

NEWSLETTER

April /May 2017



From the Rector

Dear Friends

I want to take this opportunity to share with you the news that George Scott, a much loved and valued member of Christ Church will, after 23 years with us, be returning to live in Barbados.

George's contribution to the life of Christ Church, on so many levels and in so many ways, is immeasurable and all of it done with a graciousness of spirit. This has included being a long standing member of the choir, and in more recent years acting as verger and also serving as an area visitor.

I have immensely valued George as a colleague and friend in my time here, as I know so many of you do also, and I would like to mark his last Sunday with us—**21st May**—by making a presentation to him on our behalf.



If you would like to contribute towards this please send your donation to Kenneth Ramage, Treasurer, either directly or through the Church Office (*please do not leave cash in the pigeonholes*).

Wishing you every blessing
Susan Macdonald



April for Kids @ Christ Church

Saturday Zone

April 1st in Church Centre
10am to noon
P1-P7 Games, stories,
snack, and crafts
£3 per child

Easter Day

10am Festival Eucharist
with Young Church and
Crèche followed by
Easter Egg Hunt in
Rectory Garden

10am
GOOD FRIDAY
Service for all ages

Friday Fun on Maundy Thursday

April 13th in Church Centre
PRE SCHOOL AND SIBLINGS
From 10am to noon
Play, snack, crafts and singing
£1 per family

Holy Saturday Zone

April 15th in Church Centre
10am to 11.30am
ALL AGES
Make your own Easter Garden
Games and snack
£1 per child

Contact Alex Barrett, Families'
Networker: 07789852861

SC 003009

Christian Aid Week: standing with refugees like Nejebar



Nejebar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. And we still believe in life before death.

How you can be involved:

From 14-20 May, our church will join with more than 20,000 others across the UK for the sake of people like Nejebar. Here at Holy Corner we work closely with our neighbours at Morningside United Church (MUC).

Sunday 14 May is "CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY", when we are joined by MUC for a joint service dedicated to the work of Christian Aid. The Offertory collection at this service is donated to Christian Aid. So it is an opportunity to learn more about Christian Aid, to pray for its projects and their beneficiaries like Nejebar and other refugees...and to give generously.

The main fund raising effort is the HOLY CORNER CHRISTIAN AID BOOKSALE at MUC which runs from Saturday 13—Saturday 20 May 2016.



Last year the sale raised a record total of over £16,000; that represents a huge quantity of books to be sorted, priced and organised; and VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

- during the sale week to help to sort and sell the books and take the cash
- in the weeks before the sale: to sort and price the books

Please use the contact below if you could offer to help ... ALSO PLEASE

- publicise the sale amongst neighbours, friends and family,
- ENCOURAGE them to donate items for sale, and make DONATIONS yourself
- note the dates in your diary and come to the sale

To donate books, please contact the Christ Church office. If you would like to volunteer to help with the booksale please email

booksalevolunteers@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about how to help Christian Aid, contact Ceci Stephens 0131 446 0922, email cecilia.stephens67@gmail.com

We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now.



And don't forget our own effort, see next page



Charity Chic!

Saturday 29th April 5pm-7pm



Come and join us for Christ Church's own charity fashion show.

- Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine or a delicious fruit punch with 'nibbles'
- Marvel at the grace and professionalism of the models who may be familiar to you
- Take the opportunity to enlarge your wardrobe from the rails of ready loved clothes after the show, with all the proceeds going to **Christian Aid**

You can help by

- Bringing good quality unwanted items of clothing, shoes, bags, jewellery, scarves, coat hangers to sell at the event (in advance please)
- Volunteering to model!
- Volunteering to help before or during the event
- Coming along to watch on the evening



Rails will be in the church Hall for storage of donated clothes from Sunday April 2nd

Volunteers please inform Mary Snow in person or on 01313370380 asap

Tickets will be available from Janet Rathband, Ann Engh, Joan Houston, Carolyn Macpherson, Mary Snow and from the church office. (Suggested donation £5.00/ticket)



Film Evening on Monday 15th May

6.45 for 7pm in the Church Centre

"A United Kingdom"

In the 1940s, Prince Seretse Khama of Botswana shocks the world when he marries a white woman from London. An inspiring true story.

Everyone is welcome—as usual there will be a break for refreshments and time for conversation afterwards.

Susan Macdonald



The Reflection Group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month in a member's home between 10.00 and 12.00am. Enquiries to Gill Davidson, Joy Holmes or Church Office.

Bethany Christian Trust Conference: Central Hall Edinburgh. 16th May 2017

by Yousouf Gooljary, Associate Rector

Bethany is a charity working to reduce the suffering and meet the long-term needs of homeless and vulnerable people in Scotland. The theme of the conference was *building communities from the bottom up*. The main speaker, Cormac Russell, managing Director of Nurture Development, based in Chicago, is a lecturer in the area of Asset based Community development (ABCD). Cormac noted that we define people as 'home-less', which emphasised what they don't have, and he encouraged us to look differently at this issue, and ask what do people in those circumstances bring with them, such as independence. This attitude can be illustrated in the Charlie Brown cartoon sketch:

Charlie Brown: "some day we will die." Snoopy: "true but all the other days we will not."

Asset based community development is not just positive thinking but asks us to consider the suffering in the community, and not rush to find a way of fixing things. The role of ABCD is to 'de-center' institutions, and 're-center' community life. Institutions manage scarcity, in that they are run on the basis of limited funds. Communities manage abundance in that they look to the skills and gifts of those in them and uses these in ever increasing quantities. ABCD seeks as a starting point what communities are proud of and have to offer. It is important to know who you are and where you are first and to create an asset map of the community, asking the question what do we have, rather than, what don't we have. As a way of starting this conversation you could ask: Tell me a story about time you got together with your neighbours, and invited someone you would not normally invite.

There were four workshops throughout the day. One looked at communities in a geographical location and asked what do these look like in a digital age. They referred to a letter sent on Facebook to users by Mark Zuckerberg, where he expounded the benefits of the global community such as groups for a rare skin disease or Black fathers. But the idea of 'unfriending' or 'unfollowing' can limit our exposure to new ideas. There was a call to follow what is said in Isaiah 64, to rebuild, restore, and renew our communities. The approach can be encapsulated in this quote from Martin Luther King Jr: 'If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way'.

I was struck by the extensive nature of Bethany Christian Trust's work and the number of people they employ. Over the years Christ Church has supported a variety of aspects of their work, and in particular for the past eight years by providing Catering Teams for the Night Shelter.

Phase 3 & Pulpit refurbishment by Roger Taylor, architect and Kenneth Ramage, Treasurer

From the Architect: The pulpit, which had subsided and become potentially dangerous, is now fully back in use. Even a casual glance will show that it has been carefully cleaned and restored to its original glory, but if you can look closer and longer you may notice the subtle changes which are the clues to what has happened since the start of the year. The sandstone base is now fully supported by new steelwork, bearing directly onto a major stone wall and the concrete floor of the store below. The upper pulpit, of limestone sitting on marble columns, has been lifted, brought to as near plumb as we dared, and reset on the original columns. These columns have been removed, cleaned and expertly re-set to support the pulpits at its new angle.

This left the stairs and handrail which needed careful and painstaking adjustments to accommodate the appreciable misalignment of the undisturbed base step and the newly rectified *pulpit floor*.

If you happen to be seated near the front on a Sunday, take a long, careful, look and appreciate the renovated pulpit, — but remember to listen as well.

The Phase 3 stonework and associated repairs are now nearing completion, with works to the majority of the North and South Elevations complete.

The stones for the west gable chimney are on site, and being rebuilt. The stained glass has been repaired and is in process of reinstatement.

When the scaffolding is removed you will be able to appreciate the craftsmanship which has gone into the repair and restoration of this fine building.

From the Treasurer: As we approach the completion of our projects we will have incurred around £365,000. This is split £324,000 on Phase 3 works and £41,000 on the re-alignment and refurbishment of the pulpit. Funding for these works has been secured from Grants of £189,000 (52%), donations including gift aid from members of £127,000 (35%) and the balance of £48,000 from Church Reserves (13 %) It is worth noting that when we embarked on this venture over two years ago, which turned out to be significantly greater than planned, our financial commitment from reserves was £50,000.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to the Rose Window Appeal, to the many Grant funding bodies in particular Heritage Lottery, Historic Scotland, Viridor and Wren and finally to Liz, Lindsay, Michael and Dorothea without whose efforts all of this would not be possible.

Journeys in Faith

Lent

LENT DAYTIME @ 10.30AM

"The Way"

There is reading material for each of the sessions over five weeks and it is required to have a copy of the book

The Long Road to Heaven: A Lent Course

based on the film "The Way" Circle Books (29 Nov. 2013)

Tuesday 4th April

For more information contact

Yousouf Gooljary, Associate Rector

LENT EVENINGS @ 7PM

"Revelation through Human Gifts"

Screening of the film

"The Passion of the Christ",

followed by discussion.

Wednesday of Holy Week (April 12th) 7pm -9.30pm

For more information contact

Susan Macdonald, Rector

Sundays 11.30am –12.30pm in the Church Centre

2nd April *"Volunteering Outside"* led by the Rector. Come and hear about the range of volunteering undertaken by people from Christ Church outside the life of the congregation. We will also hear from a representative of "Volunteer Edinburgh"

7th May *"The Eucharist – Vestments and rituals: what we wear and do, and why"* – led by the Rector

21st May *"Supporting Young People after a Bereavement"* - led by Joan Adam

4th June *Tanzania Development Trust (one of the charities supported by Christ Church)*
Speaker: Julian Marcus from Tanzania Development Trust

GROWING WITH THE GOSPEL

Wednesdays 11.45am to 12.45pm in the Church Centre *(tea/coffee available)*

We hear and reflect on the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. All welcome, be that occasionally or regularly.

SERVICES for HOLY WEEK and EASTER - 9th to 16th April

Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sung Eucharist with the Liturgy of the Palms and dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative in the Gospel according to Matthew (service starts in Hall)
6.00pm A sequence of hymns, music and readings for Holy Week, with the choir

Monday

8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
6.00pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Poetry for Holy Week, finishing with said Compline (in Centre)

Tuesday

8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
6.00pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Art for Holy Week, finishing with said Compline (in the Centre)

Wednesday (morning/afternoon/evening)

8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion
2.30pm Afternoon Communion CAMEO (in the Centre)
6.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday (evening)

7.00pm Revelation through the gift of inspired character portrayal: – screening of the film "The Passion of the Christ", followed by discussion (in Centre)

Maundy Thursday

8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
11.30am Chrism Eucharist at the Cathedral
7.30pm Sung Eucharist with washing of feet and stripping of the altar, gospel of the watch and, for those who wish, Vigil until 10pm.

Good Friday

8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am "A Way of the Cross" - a service for all ages
12 noon The Three Hours led by the Bishop, ending with the Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am Preparation and decoration of the church for Easter
8.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Festival Eucharist
No evening service

You may be thinking by now that I have incorrect art on the brain! But this will, (I think) be my last essay on that topic. You may remember that in a magazine a year or more ago I wrote about Lazarus and said that because classical Greek had (as far as I know) no words for “wrist” or “ankle”, St John could only get as close as possible by saying that his “hands & feet” were tied: This linguistic gap has had serious consequences in another, much wider, context.

Have you ever seen a painting (or any representation) of the crucified Christ in which He is NOT suspended by nails driven through the palms of His hands? (And the “stigmata” always appear in the same place.) Well,

Jesus said “Behold my hands & my feet”. So artists take this literally. But anatomically “hand” is impossible. This was proved in the 1930s or 40s by Italian doctors doing gruesome experiments on an amputated arm. They proved that the palms are too slender & fragile to support the weight of a suspended body; the nails would simply tear through & the body would fall. But nails driven through or between the much sturdier bones of the wrist would hold. Look back now to the paragraph above. The use of “hand” for “wrist” occurs in both

St Luke’s & St John’s Resurrection stories; it has to, in the absence of an accurate alternative. (The Holy Shroud of Turin, whether genuine or a fake, got it right – uniquely, as far as I know: it has bloodstains at the positions of the wrists.)

To go on a bit further. The nails in Christ’s “feet” are correct. A person just suspended by his wrists would rapidly die of suffocation, as the weight of his body compressed his lungs. The projecting piece of wood to which Jesus’ feet are nailed in paintings of the Crucifixion is correct. In order to prolong (& indeed increase) the victim’s agony, the Romans added this extra detail to crosses in order that the victim could press up with his feet, relieve the congestion of his

lungs, & so continue to breathe. (It is recorded that some victims of crucifixion lived for two days.) How else could Christ have spoken, right up to the end of 3 hours, from the cross?

The breaking of the legs was not (as I have seen stated) “a further indignity which Christ was spared”. It was an act of mercy – or in the case of His two companions a way of securing their deaths before the Sabbath. A victim with broken legs could no longer press upwards in order to breathe, & so died of suffocation almost immediately.

A burial practice made clear to us by the stories of Lazarus and the son of the widow of Nain created a

problem in Jesus’ case. The dead must normally have been taken to their graves wearing everyday clothes. But Jesus had probably been stripped almost naked for scourging, & His clothes had been given to the soldiers. With the Sabbath imminent when He died, there was little time for improvisation. Had someone foreseen the problem during the 3 hours & gone to find a substitute? – perhaps Joseph of Arimathea, with his own tomb in mind? Luke 23.53 says that Jesus was taken to the tomb wrapped in “a linen cloth” (not necessarily the “shroud” of the A.V.); in John 19.40 it is “linen cloths” (a different word, in the plural, as in John 20.5-6, a Resurrection story).

Finally, I think that it is true to say that all realistic paintings of the Crucifixion (i.e. not those in which Jesus is dressed as a king) show Jesus wearing a loin-cloth. To the Jews nudity was grossly indecent. Roman rule during the imperial period was normally humane, not repressive. So it would seem reasonable to suppose that Pilate was prepared to respect what he may have regarded as a silly prejudice, & quite logical for artists down the centuries to represent Jesus on the cross in a way which would not have offended the sensibilities of His contemporaries, or those of any later Jews who might happen to see their works – or indeed ours.



EDINBURGH DIOCESAN SYNOD—Saturday 11th March 2017

by Howard Moody, Lay Representative

The Synod Eucharist and meeting took place in St Paul's and St George's, Edinburgh. Following a said Eucharist followed by light refreshments Bishop John addressed the Synod. The address was essentially upbeat stressing God's constancy in the face of our ability to mess things up. Over the centuries the Church has evolved in the light of ever changing circumstances and new insights into Christology.

Never more so than in the Reformation and this year we reflect upon the 500 years since Martin Luther penned his Theses. Change is always hard and can be deeply hurtful. Coming to terms in the 19th century and early 20th century with "Evolution", the deep trauma of two world wars, the Ordination of women and currently the hugely complex issues surrounding "sexuality" have all caused dismay and pain in many quarters and have cumulatively contributed (at least in part) to the 25% decline in Communicants since 1993. But is this a true picture of Christian faith today?

Since 1993 (and indeed before) there has been a plethora of alternative forms of worship within our Churches; messy church, play church, diverse evening services, home communions, to name just some and a marked increase in recent years in "Spirituality", journeys in faith, and inter-faith dialogue. So the Church is far from dead. Some of our Churches are growing and there is nothing inevitable about decline. Indeed, the Bishop stressed, the hunger for God continues unabated. He illustrated his comments with a few examples – the remote "Crask Inn" in the Highlands where people come to worship once a month, the considerable success of the Provincial Youth Camp acknowledging (to applause) that one who attended this Camp was present today as the youngest (aged 16y) Lay Representative of his congregation.

The Bishop indicated that the Enabler of Mission, the Rev Annie Naish would be reporting to Synod later in the day and she had a positive message to deliver. We were all invited to join the story, grapple with new ideas and be prepared to find new ways of seeing God and letting go of some ways whose day is past. Allow ourselves to be filled with God's grace, love and joy.

The Bishop concluded his address with reference to "The Bishop's Lent Appeal": "Collective Calling" and the "St John and the City Defibrillator Project" details of which were in the Synod "pack".

The next session of Synod dealing with "Administration" was an essential, routine period when Minutes were received and approved from a variety of Committees.

A very important late morning session was devoted to changes to Canon 31 "Of the solemnization of Holy Matrimony" (actually it dealt with marriage which is not quite the same thing but I will not go there!).

Essentially the changes to this Canon, if approved at its second reading at General Synod in June, would permit same sex marriage to be conducted by clerics in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Permission was not to be seen as compulsion and no cleric shall be obliged to conduct any such marriage against his/her conscience.

The arguments for and against the canonical change have been rehearsed up and down the Diocese and across the Province for over three years and in this session both cases were ably and courteously presented although your Representative felt the passion had gone out of the debate as all concerned bent over backwards not to cause offence. A secret ballot followed and the proposed changes were approved. Only a simple majority in each house was required, but the necessary 2/3rds majority that will be required at General Synod was attained in each house.

Very minor changes to Canons 22 and 63 (essentially grammatical) were approved *nem con*.

The afternoon session was short and concerned itself with Mission and Ministry and also the various allocations of money within the Diocese to support specific projects and initiatives.

These Reports are included within the Synod Document which I have placed at the west end of the Church for anybody to read. Suffice to say this afternoon session provided a very positive note upon which to end Synod.

After the Bishop confirmed the Acts of Synod he announced that The Rev Susan Macdonald, having recently retired as Dean, was to be made an Honorary Canon. This news was greeted with loud acclamation.

CONTACTS

STAFF	VESTRY
Rector: Revd Canon Susan Macdonald	Chair: The Rector
Associate Rector: Revd Yousouf Gooljary	Rector's Warden: Lindsay Graham
Assistant priest: Revd Imre Katay-Fodor	People's Warden: Robin Morris
Director of Music: Dr. Michael Green	Treasurer: Kenneth Ramage
Assistant Organist: Kat Whigham	Secretary: Alison Amin
Families' Networker: Alex Barrett	Lay Representative: Howard Moody
Church Manager: Dorothea Nelson	Elected Vestry members: Chris Arnold, Mike McNamee, Mary Snow, Stuart Valentine and Helen Wosu.
Office Assistant: Christine Johnson	
Factor: Michael Herriott	

All staff and vestry members can be contacted by telephone or email through the Church Office: 0131 229 0090 or admin@6a.org.uk | Office open: Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

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WALKERS' PROGRAMME

"A" Walkers (awalkers@6a.org.uk)

6th and 7th May. Weekend at Newtonmore.

Walks to suit all tastes and abilities will be possible! OS Sheet 35 (T. Horne)

3rd June. Ben Lawers circuit. On the north side of Loch Tay the circuit takes in seven Munros and affords magnificent views. Distance 20km. OS Sheet 51 (L. MacDougall)

"B" Walkers (bwalkers@6a.org.uk)

April 22nd Walkerburn Circuit (8 miles)

Contact: Margaret Shotter

May 20th Cogwill Loch and reservoirs (8 miles) -

Contact: Sarah Green

June 17th Whitchie Knowe and Sundhope (8 miles) — Contact: Jill Gregory

Please contact the organiser by the preceding Thursday so that transport can be arranged.



**Tuesday
2nd May,
6th June
7.30pm**

in the Church Centre

2 May: The marrying of Chani Kaufman —
Eve Harris

19 year-old Chani lives in the ultra-orthodox Jewish community of North West London. She has never had physical contact with a man, but is bound to marry a stranger. The rabbi's wife teaches her what it means to be a Jewish wife, but Rivka has her own questions to answer.

6 June: The Chessmen —
Peter May

Fin Macleod, now head of security on a privately owned Lewis estate, is charged with investigating a spate of illegal game-hunting taking place on the island. This mission reunites him with Whistler Macaskill—a local poacher, Fin's teenage intimate, and possessor of a long-buried secret.

Book Group contact: Church Office

The deadline for the next edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, 28^h May 2017.**

Please email submissions to magazine@6a.org.uk
or leave material in Church Centre letter box marked 'Newsletter.'