ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH MUCHALLS

MAGAZINE

July 2021



Sunday Service 10.30am

Pulpit Piece -Arma Isles

Has anyone treated you with great kindness, though you had done nothing to deserve it? Kindness that was just out of the generosity of the heart! I'm sure your parents loved you in that way' though most children do not realise it until much later- how great was their parents love, and how little they did to deserve it!

There is a special word for this sort of undeserved and overwhelming love. It is called "grace". Not the sort of grace shown by a graceful dancer.

This the "grace" we sing about in the hymn-

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see."

In the time of Jesus, most people thought that God, or 'the Gods', ruled strictly over the human race, judging our actions firmly and harshly.

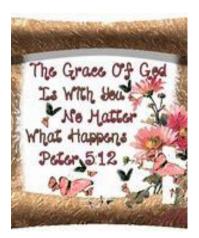
They were quite astonished to hear that God is love for us was the sort of love-"grace". The love that pours kindness onto undeserving humans simply because that is God's nature. If this is so, then we should be on the lookout for the occasions when he reveals that kind of love to us, and for everyone they will be different. From perhaps a golden sunset after a stormy day, or meeting someone who became your life's partner- who has provided them with a loving environment throughout their lives. Different occasions for different people- Each one will have their own list, but the important thing is to recognize God's part in this and thank him for it.

But they don't always go well for us. Ours is a complex society and there can be misfortunes. "What have I done they may say". If this is the God of love they talk about- I don't believe in him anymore!" That is the natural but completely illogical response to bad times. Yet if so, many good things happen to us without deserving them, what has it got to do with our deserving occasional bad things happen to us too?

St Paul had suffered from a painful illness, when wrote about God's grace. He had prayed three times to be healed from his pain yet his prayers were not answered. So, he began to realise that a certain amount of pain is essential in every life, to prevent us from feeling conceited.

St Paul had learnt that God's love, unlike most human love is freely given to the undeserving. That is the meaning of "grace".

That is because we haven't learnt that God's love is totally unconditional. Now we have to make our love for God, and for other people completely unselfish too!



If we would judge rightly of any man, we must see how he bears good and bad fortune. - John Calvin

Update on appointment of Minister

We had three applications for the post, two of whom were not thought to be suitable. A Zoom call, which is the first part of the interview process, took place with the third applicant late last month. Further updates will be given in due course.

Olympic Gold - Canon Paul Hardingham

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!

With the Olympics and the idea of running a course in mind...

There is a way of winning by losing, a way of victory in defeat which we are going to discover.

- Laurens van der Post

Shattered dreams are a hallmark of our mortal life. - Martin Luther King

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. - 2 Timothy 4:7



When we feel shaken

(Lk 10:42)

Faithful Father,

When we feel shaken by the events of the past; when we don't know quite how to go forward; when our confidence in what we thought we could control is undermined; remind us that one thing is needed – to sit at your feet and listen to You.

You are our security. You will never fail those who belong to You through faith in Your Son, Jesus.

As we take time to listen to You, Lord, and to meditate on Your Holy Spirit-inspired Word, may we know Your peace – and Your good plans for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Can comedy point the way to faith? - Revd Peter Crumpler

Truth can come from a range of places. In Shakespeare, it's the fool who often has the insight that the main characters lack. In the Old Testament, it's the prophets that proclaim the truth from God's perspective.

Maybe today, we should be listening more to the comedians – to the people who stand back from our day-to-day happenings and see the world from different angles. They can make us laugh, but they can also teach us truths about ourselves that can be distinctly uncomfortable. Take the new book by comedian, and Catholic, Frank Skinner. It's called 'A Comedian's Prayer Book' (Hodder & Stoughton) and runs to just over a hundred pages. Yet in that thin volume, Skinner – who is very open about his devout Christian faith – poses serious questions for both believers and atheists.

It's far from being a comfortable read, though it never ceases to be amusing and thoughtful.

Setting the scene for the book, Skinner, an award-winning comedian, television and radio host, explains: "Imagine someone on a pilgrimage, stopping at churches, martyr-related tourist spots and sacred wells, while dressed in a medieval jester outfit.

"The intention is serious and completely devout, but the pilgrim just feels more at home in the motley than in sackcloth and ashes. He feels jest is an integral part of who he is, and it seems wrong to deny that part."

Skinner sees his role as a comic as integral to this faith, although some 'fellow pilgrims' may be uncomfortable with someone who seems to see humour all around him – and can easily make others laugh.

Yet Frank Skinner raises deep issues in the chapters of this slim volume, including questions that will connect with people both within the Christian faith, and those standing outside. He describes his prayer life as "a telepathic dip into a long, ongoing conversation with thousands of tabs left open and no helpful 'new readers start here' summaries or simplifications for the neutral observer."

Skinner's 'prayer book' is on my bookshelf alongside '10 Second Sermons,' (Darton, Longman & Todd) written by fellow comedian Milton Jones in 2011. Again, the comedian's quirky view on life brings fresh insights and challenges.

Jones, a master of one-line jokes, describes gossip as "bullying people who are not there," lust as "rehearsing for a play in which you shouldn't have a part" and salvation as "like being

returned to the factory settings – but you have to admit there is a factory, and that there could be some settings."

One of my favourites is Jones's description of the Holy Spirit as "a real person you can invite in. But watch out – in time He will go over, pull the fridge from the wall and say 'What's all this mess under here?' But at least He helps clear up."

Both Milton Jones and Frank Skinner are comedians of faith – comedic commentators with a gift of making us see the world with fresh insight. And, as importantly, making us laugh.



Bowls

A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of coins. Finally, his mother asked him where he had got all that money. "At church," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it there."



3.

Last Month on the Facebook Page

Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.

Bind us Together, Bob Gillman

16th May 2021

This hymn was part of our service a few weeks ago and it came just at the right time. I'd been thinking about how much more I had enjoyed walking since I stopped putting in my headphones. It can be easy to withdraw into our own little bubble and we can miss the joy that comes from the simple

act of saying "good morning" as you pass. It reminds us that we are all connected through God and that in our interactions with each other the is the chance to both give and receive God's love.

23rd May 2021

Jesus was asked by an expert in religious law, which was the greatest of the commandments. Instead of picking one he picked two, but the two that he picked summed all ten commandments as well as giving the simplest answer possible which summed up all he was preaching. His answer was love. Love God and love your follow human beings. While we refer to these as commandments, you can't command someone love. Showing love is a

Jesus replied:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

Mathew 22:37-39

choice. A choice to be positive, a choice not to seek blame, a choice to care, a choice to be happy. Make that choice today.

30th May 2021

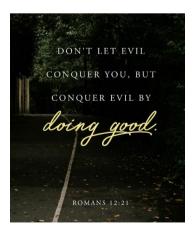


In his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul writes some of the most beautiful words I have ever read. In particular chapter 13, on the subject on love, stands out. I have picked out a small part below, but I would recommend reading the entire chapter If you get the chance. The part I have

picked out talks of what love is, and I think it most strongly defines what love is, by what it is not. Love is the absence of selfishness, love is putting others first, love is not judging but understanding instead. It is in loving others that we find love ourselves, in our fellows and in God.

6th June 2021

I read an article recently that talked about freewill. The essence of the article was that everything that happens is the results of some physical process, even thinking, and as there are hard and fast physical rules for everything, there is only ever one possible outcome. I do not agree with that. It precludes the existence of a soul, that things that separates us from the being merely a biological process. That spark of life is God in us. God has made us more than the plants. God gave us the ability to make choices. You have the choice of good over evil, you have the choice to defeat evil by doing good.



13th June 2021



I've never watched Call the Midwife, but I found this quote on Facebook and quite liked it. I like the idea that God works through us. We are part of Gods plan and we have a role to play. Sometime thought it can be difficult knowing what we are called to. What is our part in all the craziness that is modern day life? One of the great things about coming to Church on a Sunday is that it provides a time for reflection, almost stepping out of modern life for an hour. It allows time to contemplate what our place is and what we need to do to acts as God's hands on earth.

Steven Coull

Opening and closing churches in the UK

There were an estimated 45,500 congregations or churches in the UK in 2020: 79%, in England, 8% (3,700 churches) in Wales, 8% (3,500 churches) in Scotland and 5% (2,100 churches) in Northern Ireland.

New congregations are being started or having to close all the time, and in the fifteen years since 2005 it is estimated that collectively some 3,100 new congregations have started while some 5,800 have closed, a net drop of 2,700 across the UK.

Most of the Anglican new congregations are in the Church of England, many of which are planted by the larger churches. A third of all the churches which have closed in the last 15 years have been Methodist, followed by the Anglicans and Roman Catholics (both 15%) and the Presbyterians (9%). The Baptists (7% of all closures) have also seen over 400 churches close in the last 15 years, which is one in eight of their congregations.

From UK Church Statistics Nos 1-4.



Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views - *Dr Ruth M Bancewicz*

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, "Why am I here?"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him." Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.



How climate change could affect your cup of tea

Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.



Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions

could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – a celebration of faith & service – save the date!

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. This is an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book for us to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge for us to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations in our area, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

The beautifully illustrated souvenir book to be published for the celebrations uses rarely seen prayers, which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.

The 'Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Faith & Service' will build on the successful partnership facilitated by HOPE Together, which enabled local churches to bring their communities together for the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Over the next year HOPE will provide churches across the country with all the resources and ideas they need to run a great all-age community event that will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

We can plan to get our church involved, invite our community to the party, and round off the weekend with a special guest celebration service for Pentecost.

Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee



HYMN: The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; He whose word cannot be broken Formed thee for His own abode. On the rock of ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love, Well supply thy sons and daughters, And all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage: Grace, which like the Lord the giver, Never fails from age to age?...

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects His people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago He led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, He led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have His very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.



Two of the Saint's days in July

3rd July St Thomas the Apostle, confused and doubting

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete

affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England were dedicated to him.

7th July St Boisil of Melrose, patron saint for ordinands?

Have you ever noticed how life-enhancing good ministers are? St Boisil (d.c.661) should be their patron saint. He did nothing spectacular, but he did everything that mattered. Boisil was a monk who became abbot of Melrose, in the Irish monastic tradition. Boisil knew about God – he had spent years in study, and this earned him respect. Boisil walked with God – his transparent holiness made people love and trust him. Boisil could hear God speak – he was so open to God's Spirit that he was even given the gift of prophecy, which is God speaking through one person into specific situations in other people's lives. Knowledge of God, obedience to God, and a prophetic gift from God. It is faithful Christians such as Boisil who have kept the Church going over the centuries. Sadly, in 661 Boisil caught the plague. He spent his last hours on earth reading St John's gospel with Cuthbert, another Celtic monk, who also caught the plague. Boisil prophesied that Cuthbert would live, but that he would die. But this did not trouble him: Boisil knew in whom he believed and was looking forward to finally seeing his beloved Master, face to face.



Reaching Out by Terence Trimmer

Dear Lord Jesus, we remember the work of your disciples who served You faithfully during the early days of the Church. They went out among the people, who were often hostile, and spoke of their faith. They also encouraged others by their written testimonies. Together, they spread the word of Your teaching and of the joy of serving You, regardless of their own fate and well-being.

We ask You to help us today to continue Your work by witness and example. May we continue to draw comfort and inspiration from Your teaching, and so acknowledge and confess our faith wherever we go and to those we meet.

Nigel Beeton writes: Many years ago, when I was a teenager (and dinosaurs ruled the earth) there was a New Zealand couple who produced a series of little songs based entirely upon scripture called 'Scripture in Song' and many of them have stayed with me across the decades. I particularly remember a line from Psalm 98: 'His right hand and His holy arm / Have won for Him the victory. Thanks, David and Dale, for an enduring memory!

Sing to the Lord

Sing to the Lord a song of praise Sing of the wonders that we see His right hand and His holy arm Have won for Him the victory

He has revealed His salvation Deliv'rance He has truly shown Before all nations of the world His mighty acts have been made known.

His faithful love, of limits free Is seen unto the end of earth, All peoples see His salvation And all can sing with joy and mirth.

By Nigel Beeton

Make songs for God with human voice With trumpets and the mighty horn Sing praises to our God and king To sunset from the break of dawn.

O let the rivers clap their hands The hills ring out before the Lord For lo, He judges righteously His justice seen throughout the world!



Five fun things to do during boring sermons

- 1 Pass a note to the organist asking whether he/she plays requests.
- 2 See if a yawn really is contagious.
- 3 Slap your neighbour. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the minister.
- 4 Try to take the handbag of the lady in front of you by putting your toe through the handle.
- 5 If all else fails, look up at the ceiling, point, and scream.



A Shepherd, waiting (Mk6:34, Heb13:8)

Sheep without a shepherd wandering this way and that,
not knowing the way
or whose voice to listen to;
uncertain, uncared for,
anxious, lost and in danger.

Here we are in our post-modern, sophisticated culture, still sheep without a shepherd.

But Jesus has compassion today, yesterday and forever for those who run to Him.

He loves.

He provides.

He alone satisfies and makes sense of the wanderings.

Nothing is wasted.

There is a Shepherd, waiting...

By Daphne Kitching

Bishop of Brechin Right Rev'd Andrew Swift Tel: 01382 459 569

George Masson Tel: 01569 73928



Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sidesperson	FLOWERS (cleaning)
04/07/21 PENTECOST 6	ARMA ISLES Russ Huddleston Address: Arma lles	Dee Foulds Carol Masson Steven Coull Sheila Usher	2 SAMUEL 5, 1-5, 9-10 2 CORINTHIANS 12: 2-10 MARK 6: 1-13	Irene Butler	Rhona Vassilikos
11/07/21 PENTECOST 7	GEORGE MASSON Irene Butler Address: George Masson	Ken Tonge Sue Manson John Usher Ken Tonge	2 SAMUEL 6: 1-5, 12B-19 EPHESIANS 1: 3-14 MARK 6: 14-29	Carol Masson	Sue Manson
18/07/21 PENTECOST 8	RUSS HUDDLESTON Steven Coull Address: Russ Huddleston	Diana Driver Steven Coull Sheila Usher Muriel Hargreaves	2 SAMUEL 7: 1-14A EPHESIANS 2: 11-22 MARK 6: 30-34, 53-56	George Masson	Sheila Usher
25/07/21 PENTECOST 9	REVD MICHAEL TURNER Sheila Usher	Sheila Usher John Usher Sheila Usher Sheila Usher	2 SAMUEL 11: 1-15 EPHESIANS 3: 14-21 JOHN 6: 1-21	Steven Coull	Muriel Hargreaves
01/08/21 PENTECOST 10	ARMA ISLES Irene Butler Address: Arma Isles	George Masson Steven Coull Carol Masson Ken Tonge	2 SAMUEL 11: 26-12.13A EPHESIANS 4: 1-16 JOHN 6: 24-35	George Masson	Rhona Vassilikos