

**ST TERNAN'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH MUCHALLS**

**January 2022**



**Sunday Service 10.30am**

The church is open for private prayer during daylight hours  
Please use the sanitiser provided before you enter the church

## **Pulpit Piece- Arma Isles**

Christmas feels like it happened a long time ago. The decorations are put by for another year. In Church the Nativity is tucked away for another year and as we take a last look at the Christmas Cards before they are consigned to the recycling bin, we can notice amongst the glitter and colourful cards. This year, I have noticed, not as many cards featuring the Nativity. So sad! No cards of shepherds seeing the star in the East. No images of the wise men, in fabulous clothes making their way to see the child so recently born.

The story of the Magi or wise men is a biblical story that has caught the imagination and stimulated so much research and interest as the account of the Magi.

Along with the crucifixion it is the most depicted subject by artists, poets and sculptors and yet the story of the Magi is recounted in just one of the Gospels and covers a short twelve verses.

It is a story and stories are not a concession to those who are uncomfortable with argument and evidence.

We can't express the meaning of the incarnation- God becoming human except by telling the story and enacting it in heart and mind



**Don't forget to put this date in your diaries!**



### **St Ternan's Scottish Episcopal Church. Muchalls**

#### **Licensing of the Rev. Mary Jepp**

The Vestry of St Ternan's cordially invite you to a service in the church during which the Bishop of Brechin, the Right Rev. Andrew Swift, will license the Rev. Mary Jepp as Priest and Transitional Minister for St Ternan's Episcopal Church, Muchalls. The service will be held on

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, starting at 3.00pm**

Followed by a reception at the church to welcome Mary and Mike

RSVP to Mrs Irene Butler by Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Email [chasirene.butler@gmail.com](mailto:chasirene.butler@gmail.com)

This is a start of an exciting new era for St Ternan's Church when we welcome Revd Mary Jepp and her husband into our church family

**Irene Butler**

## Looking to the New Year - Canon Paul Hardingham considers 2022.

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted as having two faces. As we look back on a difficult year dominated by the pandemic, how should we look forward to 2022 with fresh hope? The apostle Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, to make a new start, you need to **forget the things which are behind**. Paul saw himself as an athlete running for Christ and purposely not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and difficulties to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and failures to receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to **focus on the things that lie ahead**. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and neighbourhood, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, who would say *'well done, good and faithful servant'*. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, *'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'*



### Bible verses of hope as a New Year begins

*You are a new creation:* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.' (2 Corinthians 5:17)

*Good new things can happen:* Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

*God is looking out for you:* For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

*You need not worry:* Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? (Matthew 6:25)

*Do not be afraid:* For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

*Feel free to always ask for help:* Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

## **There's more with us than with them!!** - *Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle*

We begin the New Year with a Bible event from 2 Kings and an anecdote from Birmingham.

For a number of years, the king of Syria had tried to capture the prophet, Elisha. (The story is found in 2 Kings 6:11-19). Elisha always knew what the Syrians were planning and revealed their plans before they could be carried out. Finally, the Syrian armies surrounded Elisha in Dothan.

When Gehazi, Elisha's servant, woke up and saw the encircling Syrian armies, he was terrified. But Elisha prayed, 'Lord, open his eyes.' When Gehazi looked again, he could hardly believe what he saw. All round them were horses and chariots of fire. The armies of heaven were protecting them! And Elisha encouraged him. "Don't fear, there's more with us than with them!" Immediately the Syrians were struck with blindness and Elisha and Gehazi escaped.

Often, we need to ask the Lord to *open our eyes*. When our strength has failed and faith is weak, we're apt to think that God has forgotten us. But He hasn't! He is near and only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing His great presence and power and provision. Fear not! Trust God! Believe His Word! There's more with us than with our enemy!

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham, England, wanted to extend its premises. Close at hand was an ideal site but it belonged to the Quakers whose Meeting House had been there for well over 200 years. The department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. They said, "We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we'll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate, and we will honour it." Four weeks passed and there was no reply, then five weeks, then six weeks.

Finally, a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. "Our Meeting House has been here for almost 250 years," they explained, "much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if you would agree to sell your site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it."

The letter was signed 'Cadburys.' The department store thought they were dealing with a small congregation of Quakers. Instead, they were dealing with the Cadburys' empire. Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

When our enemy the devil attacks us, by ourselves we are weak and feeble. But when Christ dwells in us by His Spirit, we are mighty! The devil is no longer attacking us; he is attacking the Captain of our salvation – and the devil cannot win! There's more with us than with him! As we go through 2022, be *encouraged*. With Christ we are more than conquerors!



This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom. - Elizabeth George

## **TREASURERS REPORT FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

- The accounts for the year show a surplus of £7021.00 with a closing balance of £45,956.00.
- The weekly congregational giving has increased this year by £3421 and deeds of Covenant have decreased by £421, and the tax recovered has increased by £848. Donations have increased by £1445.
- Fundraising was down £718.00
- The Rectory income is £10,200.
- On the outgoings the quota as decreased but that may go up again because of our increased income.
- Property expenses have remained pretty static and Church expenses have increased due to Organists fees, but these were generously donated back again plus gift aid.
- Charitable donations are down £215.00.
- Unfortunately, due to Covid the Church had to close again on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and did not reopen until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Grateful thanks once again to all who continued to pay their weekly collections direct into the bank during that period. Also many of the congregation are now paying their weekly offering on a monthly basis direct to the bank. This certainly makes the treasurers life easier.
- As you all will be aware Rev Mary Jepp has been appointed Transitional Minister sharing with St. James. Mary was due to arrive in November but unfortunately her husband Mike developed a heart problem requiring hospital treatment and this has delayed their move to Scotland to be with us. Following a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November Mary has advised that they hope to make the move early in January and the Institution services will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 3pm in St. Ternan's. A service will be held in St. James at 11am.

The cost of Mary's stipend, plus National Insurance, SEC Pension and Maintenance costs for housing comes to £37,694 which will be split as follows:

Stonehaven	£16,200
Muchalls	£10,800
Diocese	£10,694

Estimated expenses and local costs (travel, telephone, printing, postage, council tax and water bill is estimated at £6,000 split 50:50 between the vestries.

St James have agreed that Mary's time will be split equally between both churches which is very generous.

Our share on an annual basis will therefore amount to approximately £13,800.

Nobody can predict what the future holds for us but hopefully we can continue to flourish as we have this past year with the increase in members and we will be able to meet this commitment. However, I have an assurance from Alan Duffus, Diocesan Treasurer, that if I have any financial worries to pick up the phone and the Diocese will come to our rescue.

- Once more I am very grateful to Colin Horn for his support in completing the gift aid returns and also to Michael Price for examining and auditing the accounts. Last but not least thank you to the vestry for their continued support.

**Carol Masson**  
**7/11/21**

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH - DIOCESE OF BRECHIN					
ST. TERNAN'S, MUCHALLS ((Charity No. SC023264)					
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021					
		Note			
				<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
	Congregational & Voluntary	2		£14,912.00	£9,836.00
	Special Collections	3			£156.00
	Investment Income	4		£252.00	£263.00
	Rectory rental	7(d)		£10,200.00	£11,080.00
	Garden Fete	7(a)			
	Sale of Register CD's & Baptismal Paintings	7(b)		£77.00	£15.00
	Fundraising Events			£44.00	£824.00
	Legacy late Dr. E Green				
	Grant	7e			£1,491.00
	Total Income			£25,485.00	£23,665.00
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
	Quota - Provincial and Diocesan	10		£2,932.00	£3,912.00
	Cost of Ministry	10		£586.00	£475.00
	Church Expenses	12		£174.00	£184.00
	Property Expenses	11		£11,310.00	£15,502.00
	Organ Repairs/organist	12		£1,605.00	£430.00
	Transitional Ministry	12		£418.00	
	Administrative Expenses	13		£1,289.00	£2,027.00
	Charitable Expenditure	14		£150.00	£365.00
	Quinquennial Inspection	15			
	Total expenditure			£18,464.00	£22,895.00
	Surplus/Loss for the year			£7,021.00	£770.00
	ALL FUNDS ARE UNRESTRICTED.				

**Christian Basics No 1: God the Creator** - Paul Hardingham begins a year-long series on the very foundations of our Christian faith.

For many today the universe began with a big bang, in which a lump of matter, smaller than a pinhead, exploded 15 billion years ago. It's a story that defines who we are and where we come from. However, the Bible gives us another perspective on this event, revealing God as Creator: *'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible'* (Hebrews 11:3). What does Genesis 1 say about God as Creator?

***'In the beginning, God'***

Whereas science can offer answers about the **how** of creation, the Bible tells us about the **why** i.e., the purpose of the Creator! Creation reflects the character and glory of God, inviting a response of dependence and praise!

**'God created the heavens and the earth'**

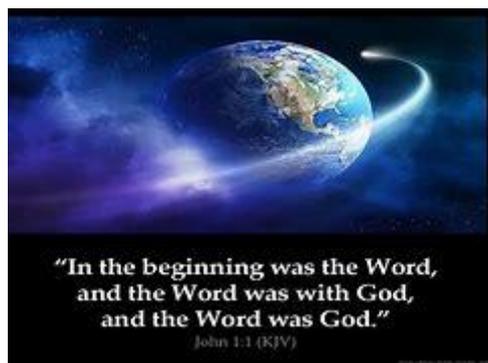
God shaped the universe, as expressed in the '6 days' of creation. They speak of an ordered and purposeful universe that expresses God's will: He spoke and it was done! An alternative translation is 'God began creating', reminding us that creation is also an ongoing process, where the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives and world.

**'God created man in His own image'**

In the account, human beings are presented as the climax and crown of creation. We share the sixth day of creation with other creatures, as well as 95% of the same DNA. However, we are distinctively made in the **image of God**, created for relationship with God, with a responsibility to care for the created order.

**'And God saw that it was good'**

Like an artist, God described His work as *good*. We should always approach this story with wonder, enjoying God's world and affirming creativity in ourselves and others.



**Spotted on a church notice board:**

When you were born, your mother brought you here.  
When you were married, your partner brought you here.  
When you die, your family will bring you here.  
In the meantime, why not try coming on your own sometimes?





# Last Month on the Facebook Page

## 21st November 2021

**Not sure I understand  
This role I've been given  
I sit and talk to God  
And he just laughs at my plans**

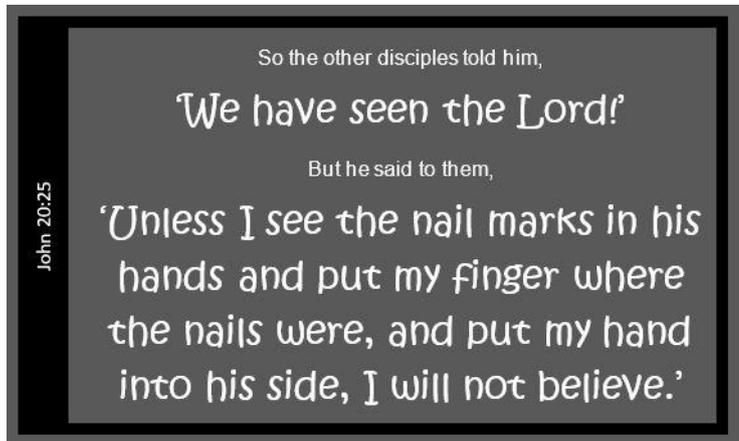
Feel – Guy Chambers / Robbie Williams

I heard this song on the radio the other day, and as do often happens, some of the words spoke to me. We all have our plans, about what we want to do and what we want to achieve. We plan the things that we think will make us happy. Sometimes these things don't come to pass, and it feels a little bit like the song lyrics, like God is laughing at our plans. Perhaps our plans don't come to pass, because they are not actually the

right plans for us. We sometimes need to take a moment and try and discern what God has planned for us and find our true direction.

## 28th November 2021

The story of doubting Thomas, who would not believe the Jesus had risen unless he saw the proof of the crucifixion marks, is a story intended to show that faith comes without proof. I think sometimes we push the boundaries of this story to say that faith should not be questioned, that doubt is wrong. I have doubts and questions about my faith all the time. To question is part of critical thinking. God gave us the power to think and wonder, to question and enquire. We can listen to the competing voices. Some extolling God, some shouting him down, some talking about something completely different. What is important is that we come to our own decisions on faith, because that is between God and you. Nobody else.



## 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Where there is hatred let me bring

**Love**

Where there is doubt let me bring

**Faith**

Where there is sadness let me bring

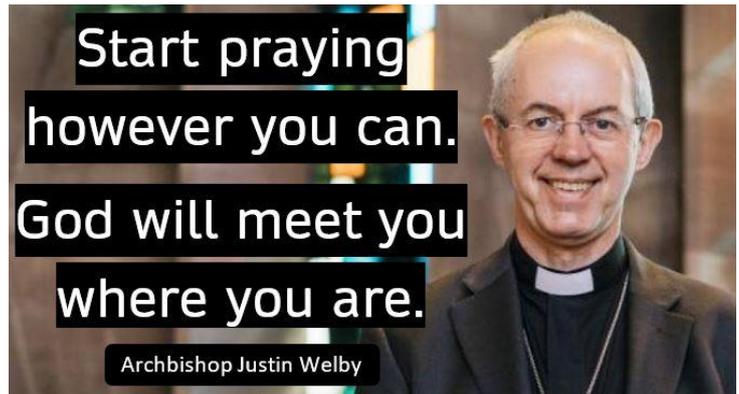
**Joy**

The Prayer of St Francis

The words below are from the Prayer of St Francis, which is used as the basis of the popular Hymn, Make me a channel of your Peace. The words were not actually written by St Francis, and it is believed that they were written by Father Esther Bouquerel in a French catholic publication in December 1912. This was a time, a couple of years before the 1st World War, when Europe was in turmoil, with shifting political alliances and fighting in the Balkans. A time when dark clouds were forming. This prayer is an entreaty for peace, for follower of Jesus to take all these negative emotions and rather than act on them, to reflect back love, faith and joy. It seems that the world never really changes that much, and the words seem just as relevant now as they did then. We can still do our part, being God's light in the world, through our words and actions.

## 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

I think there is an image we have of prayer. Of someone on their knees, head bowed, hands clasped together. Perhaps alone in an empty church, with moody lighting. You imagine them reciting some long and archaic sounding prayer, almost by rote. Like so many of the images we have of Christianity, it can be quite far from reality. Prayer can happen any time. Riding the bus, walking the dog, doing the shopping. It's just a moment with God. Letting God into your daily life. The words are yours and need only be from the heart. Don't over complicate it, stop for a chat.



## **Steven Coull**

### **22<sup>nd</sup> January: St Vincent of Saragossa, first martyr of Spain**

Never under-estimate a deacon. After all, the first-ever Christian martyr was a deacon in the church of Jerusalem - St Stephen. And the first-ever Christian martyr in Spain was a deacon of the Church of Saragossa - St Vincent.

By now it was 304AD, and the Roman Emperor Diocletian was persecuting Christians. When his edict reached Spain, Vincent, a deacon of the Church of Saragossa, was arrested and brought before Dacian, the Roman governor in Valencia. Here the governor discovered that deacons do not scare easily.

For Valerius was quite prepared to suffer for the faith that had guided his life. He had been educated and ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Valerius, and had then ministered throughout the diocese for years, even acting as a spokesman for the Bishop himself, who had a speech impediment. His commitment to Jesus Christ was total.

So Valerius was put in prison, half-starved, and then offered freedom if he would burn the Scriptures. He flatly refused, declaring that he would pay no heed to either threats or promises.



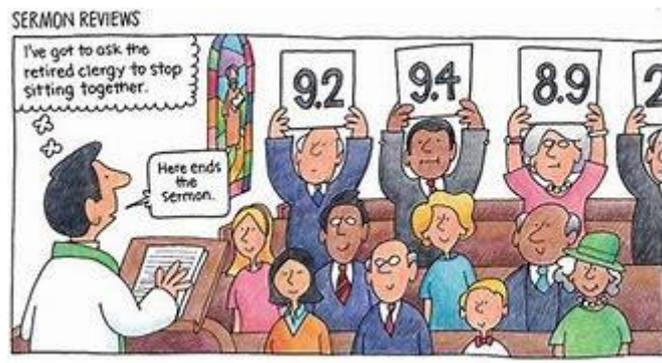
The governor was so angry that Vincent was then tortured and died in prison. But during his martyrdom, it was said that he preserved such peace and tranquillity that the jailor repented of his sins and converted.

Vincent's body was thrown into the sea in a sack, but later recovered by Christians. They eventually took his bones to Cape St Vincent, where, the story goes, they were protected by ravens. Certainly, by the time of Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula, the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi mentioned this constant guard by ravens and named the place Kanisah al-Ghurab (Church of the Raven). In 1173 King Afonso 1 of Portugal had Vincent's bones exhumed and brought to Lisbon, where Vincent was adopted as the patron saint.

## Sitting down in church

Did you ever wonder how our churches first acquired pews? Dr Nicholas Orme, Emeritus Professor of History at Exeter University, has written a book, *Going to Church in Medieval England* (Yale University Press), in which he points out that "no medieval church pronouncement ordered the provision of seating in churches other than for the clergy. General seating was a lay invention."

It is easy to understand those laity of long ago: the services could go on for hours. And so, as Dr Orme explains, general seating "seems to have begun with the nobility and gentry who wished for comfort .... The desire spread downwards to the congregation during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries."



## A New Year's Resolution from Micah - David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the year ahead.

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression...? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you: To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:7-8)*

I quite like olive oil; not the Popeye character but the cooking ingredient. Although I am not sure what I would do with even one river of oil, and I have nowhere to put a ram. Still, this is one of my favourite Bible passages, and it is an ideal one for lawyers. It sums up in a very simple but helpful way what true religion should be. That makes it a good verse to start the year. The message is simple: God does not want empty promises or lip service, but our real devotion, from our heart. What does it mean for us?

**Do justly** - Be honest and open in our dealings with others this year. Be dependable. We should say when things are going wrong and be appreciative when they go well. Be fair in our dealings, whether at home or at work or in church. Keep confidences and never pass on gossip.

**Love mercy** - Give people the benefit of doubt, do not take advantage of others and do not always criticise or complain. Accept apologies and explanations where we can, and be generous.



**Walk humbly** - Quietly get on with things. Do not make a big show of what we do.

Lastly, we are *required* to do these things. They are not options or choices but requirements. Like many requirements in the Bible, they are simple to understand, but not always simple to do. Happy New Year.

## **The reality of faith in God - Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle**

As we enter this New Year of 2022 even the most devoted Christians can't ignore the uncertainties we face. The whole world was caught up in the persistent spread of Coronavirus. It is shaking national economies and causing untold stress and harm. Many people fear that their lives and families will never be the same again.

Almost daily the news has been gloomy and economic experts say the situation is the worst in living memory. How do we, as Christians, react to all this? What do we trust in? Has God something to say to us in these days?

An answer may be found in a well-loved passage from the Bible – Psalm 23: 'The Lord is my shepherd ...He restores my soul ...he leads me ...I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.' But in the middle of this lovely psalm there are three reminders that Christians are NOT exempt from the realities of life. The psalmist speaks of 'the paths of righteousness', 'the valley of the shadow' and 'the presence of my enemies.'

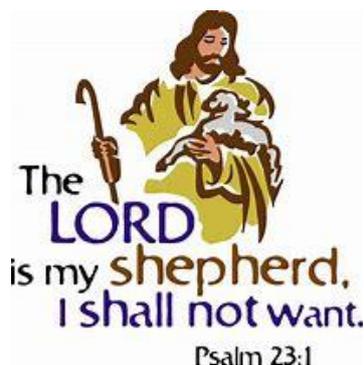
The mention of 'the paths of righteousness' is a reminder that we are called to love the Lord and live our lives in *righteousness*. The wonderful promises in this psalm come with a condition; they are given to those who determine by God's grace to live righteously. And that must be our first resolution for 2022.

The 'valley of the shadow' may refer to death, but generally the reference here is wider. It means all those occasions when fear and sorrow and heartbreak and loss come to even the best Christians.

Then there are our 'enemies.' Originally that probably meant those wanting to kill the psalmist. For us it may be the seduction of old temptations, the fears that paralyse us and the memories of sins that still haunt us.

The psalmist is a realist! As Christians we live our lives in the real world! We are not floating on cloud nine; we are rooted in a fallen world and surrounded by temptations and sins and infirmities. Any day, pain, an incurable disease, even death itself, may come to us or to those we love. How do we face these realities?

Psalm 23 has the answer. If we, by God's grace, will walk in 'the paths of righteousness,' then all the promises are ours! The Lord will be our Shepherd. He will lead us by the still waters; He will restore our souls, prepare a table for us in the wilderness, protect and guide us with His rod and staff and, at the end, bring us into the house of the Lord forever. Let's make Psalm 23 our charter of faith for 2022!



## Get fit for 2022!

More people join health and fitness centres each January than at any other time of the year. And well over half the newcomers will be gone again – within a month.

Perhaps there's not much commitment to begin with. Or maybe, they lack motivation because they haven't made themselves accountable to a personal trainer. (One incentive many clubs are now bringing in.)

But Christians have been called by God to become spiritually fit, and we DO have a personal trainer! We have only been able to join our 'club' through the precious, priceless blood of Jesus, and our 'spiritual fitness' goal is to be holy and to be loving, caring people.

The heavenly Father will be pleased and glorified as we simply keep on coming to the 'gym' of personal and corporate worship, and keep faithful to the spiritual disciplines, and our service together in the Body of Christ.



### The New Year

If we put our hand in God's hand  
As we enter this New Year  
Not knowing what the future holds  
But that our Friend is near

We shall not fear what lies ahead  
If He is by our side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came  
To dwell with us on earth,  
He sought and bought us with His blood  
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year  
He knows the things He's planned,  
So let us trust and know just this –  
Our times are in His hands.

*By Megan Carter*

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

**George Masson Tel: 01569 73928**



**R O T A JANUARY 2022**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address</b>	<b>Readers/ Intercessions:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Sidesperson</b>	<b>FLOWERS (cleaning) Teas</b>
<b>02/01/22</b> The Epiphany	<b>ARMA ISLES</b> <b>Sheila Usher</b>  Address: Arma Isles	Diana Driver John Usher Steven Coull  <b>Sheila Usher</b>	ISAIAH 60: 1-6 EPHESIANS 3: 1-12 MATTHEW 2: 1-12	Steven Coull	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Carol/George
<b>09/01/22</b> The Baptism of the Lord	<b>RUSS HUDDLESTON</b> <b>Irene Butler</b>  Address: Russ Huddleston	Ken Tonge Katy Gill Sue Manson  <b>Sue Selway</b>	ISAIAH 43: 1-7 ACTS 8: 14-17 LUKE 3: 15-17, 21-22	Sue Selway	<b>Sue Manson</b>  Katy/Russ
<b>16/01/22</b> EPIPHANY 2	<b>FATHER PAUL MCLAREN-COOK</b> <b>Sheila Usher</b>  Address: Father McLaren-Cook	Dee Foulds Stephen Coull George Masson  <b>Ken Tonge</b>	ISAIAH 62: 1-5 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 1-11 JOHN 2: 1-11	George Masson	<b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>  Carol/Rhoda
<b>23/01/22</b> EPIPHANY 3	<b>JOHN USHER</b> <b>Steven Coull</b>  Address: Ken Tonge	Sheila Usher Michael Price John Usher  <b>Muriel Hargreaves</b>	NEHEMIAH 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 12-31A LUKE 4: 14-21	Irene Butler	<b>Rhona Vassilikos</b>  Sylvia/David
<b>30/01/22</b> Presentation of the Lord	<b>REV MARY JEPP</b> <b>Irene Butler</b>  Address: Rev Mary Jepp	Diana Driver Carol Masson Stephen Coull  <b>Dee Foulds</b>	MALACHI 3: 1-4 HEEBREWS 2: 14-18 LUKE 2: 22-40	Steven Coull	<b>Sheila Usher</b>  Muriel/Eric
<b>06/02/22</b> EPIPHANY 5	<b>ARMA ISLES</b> <b>Steven Coull</b>  Address: Arma Isles	Ken Tonge Dee Foulds George Masson  <b>Sue Selway</b>	ISAIAH 6: 1-8 (9-13) 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1-11 LUKE 5: 1-11	George Masson	<b>Diana Driver</b>  Carol/George