inherent worth and dignity are not altered.

Potso: So it doesn't matter then, what the violators do.

Karabo: Of course it matters! Our rights are asserted against their violation!

Potso: You allow that they can be violated but insist that they are still somehow intact – is that not wishful?

Karabo: It is necessary.

Potso: But not sufficient.

Karabo: That old distinction. Would you prefer that we did not assert them at all, our human rights?

Potso: No. That would be worse.

Karabo: Yes. Worse for us all.

The language of human rights does not cover all aspects – human (ir)responsibility is a crucial foil. Even so, it is a language among people of good will – of different faiths and none – here and abroad. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, 'A little non-religious language from the street... is sometimes quite a good thing too for communication'.

STEWARDSHIP AND LEGACIES

Anne Law

We have just undertaken a Season of Stewardship concentrating on God's gift of Time to us, and we'll consider the other two aspects of Christian stewardship over the next two years: looking at Treasure in 2016 and Talents in 2017.

Giving is a spiritual matter and it is as central to faithful living as prayer, Bible study, and worship. However, I struggled to know how to start this article on a very particular form of giving – how to broach the topic of legacies?

I went first to the dictionary to find a definition that would inspire me further. The definition that I liked most was: something handed down from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. That notion of stewardship in the church – that we have responsibility for Jesus' church for a period of time and then pass it on into the hands of the next generation – really appeals to me. I like that sense of being part of the continuity of Christ's church. It means that I have a certain responsibility, the baton has been passed to you and me, but only for a period of time and then we will pass it on to others.

Over the years the diverse work of the Church has been greatly assisted by many generous gifts from Wills of members, adherents and supporters. Anyone making a gift in his or her Will to support the Church's work can direct it to a local congregation, or the work of a particular Council of the Church, or the work of the Church of Scotland in general. A legacy is exempt from Inheritance Tax; it can be any size and can be money, property, shares or other assets.

Every gift left to the church is valued and used carefully for its intended purpose. Legacies in other local congregations have, for example, enabled the re-ordering of a church interior to allow flexible worship, the employment of a youth worker for a few years, resourcing of Christian education or outreach, and the installation of audio-visual equipment to enhance worship. A legacy can help continue work that you think is important or help provide a resource to develop new work. Any gift you leave will make a difference to the Church.

We touch the earth lightly while here. We are privileged if we can leave a mark of our passing to be remembered by those people and causes we have cared for in life.

Your legacy? 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith'. Timothy 4:7





Under the Spotlight

For this issue, the Ministry Team has put the Editor of Crosswind, Myra Lawson, 'Under the Spotlight'.



If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be? *I have always had a fascination with Julius Caesar, so it would probably be him. He travelled and achieved so much in Europe without any mechanised forms of transport. But please don't give me the week that includes the Ides of March.*

If you were a Microsoft Office program, which one would you be? *It might be the spellchecker as I enjoy proof-reading. I am a bit of a spelling freak!*

Favourite movie of all time and why? *'The Quiet Man' with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara made in 1952. I like the acting, the story and the Irish scenery. I never tire of watching it and know much of the dialogue by heart. A close second would be 'Easter Parade' with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland, made in 1948; the dancing is fantastic. Surprisingly these are both in colour - my family say I like only black and white movies.*

What is your favourite way to spend a Saturday? *I love theatre, so I suppose it would be going to see a play (or a pantomime) and have a nice meal either before or after the performance.*

What's your earliest memory of St Michael's? *Apart from the size and the beauty of the place, I think it was reciting the Creed; we had never done that in our church in Glasgow.*

If someone were to make a movie about your life, who would you hope would play you? *Difficult one - it would have to be a Scot and the story might be too boring for anyone to take it on.*

Which female character in the Bible would you like to have dinner with? *I think that Mary Magdalene was a very interesting character, so dinner with her would provide some fascinating conversation. Perhaps I am slightly influenced by the fact that my mother had a cousin called Mary Magdalene, believe it or not.*

If you could be any character in fiction, who would you be? *I never tire of reading 'Rebecca', so I think it would have to be Mrs de Winter. I think it is the only book I have ever read where you finish the book without knowing the Christian name of the main character.*

What's something most people don't know about you? *I was at my granny's wedding! My mother's mother married three times; the third time was when she was in her 60s and I was there as a toddler. Sadly she was also widowed three times but she lived to the grand old age of 90.*

Describe the role of editor of Crosswind using only three adjectives.
Fun, fulfilling, frustrating.

Tell us your favourite knock, knock joke.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Consumption:

Consumption who?

Consumption not be done about this joke?

Which city holds a special place in your heart? *Apart from Glasgow, do you mean?*

Do you have a childhood memory that makes you smile every time you think of it? *I don't think it makes me smile, but I remember my first day in Primary School when we all had new schoolbags. I am reminded of it every time I smell new leather.*

If you were given an around the world ticket with five stopovers, where would you go? *I think I would pick Route 66 in the States, Havana, the Kerala backwaters, the Dordogne, Xian (the terracotta warriors) - in any order.*

Favourite Bible verse? *Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20, King James version).*

You love to travel – South Africa for example. Has travel changed your view of life in Scotland? If so, how? *South Africa is a special place as my grandfather died there in 1914. John and I actually found his grave in Johannesburg two years ago. However, I think that life in Scotland is just about as good as it gets. The scenery is superb, the people friendly and we are free to get around as we want. We all grumble about the weather but, if our weather was always fine we would be overrun with visitors and would lose the sense of isolation we enjoy at present.*

TWINNING VISIT

Photographs courtesy of Alan Miller



During the last week of August and the first week of September, St Michael's was visited by Rev Hanna Dally, priest of Holy Family Episcopal Church in Reineh, Galilee and his wife, Anita, daughter, Dareen (11yrs) and son, Ghassan (4yrs).

The Twinning Agreement between Holy Family Episcopal Church, Reineh and St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow was signed at the morning services on Sunday, 30th August, 2015.



Rev Hanna Dally presented St Michael's with a banner to mark the occasion.



The family sang Grace before Rev Hanna Dally led the Bible Study at 'Bible at Breakfast'.



Rev Hanna Dally preached at both services on the Sunday morning.



... and there was time for sight-seeing and fun too!

On a serious note, Hanna, Stewart and Elma Birrell met with our MSP, Fiona Hyslop, who gave a transcript of the debate in the Scottish Parliament on Palestine. She had mentioned our links with Reineh.

 A horizontal strip of five small black and white photographs. From left to right: a building with a tower, a close-up of a baby's face, a woman in a white dress, a family with a child on shoulders, and a person in a doorway.

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 PHOTOGRAPHY**



SUNDAY CLUB

by Anne Sutherland

Sunday Club is St Michael's brand new place where children can learn about God's love for them every Sunday, while having loads of fun. The club is open to all children between three and eleven years approximately – no-one is counting if you are twelve and want to stay. We attend church for the first part of the service and then meet in the hall where we hear a story from the Bible linked to a theme to help us live our daily lives, eg being thankful, showing respect, making good choices. We play games with lots of different activities to help us learn. Sunday Club was launched on 23rd August with Sundaes Sunday. We had great fun playing games, eating ice cream with toppings of our choice and making ice cream cones out of paper to be made into bunting to be hung up in church.

Sunday club has a new programme for the children to follow; in writing this programme we had three reasons:

- To provide a clear progression through learning in Sunday Club in Bible stories, activities, games and collaborative work.
- To encourage and support the leaders of Sunday Club who have busy lives.
- To give a joined-up approach to the message being taught in church while the children are there.

To help us decide what we ultimately want for our children, we re-worked the church's mission statement.

Knowing Christ Better: The young people of Sunday Club, Bible Class and Youth Fellowship will know that God loves them and will learn that God sent Jesus that they might know that love more clearly.

Serving Him Together: The young people will have supported opportunities at all stages to take part in services, activities, fundraising events, etc. They will learn what part they can play within and outwith a caring community, knowing what it means to belong to the church family.

Making Him known to others: We pray that the young people will in time return that love and have a true and lasting relationship with Jesus all the days of their lives. They will be able to share this love with others in thought, word and action.

To help achieve the joined-up approach to learning each week's theme will be introduced in church during the children's address. The 'what we are learning in Sunday Club' will be on the big screen – eg on the first Sunday when we were hearing the creation story and learning about being thankful, the 'what do we want to learn?' looked like this.....

1. When and why do we say thank you?
2. God made everything and provides for us each day of our lives.
3. We can say 'thank you' to God by taking good care of the world and its people.

There will also be photos of the children at work from the previous week. This will firstly activate the children's memory of the previous week's learning; secondly, and of equal importance, it will keep our adults in touch with what the children are learning, crucial given we are all part of the church family. When the children come down to the hall they will be joined by the pre-schoolers who will continue to meet in the cellar during the first part of the service. The age range is wide but so it can be with any family, and children are good at caring



for one another and sharing what they know. Each week we will hear a Bible story (in different ways, YouTube videos, puppets, super storytellers) and this will be linked to a theme for their life. For the first two weeks we heard the creation story and thought about things for which we are truly thankful. On the second week the theme was respect; for ourselves, others and the world we live in. While this sounds quite thought provoking and serious-minded, games and activities will cater for different learning styles which help us with all the thinking!

One group made models of the earth with papier maché and tissue paper, while another took cameras outside to photograph favourite things and then, after they were printed, added text messages to explain why they were thankful for what was in the photo. Another group decorated butterfly cakes while another made a creation picture from foam, tissue etc. for a wall display.

We came together to talk about what we've learned and how it can be taken into the week ahead. The children kept thank you diaries and either drew a picture or wrote down what they had been thankful for – we had lovely shooting star stickers saying 'I was thankful this week' to celebrate being thankful to our wonderful loving God.

One request – please look at the third part of the mission statement for children again and say it as a prayer, along with prayers for the ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for our leaders. Thank you.

ROBIN FOULKES (ALCM)
& JANET FOULKES

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TWO IDEAS: ONE PURPOSE!

by Ruth Middleton

Recently, two different ideas came together in an exciting way – different because one was about knitting, the other sewing, from different countries and through different people; exciting because they had the same aim of developing the Church's caring ministry of prayer by producing prayer shawls and prayer quilts. To explain:-

One member of the Church knitting group has already begun to produce prayer shawls – wraps which can go round the shoulders, over the knees or be laid on a bed. While knitting, the knitter prays for the person to whom the shawl may be given. There is already a stock of a variety of shawls which may be given by the Ministers or Church Visitors to anyone for whom the comfort of the shawl and knowledge of the prayer with which it was made would be of special help.

The idea for prayer quilts came from New Zealand where a group of quilters make small lap quilts which could also be laid on a bed. These are made in response to specific requests for a quilt for a particular individual. Instead of quilting, the layers are held together with knots, and as each knot is tied, a prayer is said for the intended recipient. The group consists of people who sew, others who pray, or both. It provides a prayer ministry as well as a friendship group. The Pastoral Care Team, which is responsible for developing the Church's prayer life, believe that this is an idea worth trying.

We would welcome new members who would like to help in this prayer shawl ministry. Help and patterns would be provided. The prayer quilt ministry has yet to start, so if you are a knitter or sewer, or both, and would be interested in either group, please come to a meeting on Monday, 9 November 2015 at 7.30pm when both ideas will be explained in greater detail and the ideas developed further. You will be most welcome! Please contact Sheila Rae, Convenor of the Pastoral Care Team, if you hope to attend.
(Tel: 847538 or sheila.rae@blueyonder.co.uk)

The Pastoral Care Team works with the Ministry Team in developing the Church's ministry of prayer as part of the Church's 20:20 vision, and the following is a reminder of the different aspects of this ministry already in existence to which will be added prayer quilts and shawls.

Wednesday prayers – this takes place every Wednesday at 12.30 in the Queen's Aisle. It is a quiet time of prayer and contemplation, at which the prayers left in the prayer box by visitors and others as well as other local concerns are prayed about. All are welcome to join the regular group.

Prayer chain – a group is available to respond to needs for urgent prayer. A request for prayer can be made by phoning 670980 or 822603. The prayer will be passed quickly down a chain of people and is totally confidential.

Evening services – held in the Kirk Hall on Sunday evenings between September and May.

House Groups – various groups of members meet for bible study and prayer: details are given on the weekly intimations sheets.

Time of Stillness – Thursday at 2pm in St Katherine's Aisle. Details from Cheryl.

Prayer after services – two members of the Church prayer team are available in the Queen's Aisle after each morning service to pray with anyone who has a need.

Prayer calendar – this is a new venture. A calendar for each day of each month is produced containing a prayer relevant to that day. These are available in the Church for everyone to pick up and use in their daily prayers. Look out for them soon!

For more information about any of these groups, please contact Sheila Rae, as above.

'THE FLOCK'

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH KNITTING CLUB

by Mairi McFarlane



Do you love knitting? Love a chat? Love a coffee with cake? Well, if you like any of these three things then why not come along and join us on the first Monday of every month? We meet in Room One in Cross House and knit and blether and drink coffee not always in that order! You do not have to be a great knitter or even have lots of experience. Just now for example we are knitting poppies to make into a fall for Remembrance Sunday and it is a straightforward pattern. A few months ago we were knitting tea cosies which will be on sale soon. They are tea cosies of our ministry team and are great fun, but were slightly more complicated.

Cheryl is the one who gives us the ideas but we are open to all kinds of suggestions. It is a good way to get together and do a wee bit of fundraising too. So – if any of the above sounds your kind of thing please just come along at 10 am and if you cannot make it every month then just come when you can. If you would like to be involved with knitting some poppies then please let me know, as you can knit at home even if you can't come along on a Monday.

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CARING FOR THOSE WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA

by Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young

As a church we work hard to reach out and support those within St Michael's, and also in the wider community, who are living with a diagnosis of dementia. Over the past few years dementia is discussed more regularly now in the media – both on television and in the press. This has raised awareness and also invited us all to re-examine how we talk about dementia. How we do this influences how people with dementia are viewed and also how they feel about themselves; you may have noticed how people talk less of 'dementia sufferers' and instead speak of 'those living with a diagnosis of dementia'.



Dementia in itself is a collective term used to describe the problems that people with various underlying brain disorders or damage can have with their memory, language and thinking. The many stages and symptoms include forgetfulness, but it is not a clinical diagnosis itself until an underlying disease or disorder has been identified. Alzheimer's disease is the best known and most common disorder under the umbrella of dementia.

Dementia as we now all know is progressive, with little chance of a cure. However, new drugs and treatments may help alleviate some of the symptoms, and as a church we must do all that we can to ensure that we look after the spiritual life of those who have a diagnosis of dementia.

In partnership with Alzheimer's Scotland, we hosted The Big Sing in June – a huge success raising over £1000. It was a very enjoyable evening and we will host it again in partnership with Alzheimer's Scotland next year, most likely in May. Our Dementia Sensitive Worship continues monthly at both St Michael's hospital and Linlithgow Care Home. Our Sunshine Singers sing monthly at the hospital and from time to time also at the Caring Café and there are plans to start a monthly music therapy group in Room One.



I was delighted to be invited to join a Spirituality and Dementia steering group for Life Changes Trust to explore possible funding for a dementia and spirituality project. We met in Aberdeen this July and will meet again in October. This trust works with people living with dementia and also their carers, investing in resources to help individuals face the challenges before them. As a result they can exercise more choice and control in their own lives – something which we are working hard to achieve also here in St Michael's.

THE PRAYER TABLE, ST KATHERINE'S AISLE

by Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young

Earlier this year I invited people whom I have got to know over my two years with you to write prayers for others going through a similar experience. I approached those whom I knew had personal experience of the prayer requested. The result is a beautiful collection of what I would consider to be very precious prayers which are now available to all those who worship in, or visit our church and spend time in the beauty of St Katherine's Aisle.



There are prayers on many subjects, there is a prayer on stillness, a prayer on busy lives, prayers for teachers or for the tragic loss of a daughter. Prayers for families affected by cancer or dementia. Prayers for the carers of dementia, for sick children, for poverty, divorce and homelessness and for those who have lost a beloved husband or for those who have loved ones far away. There are more prayers being written at present.

They are displayed on a very special table now known as 'the prayer table' which was dedicated this summer in our church. It has been made out of two and a half of the pews which were removed from St Katherine's Aisle last year.

Having such a beautiful new table in St Katherine's Aisle to display these prayers has been made possible by the generous donation of Donald George in memory of his wife Jean – a gift for which we are all very grateful.



If you have not yet seen the prayer table, or have not had time to read these beautiful prayers, please do so. If you feel there is a prayer which touches you please take it with our blessing, perhaps for yourself, a neighbour, or a loved one.

The prayers have been a huge success and we have needed to reprint them many a time already. We do not charge for these beautiful prayer cards but, should you wish to make a donation for the reprinting for this important ministry of prayer so that it may continue any donation, no matter how small, would be appreciated.

TRAVEL IN TIME

by Andrew Sutherland

Just another night out in Linlithgow! Medieval monks, Edward, Hammer of the Scots, James IV of Scotland, Walter Scott, witty elders, not-so-witty elders, ancient ministers, spooky witch trials, pompous politicians, national controversy, amazing lighting effects, fantastic music... yes, it's the St Michael's *Son et Lumière*!

For just two nights in November (Friday 13th and Saturday 14th at 7pm) you will be able to witness historical events that happened in Linlithgow, portrayed by local historian Bruce Jamieson and other speakers and actors, utilising our new excellent lighting system and our own choir and musicians. A cast of... well... about 50!

It should last just over an hour and will provide an informed and entertaining depiction of some quite frankly amazing events that have taken place in our very own Church over the centuries since 1242. A whistle stop tour!

Bruce Jamieson, Emeritus Head of History at Linlithgow Academy, after much historical research, has created the script and will be the narrator. He can really bring history to life – I and many of you will have enjoyed his ghost walks about the town. Other recorded local voices will provide Kings, Bishops, Witches and elders – come and hear whom you can recognise! Of course, also appearing very much as himself will be our current minister Stewart Gillan.

As will I! For the music, I was delighted to have another wonderful historical project to work on! St Michael's provides a rich source of historical material and musical tradition and it has been a delight to work with such a dedicated and enthusiastic historian as Bruce. We have worked together before, particularly on the 1992 *Son et Lumière* to commemorate the 750th anniversary of St Michael's consecration by Bishop David de Bernham.

There is some original music – hopefully the witch trial will be very scary! – and some beautiful plainchant and Scottish Psalms, but also arrangements of contemporary songs like 'True Colours' and a rare (and unique) revival of the 1960s Jefferson Airplane 'You are the Crown of Creation'. 'What!?' you may say – but the phrase was used by Rev Dr David Steel during the 'Crown of Thorns controversy' (however, I don't think he was a pop fan). This is an example Bruce's painstaking historical research. Sarah Gillan (voice and violin), Tracy Curle (Cello), Dr Gordon Wardall (percussion), John Needham and Jonathan Molloy (brass) and, of course, our own excellent choir will be providing sounds, John Barker, Phill Ratcliffe and Stephen Blake clever lighting and sound effects. **Don't miss it!**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY COFFEE MORNINGS

10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Hall

7th November	Megan McLeod for work experience in Tanzania through Gap Medics
14th November	Friends of Girl Guiding, Linlithgow
28th November	Advent Fair Guild Teas
5th December	4th West Lothian Scouts Coffee Morning

CHURCH CEILIDH DINNER

St Michael's Church Annual Ceilidh Dinner at The Burgh Halls,
Friday, November 27th at 7pm. Carriages at 11pm.
Tickets £25 on sale now from the Church Office.

OTHER EVENTS

In the Church

13th & 14th November	Son et Lumière shows
6th December	7.30pm NYCOS Christmas Concert
13th December	7pm Linlithgow Reed Band Christmas Concert

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tues 15th December	7pm	Springfield Christmas Service
Wed 16th December	1.45pm	Low Port Nativity Service
Wed 16th December	7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service
Sun 20th December	7pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thurs 24th December	7pm	Christingle Service
	11pm	Community Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Fri 25th December	11am	Christmas Day Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion

WEBSITES

www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk See Crosswind in full colour!
www.helpcentre.org.uk For information on support available for most situations



PARISH

WEDDINGS

They are no longer two, but one



June

Jennifer Hunter to Anthony Thomson
Monika Cieslak to Colin Stewart
Alexandra Smith to Leigh Hooper
Kimberly Baird to Alan Anderson

July

Aillie Strachan to Calum Young

August

Lisa Taylor to Steven Ferguson
Stephanie Johnston to Scott Thomson
Jamie Mclear to Steven McGill

September

Jackline Gituma to David Strain
Ashleigh McClung to Allan Imrie

NEW MEMBERS

For we are all members of one body

Mr Richard Evans, Clarendon Road



REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Let the children come to me



June

Leah Jane Isabella Seatter, Bathgate
Ryan Ethan Walker, Kettil'stoun Mains
Lauren Fiona Farquharson, Dunfermline
Chloe Sandbach, Pilgrims Hill



August

Alicia May Greig, Priory Road
Cadeon Edward Lawrie, Uphall
Arlo Ewan Lawrie, Uphall
Ivan Rory Douglas Peace, Edinburgh
Karis Lisa Williams Forman, Springfield Road

September

Benjamin Alexander Norton, Kettilstoun Grove

FUNERALS

I am the resurrection and the life



May

Iain Cameron, Grangemouth

June

Margaret Catherine (Cathie) Irvine, St Magdalene's Court
May McAlpine, Riccarton Road

July

Agnes Cruickshank, St Margaret's Care Home, Polmont
(formerly Manse Road)



August

Peter (Victor) Hamilton, Bield Housing, Linlithgow (formerly Brae Court)
William (Willy) Brown, Armadale

September

Catherine McCrystal, Craigmair Care Home, Livingston
(formerly The Vennel)
William Thomson, Parkhead Road

WHAT IS THE GUILD DOING?

by Anne Chadwick



Recently as a congregation we have been thinking about being a welcoming church – part of St Michael's 'Vision for 2020'. As a group within the church, it follows that St Michael's Guild would also like to make sure that we are more welcoming.

We meet regularly every second Monday evening in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm, the session running from mid-September to the end of April. Our meetings are open to all. Whether members of the Guild or not, whether members of a church or not, you are welcome to come and see what we do and to enjoy some fellowship with us.

This invitation includes men, even if you are also a member of the Men's Association! Already a few have attended some of our meetings. Nationally Guild membership at the moment is 20,953 including 461 men, a small but increasing number. In West Lothian Presbytery, three groups between them have 4 members who are men. We are aiming to be outward looking, thinking of what is happening locally and overseas and have planned our programme accordingly. We hope that the following information on the coming Guild session will appeal to both men and women!

By the time this is published two or three of our meetings will be past, but they have been included in this account to give a more balanced picture of the topics covered.

The first item in the syllabus is a review of the 'Empowered Project' Flower Festival and flower arranging by Sandra Stewart. During the festival, both men and women were impressed by the floral interpretations of 'Light', which was the festival theme.

For our next meeting we asked our Youth Leader, Russell Shields, to come with some youngsters to tell us about their experiences at an event called 'Mission:Survivor'. This concerned people trafficking and had a profound effect on the youngsters. We were pleased to be able to include them in our programme. The young people in the church deserve plenty of publicity for the interest they have been taking in the plight of others less fortunate than themselves.

On 26th October there is a presentation on 'Waste and Recycling in West Lothian'. Part of the funding for the 'Empowered Project' was dependent on the congregation being themselves more aware of the state of the environment



and of the energy we use. We are also required to let more people know about energy saving.

The three tenets of the Guild are 'Worship, Prayer and Action'. Over the summer apart from thinking about our '2020 Vision', St Michael's Church has been considering our stewardship of time and how much is set aside for God. Coming along to the Guild is another opportunity to allot some time to God, as most Guild events start with a reading, a prayer and one or two hymns. As part of the Church of Scotland Guild each group receives plenty of literature and ideas on the current 'Guild Theme'. This year the theme is 'Be bold, be strong! – Go in Peace'. We can use this as a starting point for our worship.



The main part of the 'action' undertaken by the Guild is to raise money for two Guild Projects. The first is run by Christian Aid, 'Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia'. We hear from their speaker on 9th November. The programme also includes items which provide some light relief and the next meeting is such an event. This is a demonstration in cake decoration by 'Truly Scrumptious Cakes', 23rd November. At the end of the month we shall be fund-raising by catering in Cross House during the Advent Fair.

On December 7th there is an informal celebration of Christmas and on December 14th we have our Christmas meal which should appeal to everyone!

Meetings in 2016 open with an account by Derek Henderson of his experiences as a divinity student, 11th January. Then we have an evening of Scottish Music presented by Tracy Curle and Friends on Burns Night. On 8th February Anne Chadwick hopes that 'Two Weddings in Kenya' will brighten a winter's evening!

The second Guild Project we are supporting is 'Street Pastors' run by Ascension Trust Scotland. We shall hear about this project on 22nd February. We shall be fund-raising again with the Coffee Morning, 27th February, and later with one other event yet to be decided.

On 7th March most of us shall be 'Remembering the 1950s', although young retro fans also welcome! On 4th April David Timperley gives an account of his visit to Alaska. The penultimate meeting is about the Vine Trust's project in Tanzania by Rev John Povey, 18th April. Like other organisations we hold an AGM, ours is on 25th April and is followed by a meal which is another opportunity for fellowship.

Please look at the notice boards in the Church and Cross House for more detailed information to find out what the Guild is doing. We hope to see you!



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DUST A MINUTE

by Pat Brough

Occasionally a member of the church is approached with a view to becoming an Elder. Following Ordination, they are admitted to the Kirk Session, which is divided into groups or teams looking after different aspects of Church life, from the spiritual to the secular. When Elizabeth Leitch was in this position, she decided as a practical person, to join the Property Team. This group looks after the Church building from the bell tower to the ground, the Cross House premises including the Hall, the two flats and also the Manse. Fabric is checked regularly for deterioration and wear.



Several years ago St Michael's had no regular cleaner and was in need of a 'Make Over' and Elizabeth was able to judge what had to be done, and how to do it. Notices were placed in the weekly newsletter and between 30-35 members volunteered their help. Elizabeth had divided the Church and the work to be done into sections, and everything was completed in three days. Wood was washed down and polished, brass polished, toilets cleaned and every part of the floor vacuumed. This deep cleaning was done twice a year, in Spring and Autumn.

Now that Jeanette Aitken has been appointed as church cleaner, Elizabeth will have to marshal her volunteers only when workmen have been in the Church creating more dust than usual.

Frank McGhee used to take minutes of all Property Team meetings but, when he had to give this up, Elizabeth took on the work, as she had experience of recording minutes of meetings when she worked in the Civil Service. If you write shorthand, taking down minutes of a meeting is straight forward, but when you have to rely on listening carefully and noting the salient points, it is more difficult. Copies of minutes are e-mailed to Team members within a few days.

When schoolteachers have an in-service day Russell Shields organises a 'Holiday Club' for all Primary age children from 8.45am to 12.30pm and Elizabeth helps with teas, coffees, juice and biscuits for the children and adult helpers.

Soon there will be another 'deep clean' in the Church when workmen now in the Church complete their task. Then Elizabeth will organise another 'Mr and Mrs Mop' event, which hopefully will take only 2 days to complete. So volunteers – flex your dusting and polishing muscles, come down with your vacuum cleaner to help free St Michael's of dust and grime.

THE EASTER STORY ON STAGE

by Alan Miller

'Unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.' (John ch.12 v.24)



Underneath our quiet Presbyterian exterior, it seems we're actually quite a dramatic bunch at St Michael's! First there was the Nativity Panto in December 2013. And now rehearsals are well underway for a musical passion play, retelling the story of the first Easter in a vibrant and modern way. The performances will be in the church on Friday 11, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 March 2016.

'The Seed Must Die' – the title was inspired by Jesus' words as quoted above – is a professionally written show with original music which had 2 successful performance runs in Edinburgh in the 1980s. We are delighted that the author Jenny Robertson has been working with us to update her wonderful script for our production next year.

Two TV news reporters keep up a running dialogue between studio and street as Jesus approaches his moment of truth: 'People are saying that Jesus from Nazareth is actually the Son of God'. 'That's true, John, but don't forget he's also the son of a teenage mum. Her name's Mary: I've interviewed her aunt.'

As we follow Jesus from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on towards his death and resurrection, we meet a colourful array of characters. The High Priest Caiaphas introduces himself by singing a blues number ('Well, life ain't easy for a Levite, Gotta keep them rules both day and night; Bow to the Romans, don't want to lose – I got the Sanhedrin Blues'). Pontius Pilate turns out to be smarmy but superficial. The disciples keep squabbling about who is the greatest. Only Mary, a mere girl, seems able really to grasp Jesus' message of sacrificial love.

And it's Jesus who is at the centre of the story, of course. He is the seed that must die: to quote the haunting theme melody, he is the 'grain buried deep, today, tomorrow, sleep' which will leap bright to death before it bursts to new life.

The whole production team, cast and crew will be working hard to make this a powerful and memorable portrayal of the foundation events of our faith. It'll all be there: songs, laughs, tears, and ultimately joy unbounded. We really hope you'll make a date to be there too, and to bring your friends and family.



by Russell Shields

With Space Academy successfully landed and the school term launched, summer may seem like a distant memory. Lots of young people enjoyed the Holiday Club week and they'd normally have to wait another year to enjoy this type of club again. But no, not this time!

This year Mega Makers have already warmed up the gadgets, switched on the gizmos and opened the doors to young people in P1-P7 on school In-Service days, and there are more to come! Mega Makers is our In-Service Day Club run by St Michael's Parish Church in Cross House, same place as this year's Holiday Club and offering a lot of fun on a day when many parents seek help with childcare. Mega Makers has a mix of games, crafts, stories, videos, songs, challenges and more, helping us to have fun and learn more about God and the Bible together.

We piloted the In-Service Day Club last year and found that many parents felt the benefit of having something fun for their kids to do. We had various children and young people enjoying having something to do with their friends. Now they don't need to wait for next year's Holiday Club – they can have days throughout the year with the same fun activities.

Mega Makers runs from 8.45am-12.30pm on the Linlithgow in-service days. For 2015-2016 these dates are: 18 August; 22 September; 26 October; 5 January and 3 May 2016. Some dates have already passed but we'd love to have pupils in P1-P7 join us whenever they can. You can book a place for your child by contacting me at Russell@stmichaels-parish.org.uk. We gratefully accept any donations made but it is FREE to come along.

We're going to be exploring the width, depth, height, length and greatness of God's love as shown through Jesus. Bob and Gemma will help us to learn how Jesus shows us about God's love, and the incredible Professor Ian Ventor and his highly reliable assistant, May Kamess will help us find out how these things are all relevant.

So far this year we've made place mats to join the party with Jesus; we've invented defences to protect our highly valuable eggs (with varying success); we've heard about Jesus changing a tax collector's life and challenging the religious leaders; and we've heard about how God's love reaches to include us.

So if your child is free on any of the above dates, then stick on their thinking caps and get their creative juices flowing because we'd love to see them at Mega Makers.



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THE BREAD OF LIFE

'He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6, 35



Starting below the arrow, take every third letter clockwise around the circle until all are used to find what Jesus said after he had fed 5,000 people.

Loaves and Fishes

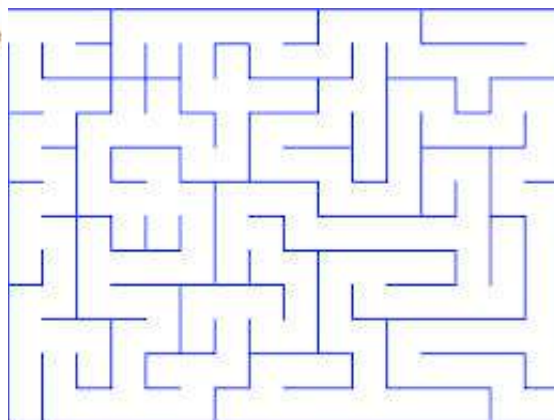
Below are the jumbled names of some types of bread and fish from around the world. Can you name them?

This fish is plentiful in the Sea of Galilee. Can you name it?

Clue: It is named after a fisherman, a follower of Jesus!



- | | |
|----------|----------|
| anna | odc |
| gable | lansom |
| rajein | utrot |
| catbaita | endsrai |
| taphaic | aunt |
| ugabette | chokdad |
| lalcahh | thailub |
| tapit | reemlack |
| tailorlt | clapie |
| cobankn | oles |



Help the boy with his five barley loaves and two fish to find his way through the maze to Jesus.



JUST A MINUTE

Donald Burgess continues to dip into the pages of the Kirk Session minutes



100 years ago

Tues. 27th July 1915 Regarding the remit to the Choir Committee, Mr Forbes submitted the following report:

"The Choir Committee met with Mr Cassels and beg to report, on the authority of the Organist, that:

1. it is not possible to use the organ at all with a pressure under 50lbs;
2. that 65lbs of pressure is required for the provision of an adequate accompaniment to congregational singing; and
3. that the full organ cannot be used with a pressure under 80lbs.

In consideration of the sudden and frequent variations of water pressure, your committee recommends that on ordinary occasions Mr. Cassels be empowered to employ the necessary manual labour when the gauge shows a pressure of under 50lbs, that he report the fact to the Convenor of the Choir Committee before or after the service as may be found convenient, and that he consult the Convenor of the Choir Committee about arrangements for special services, when the adequate pressure should be guaranteed."

The report was adopted and agreed to by the Session.

50 years ago

Sun 29th Aug. 1965 The Moderator recalled that at its meeting on 16th March the Session had given full powers to the Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer to purchase a house for the use of future Assistant Ministers. They now reported that they had purchased the house at 32 Highfield Crescent for the sum of £3,400. The Session agreed that the Disposition of the house at 32 Highfield Crescent be taken in favour of Doctor Steel and Mr Glennie as Minister and Session Clerk respectively of St. Michael's Church and that they and their successors in office should be Trustees for the property on behalf of the Kirk Session. The Session also agreed that the Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer should arrange for the purchase of furniture for 32 Highfield Crescent up to a total of £600 and that to aid them in this they should co-opt Mrs. Steel, Mrs. Glennie, Mrs. Stark and Mrs. Stein.

25 years ago

Tues. 18th Sept.1990 [*Post of Associate Minister*] As the present incumbent of the post, the Rev. W. A. McLean-Foreman, would have held the position for four years in February 1991, the preliminary arrangements for the appointment of a possible replacement were referred to the General Purposes Committee.

[*Church Missionary*] The Commissioning of Miss Brenda Galloway as a Church Missionary to Indonesia would take place at the 11am service on Sunday 23rd September 1990.

Tues. 16th Oct.1990 [*Minister's Stipend*] (at this point of the meeting the Moderator left the room and the meeting continued as a Committee of Kirk Session) Mr. R. Alexander outlined the recommendations of the Stewardship and Finance Committee in respect of the stipends for 1991 whereby the maximum possible to be paid would be £17,043 plus an addition payment of £1,000 towards the Pension Fund. The Associate Minister to receive the minimum stipend of £12,174. Session agreed that these recommended stipends should be paid. (The moderator returned to the meeting whereupon the full meeting of Session was reconstituted.)



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ST MICHAEL'S ONLINE

by Owen Griffiths

Some say that a website is the digital equivalent of the traditional noticeboard usually found in church grounds. More and more people are using the internet like 'Yellow Pages' – researching venues, activities, trips and journey-planning. Given the wide variety of folks interested in St Michael's it is ever-more important to keep that digital identity fresh, interesting and up-to-date.

St Michael's – more than most – has great potential for attracting folks to its life and work. Most important is its ministry, its people and the Christian witness they exude in the town. It's a hugely important focal point for the townsfolk, especially in times of sadness or celebration, in addition to its role in a broad range of civic duties. Its heritage, location and setting all sit alongside its stunning architecture and unique appearance with its remarkable crowning glory. Increasingly, folks will encounter St Michael's first by engaging online, and then, likely, by coming to worship, visit, or sightsee.

Against this backdrop a new website for St Michael's has been commissioned from Sanctus Media, based in Bo'ness. They specialise in building technology solutions particularly for the Christian church in Scotland. They are the team responsible, amongst other things, for live internet streaming for the Church of Scotland's General Assembly and numerous presbytery and parish church websites. Sanctus' video production arm will also allow the new site to feature specially shot video of the church and its activities.

A mission and outreach focus will be prominent in this new online presence as, first and foremost, St Michael's is represented as a vibrant and welcoming community of Christ's church. The various needs of the congregation, townsfolk and visitors will mean that the site's home page will feature a careful and structured interweaving of messages in order to 'speak' to every type of online visitor, and make them feel this really is 'their' home page.

While the design primarily serves as a visually pleasing, and easy-to-navigate interface – with very little effort from users – the functionality offered throughout the website will be paramount in further enhancing that user experience. While we must consider 'who' the website is for, there's also the question of 'how will the website be accessed?'

It's been well established that millions of websites are accessed daily not just on our laptops and home computers; but also on the devices carried with us daily – our mobile phones. With 3G and 4G internet connectivity enabling speedy access to websites from almost anywhere in the country, phone and tablet users must have an equally engaging, effortless experience viewing the website as those looking in on their PC at home. As such, one of the most significant implementations – where design and functionality meet – will be in the website's responsive design.



With this, the webpages will work out the screen size of a device, and – if necessary – quickly 're-shape' the layout, text size, and flow of information, for a perfect fit; without losing any content or legibility. Other functionality will include online rota schedules, an audio sermon archive, an advanced calendar management system, dynamic photo galleries, and the ability to publish video content across the site.

While some of these features are common to many contemporary websites, one of the downfalls many organisations face with a new website is the ability to keep the content up-to-date, or of a consistent quality. Sanctus believe a major underlying problem resulting in outdated content is the accessibility and user-friendliness of the software that stores this data — known as the Content Management System (CMS).

For nearly every church website they've built, Sanctus employed a CMS chosen for its powerful yet straight-forward interface. Even for those with very basic knowledge of IT, it promises to provide simple, effective content publishing and editing. Website contributors will have a customised set of tools to update their own section of the site, without the worry of 'breaking' anything!

Measuring the 'success' or otherwise of a new online presence is not simply a statistical task. It is easy, of course, to merely count clicks, visits and approximate geographic location of a whole world-full of visitors – and that will be very interesting in its own right – but it will be in the 'softer' measurements where the true outcomes of a faith-based website can be reckoned. So listen out for the stories, a casual one-liner, or a meaningful email. Perhaps you might hear, 'I was attracted to this church when I saw online that...', or 'In a time of need, your website brought me comfort, and when I visited later...', or 'I've wanted to visit the church for some time, and after crossing your digital threshold, I had confidence to come through your real door...'. Indeed, some online visitors might never come to church at all and only engage with St Michael's online... and that might begin a whole new type of ministry!

Whatever the internet future looks like for St Michael's, we hope that you will take a keen interest and keeping visiting: online and in person! Click.

WHY DID THE BOY HAVE SO MUCH BREAD?

Rev Hanna Dally's thoughts, interpreted by Rev Dr Stewart Gillan

When Hanna Dally, Rector of Holy Family Church in Reineh, led Bible at Breakfast he asked us, 'Why did the boy have five loaves of bread? Why so much?' The biblical text was John's version of the feeding of the five thousand, in which Andrew introduces a boy who has five loaves of barley and two fish. Pursuing his own question, Hanna said:

'That's too much bread for one boy. He doesn't need five loaves. Why so much?'

Hanna thought the boy's mother might have given him extra bread on purpose. Beyond his own needs. Sent him along with bread for others. Seeing the need before

it arose. Taking thought and making provision. I had never thought of it that way before. It is one of Hanna's gifts in bible study: he asks questions that take us further into the story. With great passion. He loves the Word of God and after an hour with him we couldn't help love it more deeply ourselves.

Hanna spent time on the setting of the story – a mountainside on the 'other side' of the Sea of Galilee. The first verse, we noted, tells us that the sea is also called the 'Sea of Tiberias.' We are given both a Hebrew and a Roman naming. And a mountainside on 'the other side.' It is an international, inter-cultural setting. Jesus is crossing boundaries, and with him crosses the good news of the approach of the Kingdom of God. The signs of the kingdom are drawing huge crowds – signs like the feeding of the hungry; the healing of those who are blind, lame, possessed and afflicted with leprosy; and the proclamation of good news to the poor. It is how the Spirit moves, blowing where it will, crossing borders, pushing the envelope.

He spoke of 'living the passage.' We must live the passage here; he will live it in Reineh.

The previous day the Dally family – Hanna, Anita, Dareen and Ghassan – taught the students of Lowport Primary a song of peace. It was incredibly beautiful to hear scores of young voices singing softly but with growing confidence this prayer for peace in what was now a slightly less foreign language. One with a human face – four faces to be exact.



USEFUL CONTACTS

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Auxiliary Minister

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Youth Worker

Russell Shields
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Minister in Association

Rev JunSoo Park
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Anne Sutherland (3-5yrs)
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Paul Davidson (Bible Class P7-S3)
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Russell Shields (YF S4-S6)
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