

Concord

The magazine of
St. Andrew's and St. Peter's.
Your Scottish Episcopal Church
in Ardrossan, Irvine and Dalry.

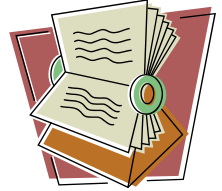


THE ROAD TO EMMAS

May 2011

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Susan Barlow

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Sandy writes...

Dear friends,

Beyond Easter, where are we going and what are we planning for our lives? I always think that Easter is a new beginning for our faith and those weeks following the celebrations of our risen Lord are so very special. It is certainly a time to be happy particularly as spring has begun and new growth is all around in nature's wonderland.

The month of May also sees our election for the Scottish Parliament and the referendum on the Alternative Vote process in the Westminster Parliament Elections. I can hear you groaning already! Most people I speak to are so disillusioned with Parliamentarians that there is apathy when it comes to voting in our country. Yet we as Christians have a tremendous responsibility to make our voice heard and our vote count and that is done at the ballot box. We should never forget that we have a freedom in our democracy that has been achieved not without struggle and as we look around the world there are countries that do not have such a freedom and believe it is worth fighting for. Libya is one example of this at the moment and hopefully this may be resolved soon.

We also have another freedom that comes through our faith and that came about through the liberation that Easter brings. How do we see the Easter story? Maybe as a kind of 'spiritual story' in which a good God somehow overcame a 'bad' world. Or Easter could in some way or other make 'me' a better person. But there is so much more to recognise and understand that what had happened on that first Easter morning was that God in his love had transformed all powers of death and darkness into the powers of life and light and for all time, and for eternity. And each one of us is caught up in that cosmic movement of transformation. Easter has both a personal and a universal dimension.

It's not just about 'me' and our personal spiritual journey, it was also God's way of telling us that he was not a distant, remote God, but a God of love and power working in every situation of human experience.

Binding up the broken-hearted, bringing good news to the oppressed and proclaiming a new kind of liberation, from personal failure and liberation from all those man-made structures robbing so many of our brothers and sisters of their human dignity and worth. That liberation, that freedom our faith gives us, is a firm reminder that we can never celebrate Easter in some isolated way and not hear the cries of the world.

I hope these words of Helen Lambie may ring true for each one of us

*We believe in a bright and amazing God
who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf;
who has risen in splendour and majesty;
who decorates the universe
with sparkling water, clear white light,
twinkling stars and sharp colours,
over and over and over again.
We believe that God is the light of the world;
that God believes in us, and trusts us,
even though we make the same mistakes
over and over and over again.
We commit ourselves to Jesus,
to one another as brothers and sisters,
and to the Maker's business in the world.
God said: Let there be light. Amen.*

With Blessings for Easter and beyond,

Sandy.



From the Registers



The Prayer Support Team



In May, please remember in your Prayers

Angela Churchill Jean Jamieson Ron Coutts

As they pray for members of their Congregation

Remember also this month

Readers

SMALL NEWS ITEMS

Christian Aid



Christian Aid Week is the 15th to 21st May. If anyone would like to help with the house-to-house collection, please contact Margaret on 01294 312049.

Margaret Ferguson.

Summer Fayre at St Andrew's Irvine.



This year's joint Summer Fayre will be held on Saturday 4th June from 10.00-12.00noon. As usual we are looking for lots of help to run stalls, help in the tearoom, sell tea tickets and raffle tickets. A list will be put on the notice board soon.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Bremner

LADIES GROUP



Our last meeting was very interesting, we were shown how to make ice-cream. Tasting the ice-cream was even better. The Ladies enjoyed themselves.

The next meeting on Monday 2nd May, it is the A.G.M. If you have any ideas for the new session please bring them along with you. We will be finishing the evening with fish suppers.

DENISE ALLEN

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday May 12 at, 2 Hight Gardens Irvine. The book we will be discussing is "Trespass," by Rose Tremain.

Book Club is open to members of all three congregations and meets approximately every two months. If you would like to know more, contact Yvonne on 01 294 552 880.

Yvonne Hannan



JOINT SERVICE IN ST ANDREW'S IRVINE

Our three churches are joining again with the Church of Scotland congregation on Sunday 15th May for a Joint Service.

The covenant we signed in November last year has implications for all three Episcopal churches and can offer tremendous support to our ecumenical ventures, so please come along on 15th MAY, it will be an Episcopal communion this time.

Tea and Coffee will be available from 10.30am. The service begins at 11.15am with a soup and sandwich lunch to follow.

Put that date in your diary now and remember there will be no service at Dalry or Ardrossan that morning.



Sandy

ARDROSSAN VESTRY REPORT: 28 MARCH 2011

CHAIRS!! CHAIRS!! CHAIRS!!

Not only have we been successful in our application for a grant from North Ayrshire Council to buy sixteen new chairs for the crèche room. We have also been given fifteen new chairs for the hall by the Irvine congregation for which we are very grateful.

FABRIC SECURITY

Toby; our intrepid Fabric Convener, has taken steps to make our lead roof more secure as well as finalising arrangements for the new lock on the back door.

NEW LECTIONARY

Gladys (Greig) has kindly paid for a new lectionary in memory of her husband.

John Boss

VESTRY SECRETARY



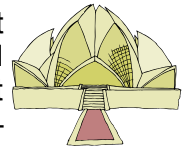
Interfaith Encounters - an update.

Judith, Cathie and I have now completed the course - arranged by the Diocesan Education Action Network. We visited six different faith communities: Sikh, Muslim, Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish and Hindu over the six weeks of Lent.



We all agreed that we found each community very welcoming offering us time to listen to what their faith means to each community - bit like us Christians there are many 'denominations' in most of them - no two places of worship are alike, each have their own identity. We were given time to ask questions at each visit. We were offered food and hot drinks / juice at some of the places we visited.

We were encouraged to consider various elements of each place: clothing, furnishings, decoration of buildings, movement and styles of worship, whether we felt comfortable or awkward or at ease, visual, sound and smell senses too. We looked at participation and by whom. We looked at worship: 'Divine - centred' or 'fellowship centred'? - how the 'Divine' was expressed?



I felt the whole experience a positive one - I have learned from this - I am of an age when Scripture was taught in school, we weren't taught anything about other faiths as children are now and until now I've been too lazy to learn!

Common among us all is one God and we are striving in our own ways to be faithful to him. Whatever our faith we are all sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, aunties, uncles, grandparents yearning to be faithful and the best we can for our God and sharing this with others.



Susan Barlow



At our March meeting we planned our Lady Day service which was held on 29th March. It was a lovely service taken by our Diocesan Chaplain Rev Peter Douglas. Sadly it was a low turn out from the Diocese but great to have our Diocesan President Ann Glenesk and so many of our members with us. A big thanks to all those who provided the wonderful lunch. Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd May at 2pm everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

Susan Groves.

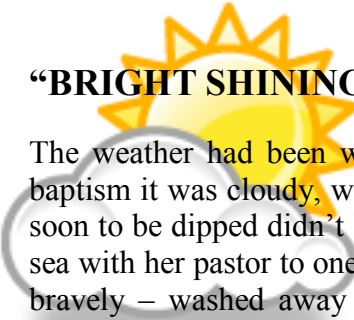


Intimations from Church of Scotland

Nooma: Come along and find out more about what it's all about. Our lunchtime bible study is each Wednesday from 11am until 1pm. Please come along to find out more about God, to ask questions and have some enjoyable fellowship. A light lunch is included. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Fiona for more details tel. 07 977 235 168
Thanks.

Fiona Blair





“BRIGHT SHINING” – ON A CLOUDY DAY

The weather had been warm and still all week. Come the day of the sea baptism it was cloudy, windy, a little rainy. But the young woman who was soon to be dipped didn't look too put off. She walked out into the cold, cold sea with her pastor to one side and her husband to the other. Then she – very bravely – washed away all she had been. We welcomed her back to the beach with a wind-blown but still stirring rendition of Amazing Grace. On the way to the car park I got chatting to one of the group, a guy I'd never met before. We got talking about faith and I said it was still a new walk for me.

“Ah, yes.” He smiled and waved a finger at me, as if pointing out something obvious. “You still have that look about you.”

Oh, wow! I didn't know whether to be happy or sad. I was happy that my faith seemed to be shining from me – but sad that folk further down the road than me expected that to fade. Did it? Would it? Should I just accept that the grace of God wouldn't always seem so amazing to me?

Then a friend told me of a work colleague of his who experienced something similar. He was all afire with new faith and his *pastor* told him not to worry, it wouldn't last! People, people! We all like to seem a little smarter than the new guy. But whose cause are you serving by telling them to *expect* to become jaded? That's *worldly* wisdom – and who needs that? Why not fan those new flames? Who knows, you may re-ignite yourself! And that's all to the greater glory. You new guys. You have it right. It *is* a wonderful thing and I know (a few) people who still radiate grace even after a lifetime of service.

The words of the song we sang on that blustery beach tell – “*How precious did that Grace appear, the hour I first believed,*” but it goes on to remind us that, “*When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we've first begun.*”

So, don't listen to the “wise” ones. Instead, show them how it can be. Make your last day as bright as your first. He loves you, and that's always going to be a wonderful thing! So shine!

Where does Route 66 lead?

To Church Actually! This year's theme at Spring Harvest was Route 66 - an exploration of the Bible. Through Bible Study, learning Zones, Worship and other related activities, from under 5 to 90+ there was something to appeal to everyone. Butlins at Skegness was buzzing for six days with people from all walks of life and different denominations sharing in the wonderful truth of God's message of Love to us His people.

So next year our 'route' takes us on to look at 'Church Actually' - a celebration of the most life-changing, world-shaking community in history! I invite you to come along and join in the celebration and learn more about how God sees the role of His church. It is not at all 'heavy evangelism' but a great time of fellowship and fun. You do not have to attend everything that is provided (you would be exhausted after one day!) - it really is a 'pick and mix' of what is on offer. There are also an 'after hours' sessions with concerts, theatre groups, comedians etc - partying into the late hours! During the day you can swim, use the funfair and rides, take part in fun sport sessions - there are even inter-church football competitions, or even just go down on the beach.

I began going to Spring Harvest when Jennie was only 6 years old, Barnaby was 13 and Ben 15 (the youngest there this year was 5 weeks!) We have been with our church family from Kent both to Skegness and Minehead and we enjoyed meeting up with them again this year.



Like the sound of it? Want to know more? Then talk to me about it - I have brochures about next year and it would be lovely to go with a party from the North Ayrshire team - I actually met someone from West Kilbride this year! Think about it - booking for next year opens on 15th June so let me know if you are interested.

Speak to me or ring me on 01294 273568.

Lilian Bancroft

Something Silly!



I CAN'T
RESPOND TO
ANY EMAILS
TODAY,

SOMETHING HAS CRASHED ON
MY COMPUTER AND THE
MOUSE IS MISSING

SILLY - IN A SMART WAY!

Have you ever been called silly? Oh, I know I have! I'm a dad. I get told I'm silly every other day!

But did you know it comes from an old English word meaning, "happy, fortunate and blessed by God"? Now, I can see how certain cynical souls might disparage that kind of life. People who count their blessings, delight in being alive and love God, well, they're not right, are they? They don't live in the real world, do they? That's tended to be the prevailing attitude and gradually, over the years, the word has come to mean the same as foolish. Well, look around and see where "realism" and cynicism have got us.

Maybe it's time for a different way. If you ask me, we could do with a lot more silliness in the world.

(From one who is happy, fortunate and oh, so blessed by God!)

David McLaughlin



BEFORE YOU TRY, I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW
THAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A CAMEL THROUGH
THE EYE OF A NEEDLE

What's Happening When....

May....



- Sun 1st** **Easter 2**
- Mon 2nd** **Ladies Group** Ardrossan AGM 7.30pm
Mothers Union 2pm Visiting Speaker
Margaret Horrell (with Sales Table)
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- Wed 4th** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.
- Sun 8th** **Easter 3**
- Mon 9th** **Irvine Guild** Summer Rally Crosshouse Parish Church
Ardrossan Churches Group 7.30pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- Wed 11th** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.
Fellowship of Meditation 7.30pm
53 Hawkhill Drive, Stevenston
- Thur 12th** **Book Club** at 7.30pm, 2 Hightet Gardens, Irvine.
- Sun 15th** **Easter 4**
Joint Service in St Andrews, Irvine 11.15am
Tea and Coffee served from 10.30am
Soup and Sandwich Lunch after Service.
Please note: No Service at Ardrossan or Dalry
- Mon 16th** **Ardrossan Vestry** 7.30pm
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- Wed 18th** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.

What's Happening When May & June

- Sun 22nd** **Easter 5**
Magazine last day for your stories etc
- Mon 23rd** **Mothers Union** Proposed visit to Cathedral of the Isles
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- Wed 25th** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.
- Thur 26th** **The Church & the Academy** at Glasgow University at 5.30pm
- Sun 29th** **Easter 6**
Magazine now available
- Mon 30th** **Bible Study & Prayer Meeting** 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- June**
- Wed 1st** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.
- Thur 2nd** **Ascension Day**
Regional Service at Girvan 7.30pm
- Sat 4th** **Summer Fare** at St Andrew's Irvine
- Mon 6th** **Bible Study & Prayer Meeting** 7.00pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS
- Wed 8th** **Holy Communion** at Ardrossan 10am
Lunchtime Bible Study 11am until 1pm
Irvine Coffee Lounge with CoS.
Fellowship of Meditation 7.30pm
53 Hawkhill Drive, Stevenston



Last Writes

From the Editor's desk

Large Print Magazines will continue to be printed;
please advise of any new names to be added to the list.

As usual, Concord can be viewed on our Web Site.

Deadline for articles for inclusion in our next Magazine is 22nd May.

mikewhitby@btopenworld.com or 01294 276 838

or 2 Highet Gardens, Irvine, KA12 8RQ



Michael Whitby

**St. Andrew's, Ardrossan, St. Andrew's, Irvine and St. Peter's, Dalry form the
North Ayrshire Team Ministry
of the Scottish Episcopal Church**

A warm welcome awaits you at any of our services

Service Details:

St. Andrew's Ardrossan

Sundays 11.15am Family Communion, Crèche and Junior Church

Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion

St Andrew's Irvine

Sundays 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School

St. Peter's Dalry

Sundays 10am Holy Communion

For other services not listed please see Diary inside

Church Web Site Address: www.standrews-stpeters.org.uk

Clergy Team details::

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