

NEWSLETTER

February / March 2017



From the Rector

Dear Friends

I expect few of us can remember our own baptism but we will all have witnessed others being baptised. Most likely in a church with the suitably warmed water in the font, or perhaps even baptismal pool, for the occasion! Perhaps we have even seen baptisms in rivers, lakes or the sea in warmer climes, but what I witnessed in St Petersburg on 19th January took my breath away.

In the Russian Orthodox Church the Epiphany and Baptism of Christ is celebrated on this day and believers are plunged into a blessed section of frozen water three times in remembrance of Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. It is also believed that being submerged into the water on this day will cleanse the body's sins and ensure a healthy year ahead.

This icy baptism was once a very popular practice for the devout, even the Tsars used to take part, traipsing down from the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg every year to their own personal *prorub*, or ice hole in the nearby Neva river. During the time of communism the tradition all but disappeared with the rest of public religious practice, but in recent years this way of marking the *Kreschenie* (Epiphany) has again become popular. I witnessed hundreds, if not thousands of people taking part in this literally breath taking event in St Petersburg. and this would have been happening across Russia at the same time.

Remembering, making real again our baptism, is part of our life too as we renew our baptismal promises as a congregation at Easter and on other occasions during the year.

In the Scottish Episcopal Church there is also an invitation to do this as individuals at significant times in our life, and there will be an opportunity to do so when the Bishop is with us on Sunday 19th February (see last paragraph on page 6 for more information), and I can promise you ice cold water is not part of the deal!

Wishing you every blessing

Susan Macdonald



The Queen sent her congratulations to David Finney



. On 3rd January 2017 David Finney, a long-standing member of Christ Church Morningside, celebrated his 100th birthday. David is well known to many in the congregation, especially those who have attended the early morning service on Sundays or Cameo on Wednesday once a month. Also David's wife, Betty, is fondly remembered, but sadly she passed away ten years ago. David lives in his own home with support from his family, friends, neighbours and carers. He enjoys reading, listening to music and having interesting conversations.

The breadth and diversity of David's contributions to society, both in the UK and overseas, are a cause for celebration as he enters his 101st year. From middle class beginnings David's mathematical ability was recognized by a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School, and later a scholarship to study mathematics at Cambridge University. From an early age David had great natural talent for spotting patterns in numbers and for complicated arithmetical calculations (which were labour-intensive before the emergence of electronic computers). It was at Cambridge that he encountered statistics and became interested in applying statistical concepts to real life situations. Thus David was selected as a promising young researcher to work for Ronald Fisher and Frank Yates, two of

the giants of biostatistics in the UK in the 1930s and 1940s. Starting in 1939 David worked at Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden helping to improve agricultural crop yields. This was a time when there was an urgent need to improve food production in wartime Britain.

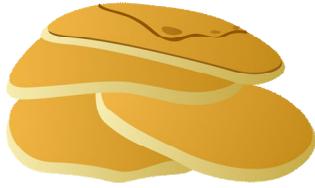
In 1952 the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation asked David to spend a year working with agricultural scientists in India. This work led to the establishment of the Indian Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, and many return visits to India over the years. David received frequent invitations from researchers in other parts of the world and has travelled extensively. In 1984-85, just after he retired from Edinburgh University, David was a visiting scientist at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

David has devoted much energy to using statistics to enhance understanding of real life issues relevant to society at large. For instance his contributions to improving the safety of medicines are recognised both in the UK and more widely. David served on the first UK Committee for the Safety of Drugs and, along with another Professor at Edinburgh University Professor, Derrick Dunlop, proposed a way to collect and analyse the adverse effects of medicines. This was in the wake of the realisation that thalidomide given during pregnancy was linked to high rates of death or disability of the babies. Public duty and the conviction that statistical methods are valuable tools in the service of society have been core themes throughout David's life. The impact that David made to the betterment of society has been recognized by many awards from learned institutions and also a CBE.

Margaret Shotter

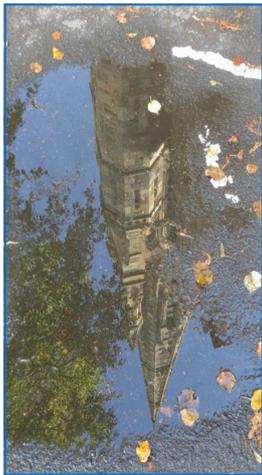
Shrove Tuesday (28th February)

5pm- 6.30 pm Young Church
'Pancakes and Ashes' party
in the Centre



Ash Wednesday (1st March)

Holy Communion
with the Imposition of Ashes
at 8am, 11am and 7.30pm



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.

Film Evening on Monday 20th March 6.45 for 7pm in the Church Centre "Spotlight"

When the Boston Globe's tenacious "Spotlight" team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their year-long investigation uncovers a decades-long cover-up at the highest levels of Boston's religious, legal, and government establishment, touching off a wave of revelations around the world.

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

Susan Macdonald

SECMA Coffee morning on 18th March

Please note the date and plan to support us .

SECMA — the Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association — previously known as LINKS, supports small projects throughout the developing world.



The main fundraiser for the diocese is an **Annual Sale and Coffee Morning**, which we shall host this year on Saturday 18 March (postponed from October because the kitchen was closed). Our congregation will be responsible for the coffee team, a plant stall, and a tombola. Other churches will provide stalls for home baking/preserves, books, and bric-a-brac/gifts.

Please support us by donating plants, tray bakes and biscuits for coffee time, items suitable for tombola prizes and contributions for the other stalls. For any higher value items we shall organise a silent auction, so please check if you have something suitable. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, so please use this if you can offer to help.

Contact Janet Goody on 447 6535 or Ceci Stephens on 446 0922.

Also please come along on the day, help us to raise funds, and meet representatives from other churches .. Tickets are just £2.00 to include coffee and baking/biscuits.

Journeys in Faith

Journeys from Candlemas to the eve of Passiontide

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. No need to sign up.

Sundays 11.30am –12.30pm in the Church Centre

5th February

'Telling a different story: women's faith in survival and transformation after abuse.' led by Lesley Orr, a Feminist theologian and currently Associate Director of the Centre of Theology and Public Issues at New College.

19th February

"The rise of populism and our response to it" led by the Bishop.

5th March

"Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell in the Islamic Tradition" led by Hugh Goddard (Director of the HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, University of Edinburgh, and member of Christ Church.

19th March

"In conversation with Professor Mary Smallwood"—led by Howard Moody. Mary and Howard are both members of Christ Church. If you have any questions you would like considered for Inclusion in this conversation please hand or email to the Rector.

Journeys in Faith

Journeys from Candlemas to the eve of Passiontide

LENT DAYTIME

"The Way"

This is a lent course based on the film 'The Way'. The film observes a group of pilgrims walking the 'Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela'. It explores Christian understanding of 'salvation' using film clips, biblical accounts and images of salvation, past present and future, as it follows the pilgrims journey of inner transformation. There is reading material for each of the sessions over five weeks and participants will be required to have a copy of the book in advance of the course *The Long Road to Heaven: A Lent Course Based on the Film "The Way"* Circle Books (29 Nov. 2013)

The film (123 mins) will be shown on Tuesday 28th February at 10am
and the sessions will run **from 10.30am to noon**
on Tuesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th April
in the Church Centre

it would be helpful to have indication of numbers so please add your details
to the sign up sheet at the back of church.

For information contact Yousouf Gooljary, Associate Rector

LENT EVENINGS

"Revelation through Human Gifts"

Revelation through the gift of scientific reasoning - led by Revd Dr Mark Harris,
Senior Lecturer in Science and Religion, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

Wednesday 15th March 7pm -8.30pm "What does science have to say about Jesus' miracles?"

Wednesday 22nd March 7pm -8.30pm - "What does science have to say about Jesus' resurrection?"

Revelation through the gift of inspired character portrayal - led by Alan Shotter, Senior
Honorary Professorial Fellow, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh and
member of Christ Church

Wednesday 29th March 7pm -8.30pm - Video film (40 minutes) of an interview with actor
Jim Caviezel, followed by discussion

Wednesday of Holy Week (April 12th) 7pm -9.30pm - screening of the film "The Passion of the
Christ", followed by discussion.

The Bishop is coming to Christ Church again!



Sunday 19th February

Are any of the following for you to consider at this time?

Admission to Communion

Affirmation of Baptism for Confirmation

Affirmation of Baptism for Renewal

We have been very fortunate to have the Bishop with us on several occasions during 2016 and we look forward to his next visit on **Sunday 19th February** when he will preside at the 10am Sung Eucharist and there will be an opportunity for any who wish to be presented for **Admission to Holy Communion** or be a candidate for **Affirmation of Holy Baptism for Confirmation and Renewal**.

Many of us who were brought up in the Anglican tradition were baptised as infants and confirmed as young teenagers, an event which was often linked to our first communion. By 1990, however, admission to Holy Communion prior to Confirmation had been taking place in a number of churches in our Province over a period of twelve years or more and in 1991, when representatives from the entire Anglican Communion met at the Inter Provincial Liturgical Consultation in Toronto, the final statement included these two points:

- ◆ Baptism is for people of all ages, both adults and infants
- ◆ Baptism is complete sacramental initiation and leads to participation in the Eucharist. Confirmation and other rites of affirmation have a continuing pastoral role in the renewal of faith among the baptised but are in no way to be seen as a completion of Baptism or as necessary for admission to communion.

Many of you will remember moving services here when children have been admitted to communion and also when teenagers and adults have been presented for Confirmation and Renewal. The latter often being undertaken by adults who have joined the congregation from a different denomination, or at a stage in their life and faith journey where they wish to renew the promises made at their confirmation.

If you wish to explore any of these opportunities please let me know by as soon as possible.

Susan Macdonald susan@6a.org.uk/0131 229 6556

Journey through Holy Week to Easter Day

Palm Sunday (9th April)

- 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
- 6.00pm Service for Palm Sunday evening in the Church

Monday (10th April)

- 8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer
- 7.00pm Holy Week Reflection in the Centre

Tuesday (11th April)

- 8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer
- 7.00pm Holy Week Reflection in the Centre

Wednesday (12th April)

- 8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
- 11.00am Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer
- 7.00pm screening of the film "The Passion of the Christ," followed by discussion.

Maundy Thursday (13th April)

- 8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
- 11.30am Chrism Eucharist at The Cathedral
- No evening prayer*
- 7.30pm Sung Eucharist with washing of feet and stripping of the altar. The Church will remain open until 10pm for those who wish to keep The Watch (Silent Vigil)

Good Friday (14th April)

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

Holy Saturday (15th April)

- 9.00am Morning Prayer
- 9.30am Decoration of the church for Easter
- 7.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day (16th April)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Festival Eucharist
- No evening service*



CONTACTS

STAFF

Rector: Revd. Susan Macdonald
Associate Rector: Revd Yousouf Gooljary
Assistant priest: Rev Imre Katay-Fodor
Director of Music: Dr. Michael Green
Assistant Organist: Kat Whigham
Families' Networker: Alex Barrett
Church Manager: Dorothea Nelson
Office Assistant: Christine Johnson
Factor: Michael Herriott

VESTRY

Chair: The Rector
Rector's Warden: Lindsay Graham
People's Warden: Robin Morris
Treasurer: Kenneth Ramage
Secretary: Alison Amin
Lay Representative: Howard Moody
Elected Vestry members:
 Chris Arnold, Mike McNamee, Mary Snow,
 Stuart Valentine and Helen Wosu.

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

Twitter  @CCMEdin Facebook  Christ Church Morningside

WALKERS' PROGRAMME

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

4th March. Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin.

Distance 17km, ascent 1200m. OS Sheets 51 & 57. (A. Lacey)

1st April. Circular walk from Peebles taking in the Meldons.

Distance 16km, ascent 750m. OS Sheet 73/ Explorer 337. (A. Shotter)

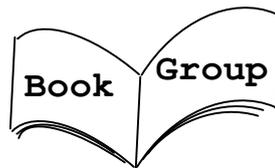
"B" Walkers (bwalkers@6a.org.uk)

February 18th Around and up North Berwick Law (7 miles) - Contact: Sarah Green

March 18th Falkirk to Linlithgow (9 miles) - Contact: Jill Gregory

April 22nd Walkerburn Circuit (8 miles) Contact: Margaret Shotter

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



**Tuesday
7th March,
4th April
7.30pm
in the Church Centre**

7 March: These is my Words —

Nancy Turner

A moving, exciting, and heartfelt American saga inspired by the author's own family memoirs, these words belong to Sarah Prine, a woman of spirit and fire who forges a full and remarkable existence in a harsh, unfamiliar frontier.

4 April: The invention of wings —

Sue Monk Kidd

Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world

Book Group contact: Church Office

The deadline for the next edition of the Newsletter is **Sunday, 26th March 2017.**

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