

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

July 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

From our Minister



Not long after my arrival in the Diocese, I had a phone call from the Bishop. I have been hanging around the church long enough to know that rarely do they who wear pointy hats call unless they are going to ask you to do something. It is the way of Bishops on both sides of the Border, it is probably fair to say that the phone calls are less frequent south of the border just because there are more priests. The request was to be a clergy representative to General Synod. I had thought as I had done my time in Glasgow and Galloway I might escape, not so the case!

Therefore, in early June I set off. On reflection I am not quite sure what my expectations were. I was looking forward to seeing friends from my time in Kilmarnock, and even surprising some of them. However, looking at the agenda and papers I truthfully would say that I was not looking forward to all of the sessions. The General Synod is the Scottish Episcopal Church's annual general meeting, it is an opportunity for Bishop's and elected representatives of laity and clergy to gather together to determine together, the way forward for our church. Here it is important to note that the work of the Synod is embedded in prayer, and numerous speakers drew attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our deliberations and our need to be attentive to the Spirit's presence.

The General Synod opened with a Eucharist, and it was at the end of this service that our Primus the Most Rev Mark Strange gave his charge. Much of what he said echoed the thoughts of those gathered. In his words he touched on topics of concern for those not only within the church but those out with. He reminded us that as Christians we are simply called to love those we live alongside and to love God's creation. In our loving he said that there was a necessity for us to be primarily welcoming, to be hopeful people; carrying on in the face of the world's problems. Several times in his charge Bishop Mark stated that he had missed all of us, that he missed the collegiality of General Synod. And it must be said there was a real sense of a family gathering together over the next two and a half days. Here it is worth remembering that families do not always agree, but at their best they do continue to love each other.

And so, to business...now some might say that the business of Synod is very far removed from the day-to-day struggles of small charges in small communities. By chance this year I found myself sitting next to a member of the laity who had not long come into the Episcopal Church, as well as being new to Synod. As we worked through the agenda, I found myself explaining to him the contexts of the discussions and why they were important to our church and how the decisions made in Synod affected charges.

Perhaps the theme of the entire Synod was in one way or another relationships, and how we continue to build a church which will be resilient and fit for purpose in our current world. The Scottish Episcopal Church is a minority church, and as such has the opportunity to be prophetic voice, speaking words that many may not often wish to hear within our wider society and government. Time was spent considering our response to the Ukraine and in the opening charge Bishop Mark made reference to the removal of refugees to Rwanda, once again stating that our nation needs to be seen as a place of welcome.

As in any annual general meeting time was spent examining the accounts and hand in hand were presentations and discussion regarding reaching the ecological target of net zero. The environmental discussion followed on from an excellent presentation by Robert Woodford of the Provincial Environment Group. He said, "We need to be realistic about the challenges ahead." He set out some of the particular challenges that, he said,

the SEC faced: large buildings that are rarely used, tight finance, the Scottish climate and the size and terrain of Scotland.

The most contentious area of debate was, some might think surprisingly in the area of points of procedure, specifically moves to change the way Bishops are elected. The move to involve Diocesan representatives in a final decision along with the College of Bishops should elections fail was tabled for a first reading; this motion was passed. It should be noted that several individuals spoke from the floor, expressing undue pain experienced by candidates in the existing protocols. It was stated that individuals are called to be candidates, as without candidates there can be no selection process, and that call can be costly to them in so many ways.

Synod was truly a gathering, as are our churches, an opportunity for individuals to come together recognizing not only our differences in perspectives but that we are united as Christ's disciples in carrying his love into the created world. In the presentations and debates I was reminded over and over again that we in our charges are part of a much greater whole and that policies and canons allow us to show a common face of who we are as Scottish Episcopalians to each other, the Worldwide Anglican Communion and those outside the church.

Mary

Christian Basics: No 7: What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Pt 2) - Canon Paul Hardingham

Somebody once defined a football match as *'22 people on the field desperately in need of rest, watched by 50 thousand people in the stands, desperately in need of exercise!* It reminds us that church is not a spectator sport! The Holy Spirit equips us to serve God in the Church and daily life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are variously described as *spiritual gifts* (1 Cor. 12:1) or *grace gifts* (1 Cor. 1:7), the latter word being used in modern Greek for a birthday present! They are love gifts from God that we cannot earn or deserve, that are open to everybody. Note what Paul says, *"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good"* (1 Cor. 12:7):

'to each one': the gifts are available to every Christian. Everyone will have a different 'gift-mix', with their own particular contribution to offer.

'the manifestation of the Spirit': the gifts of the Spirit enable an invisible God to be real and visible.

As we exercise the gifts that God has given to us, in our speech or service, people will be able to say, *'God is at work here!*

'for the common good': the aim of the gifts is to build up the body of Christ and extend the kingdom of God. They are not intended to meet our own needs or reputation, but simply to serve and encourage others.

With the gifts given by God, we are able to fulfil His purposes in His world. Paul urges us to *'eagerly desire'* the gifts that God has for us (1 Cor. 12:31). How true is this for me? Any present that we are given needs unwrapping before we can enjoy it. Are we doing this with our spiritual gifts?



Sea Sunday – 10th July

Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So, this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.



In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

National 'Don't Step on a Bee Day' – 10th July

Bees need your help. And we need their help.

Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.



The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission. You can find a step-by-step guide here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

George Masson is going to support a honeybee project in Swaziland and intended sending money he had saved during Lent and if anybody wanted to make a donation to get in touch with him.

Are you camping this summer? Here are some helpful hints...



- When using a public campground, a tuba placed outside your tent will keep the spaces on either side vacant.
- You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag filled with several geese.
- Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping: shine a torch into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.
- A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.
- A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.
- The sight of a bald eagle has thrilled campers for generations. The sight of a bald man, however, does absolutely nothing for the eagle.

Reflected Faith Series: the grandeur of God - *Rev. Dr Jo White*

Do you understand the mysteries of God? Who is He? What is He up to? If Jesus's disciples who were with Him daily for years had trouble understanding Him, what expectation is there that you and I will?

We get glimpses of Him – through new life, through nature, in creativity, music and dance and so on – but none of us truly sees every part of Him. St Paul himself wrote that “now we see through a glass darkly”.

So how do we try to express the grandeur of God? In the Old Testament, Isaiah 6:1, the prophet wrote, ‘In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of His robe filled the temple.’

I love that picture, it makes me think of brides on their wedding day who have a full skirt and train, and the help they need from their bridesmaids just to get in and out of the wedding car let alone anything else they need to do.

Architects and builders over the centuries have used the church building to illustrate aspects of God and to share their faith.

If you are able, visit a large church building or cathedral and spend some time there when there is no service taking place. As you go into the building, quickly stop and just look around you. ‘Feel’ the space surrounding and above you. The distance between you and the ceiling or roof.



Stop for a while in the area where the congregation sit – the nave – taken from the Latin word *navis* meaning ‘ship’. This is because when they were built, largely in the Middle Ages, the people thought a nave looked like the bottom part of a ship turned upside-down. This reminded them also of the story of God saving His creation at the time of the flood by using the Ark. What does this space say to you about the mysteries of God?

14th July Phocus of Sinope – the brave gardener

Many of us are gardeners, but not many of us are buried in our gardens.

Phocus was a fourth century Christian gardener who ran a little guest house in Sinope, on the Black Sea (now part of modern Turkey). He used the produce from his garden to welcome and feed any visitors who came by, as well as giving anything left over to the poor.

In a time of persecution, the governor of the district sent soldiers to kill him because of his Christianity. But when the soldiers arrived at Phocus's guest house, they did not recognise him. Phocus politely fed them and invited them to stay the night, during which he crept out into his garden to dig his own grave and prepare for death. In the morning, Phocus divulged his true identity, rather to the dismay of the soldiers, who did not want to kill this kindly man. But Phocus assured them that he considered martyrdom the highest honour, and humbly bent his head to their swords. And so, the soldiers killed him and buried him in the grave he had prepared.

The news of Phocus's martyrdom spread far and wide, drawing many pilgrims to his garden. His calm courage and faith in God were widely admired and in time Phocus became the patron of sailors in the Black Sea, and then the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Phocus's life echoes that of many Christians today, who go calmly about their daily mundane jobs in lands of persecution, and who do not avoid the call to Christian martyrdom, however it may come to them.



Showers of blessing

According to British folklore, if it rains on 15th July, then we can expect 40 days of showery and stormy weather. This myth arose after the buried remains of St Swithun (Swithin) was removed from its original site in a church garden and taken into a Saxon cathedral.

Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester. During his decade in office, he was known for his devotion and passion to build new churches and to restore old ones. Before he died on 2nd July 863 AD, he didn't want any veneration of his tomb and requested that his body be simply interred in the church grounds. He wanted people to pass by his grave and for it to be touched by the weather.

So far so good. But - a century later, it was decided to move Swithun *inside*, into the refurbished basilica. From that day it rained every day for nearly six weeks - as if this was his displeasure at being moved!

The Bible mentions rain (and water) many times. These include the great flood and Noah's Ark (Genesis 7); Ezra's open-air public assembly in Jerusalem in the pouring rain (Ezra 10:9) and the parable by Jesus about two houses in a rainstorm (Matthew 7:24-27).

Over the centuries, hymn writers have also used water and rain to describe our need for God. They've used such phrases as *I need You like refreshing summer rain* and *Father, like rain from the skies send Your word into our lives*. Some hymns include rain as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit to come and refresh, restore and revitalise us; to cleanse us of our sins or to wash away our sorrows.

Here are two verses and the chorus from an old hymn written by Daniel W. Whittle (1840-1901) that reminds us that when overwhelmed with gloom and despair, God can and will pour new hope into our lives.

There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Saviour above.

There shall be showers of blessing, O that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing, now as on Jesus we call!

Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need;
Mercy-drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

St Swithun's Day, if thou dost rain

St Swithun's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St Swithun's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain na mair.

Ancient rhyme



Summer guide to modern science around the house

1. If it's green or it wiggles, it's Biology.
2. If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.
3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

SUMMARY OF VESTRY MINUTES 9TH MAY 2022

Matters arising from previous meeting

Morning Prayer: As attendances remain very low, Morning Prayer on Tuesdays has now stopped.

World Day Prayer: Held at Newtonhill Church.

27th February: A Congregational meeting was held to discuss the way forward

Service Booklets: Large format very favourably received.

Lent Course: Good discussions took place although varied numbers in attendance ranging between 5 and 7 - 7 being the most present.

Parish Room: No date for clearing out yet.

Priest's Report

Lent and Easter were quite complicated times - inching out of Covid - negotiating new ways of approach. George was instrumental in organising meeting to discuss Easter Egg Painting at Chapelton but got Covid - so Mary got involved with Chapelton's Eggstravaganza! Four hours of egg painting!

This led to the thought and the possibility of running messy church sessions with Trinity Church of Scotland; the financial and feasibility of this needs further investigation.

New approaches to worship - Steven was keen for a more contemporary service perhaps held outside the church or a different location maybe once a month taking on a different format. Discussions would need to be held to see if this would be long term sustainable and advertising would have to be done very carefully.

There had been good feedback from people regarding the purple and yellow booklets. Mary has to do a project for transitional ministry and to complete lots of courses.

Treasurer's Report

This report covers the months of February, March and April 2022.

Income for month February £2119.75 expenditure £1746.83 showing surplus £372.92

Income for month March £2561.17 expenditure £2993.85 showing **deficit £432.68**

Total assets at end of March £46,169.43

Notes:

- The total for the licensing service is a joint total £128 from St James and £160 from St. Ternan's - £288.00 was sent as a donation to Diocese training. Acknowledgement was received.
- £360 was sent to British Red Cross for the Ukrainian Appeal – this was the amount collected at the soup and sweet lunch plus the collection at the Vigil the same night. An acknowledgement has been received.
- On the expenditure for March, we had a load of pellets delivered £1113.00.

- Carol has received confirmation from Business Stream that we will not be charged water rates.

Income for month of April £3006.84 expenditure £4076.57 showing deficit £1069.73

Total funds at end of April £45099.70

Allan Duffus sent Carol an email stating that our share of Mary's salary for Jan, Feb and March was £2149.35. The monthly share we will have to pay is £899.88 so April payment has been made as it was too late to pay by standing order, but a monthly standing order has been set up for the payment to come off on the 20th of each month.

Carol has also set up a standing order to St. James for our share of the Council tax for the Rectory in Stonehaven for £143.50 monthly.

Property Convenor's Report

1.0) Rectory

Completed

Tiles replaced on Rectory roof: storm Damage.

Quinquennial Inspection of Rectory, Garage and out houses carried out

Outstanding

Harling on North external wall of Parish room part broken off at top of wall. Now part of Quinquennial Inspection

2.0) Church and extension

Completed

Replaced defective light bulbs in Chancel, Above Lectern, and in Porch. Unable to remove external porch light cover, seized up. Possibly replace.

Replaced slates on Church and Extension roof Storm damage: Also cleaned all gutters and down pipes. Total cost Church extension and Rectory £438.00

Quinquennial Inspection of Church and extension carried out 27th April 2022

Outstanding

Fit shelf in Extension lobby to accommodate broadband Disc. Fit phone to wall. At present it is a trip hazard where it is located. Any volunteers?

Framing to support the safe which is located in the cupboard in the Vestry. This will give better access to the safe which holds all the church silverware. 80% complete. Tried removing unable to lift safe. Plan "B" in progress.

Though not a legal requirement it would be prudent to replace the smoke detectors in the extension with interlinked ones. Also install heat detector in the kitchen.

Emergency lights: The covers over the emergency lights both inside the church and external require cleaning. Any volunteers to assist with this?

3.0) Grounds

Outstanding

Possibly need a load of quarry dust or some other kind of material to top up car parks to follow up cost etc. Community Services people are back in work again. I propose we ask them to clear and flatten the ground to the North of the church and tidy up the sloping ground to the West of the church. No takers for Veggie Plot! So back to Community Services!

Completed

Normal Maintenance to grounds Accepted Ewen Patterson estimate to tidy grounds etc over the season. Same cost as last year £2,400. First grass cut of season carried out. Di has left us and moved to sunny Yorkshire. Michael Price has volunteered to look after the plants in the boxes around South and East end of church.

4.0) Heating System

Problem with heat distribution between Church and Rectory when church heating is on. Problem resolved cost: £132.46

Boiler tube cleaner electric motor replaced. Nae working. Cost: £197.00

Problem with boiler automatic start up and pellet feed. Resolved, adjusting flow rate of pellets at start up, settings changed by me on Athols instructions by phone.

5.0) Inventory Church, Extension, and Parish room.

Next on George's list after Framing for the safe! Di and I are working on identifying, all items contained within the premises, which should be in the Inventory. There is a new inventory document (2018) issued by Provincial authorities that requires completing. This is causing a lot of work however we have to comply with Canon 35 and submit.

6.0 Waste Management

Signed up with Aberdeenshire Waste Management for another year of free pick up of our Church waste, because we are a charity. I will place the notice in the kitchen that lists items that they accept for Mixed Recycling.

PVG Report

Jan is away just now - co-ordinators meeting when Jan is home

Ministry Team Report

Microphone is not being used correctly for readings - some training needs to be given - need a clearer vision of the readers when in pulpit - position of microphones need looking at.

Primus Visit - David Fleming at St James invited Primus to attend, agreed, backed out twice but is now coming on 29th May to celebrate communion at St James 10am and to attend St Ternan's in the afternoon - perhaps an evening service or Songs of Praise service - time 3-30pm lasting approx. 45 mins with hymns, readings, prayers and his address.

Jubilee - perhaps service could include selection of Queens favourite hymns -- could invite other churches - maybe do lunch - maybe use Church of England special prayers - special collection - traditional morning prayer? Matins with hymns - traditional matins - a bit different but concept maybe fits in with the day. Mary's Sunday - 5th June - Irene and Mary to discuss ideas etc.

Christmas- at present services are held at 11-30 Christmas Eve and morning worship on Christmas Day at 9-30am - roughly even numbers attended both. A service at 8pm Christmas Eve could possibly work? Different options - some guideline changes and thoughts? To be worked on.

Social Committee Report

Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted several folk are keen to get this Group up and running again.

Yesterday's tabletop raised £22.00 good result.

We have been invited to host a beetle drive in Skateraw Hall on 21st June tickets are on sale - Irene and Sue Manson have supply. Rhona has produced a poster and these will be circulated and displayed soon; Beetle cards have been ordered and arrived and a list is in circulation asking for donations of sandwiches/homebakes. Any offers would be greatly appreciated.

Carol has been contacted by the Granite City Brass Band offering to do a concert in the church nearer summer to which everybody agreed. They have done one before and it was very successful and well supported. She is still waiting for them to come back with a date.

Reports have been sent to be included in the Clochandichter and Newsy June editions.

AOCB

Carbon Audit - currently no carbon audit of St Ternan's over next quarter a committee to be formed to complete the said audit over the last three years - Carol and Mary to look into this matter.

Doors Open 2022 - held from 2018 to 2020 - none in 2021 but there was a successful video link. This could be done digitally again this year with leaflets too. Date 18th September- George to host again but will need help -put on agenda for Vestry to discuss next time.

Bishop's Lent Appeal George asked about the Bishop's appeal - part of money - two pronged the first being to Swaziland to continue aid and local charity - Energy Action Scotland as appeared in diocesan newsletter. A sum has been sent from St Ternan's.

Co-ordinating group – as per the Memorandum of Agreement this group should be meeting every three months - three or four people from each church to discuss help needed at lots of different levels for planning events etc. Mary to follow this up.

Rhona Vassilokos

Prayer- *By Daphne Kitching*

Dear Creator God

We thank you for Your wonderful creation. Your Word tells us that in the beginning You worked and then You rested when Your work was done. You didn't rest because You were tired, but because You saw that Your completed work was good. So, the seventh day became a time of celebration and blessing.

Help us, in these days of non-stop, sometimes intrusive means of communication, to follow Your pattern – to work and then to rest; to be restored and blessed by You. Help us to keep one day - Jesus' Resurrection Day - special for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

St Ternan's Church Muchalls
Scottish Episcopal Church

Prayer and Chat

Wednesday 11 am to 1 pm



Prayers for the world, our community and those that we love will be said at St Ternan's every Wednesday at 11 am. This service will last for approximately 30 minutes.

Following the time of prayer, Rev Mary will be in church should you wish a cuppa and a chat.

Please let Mary know any situations or people you would like prayer said for...m.jepp@btinternet.com

All Welcome



Last Month on the Facebook Page

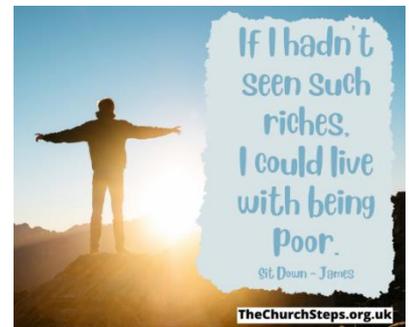
22nd May 2022

I had the thought during my prayers the other morning that God was a massive lump of cheese. Now, you will have to bear with me while I explain that a little. I was praying for the strength to trust in God. Not for God to solve my worries, but just that I could have the strength to leave my worries with God. My mind wandered to an image of a set of scales. The old-fashioned type that balances things. On one side I saw all my worries and on the other, this massive lump of cheese, outweighing everything. It was weirdly reassuring. Kind of chimed with my sense of humour. Gave me a little laugh. The point of all this? It is that God approaches us all in different ways. God knows us and speaks to each of us in a way we can understand. We just need to be open to listening.

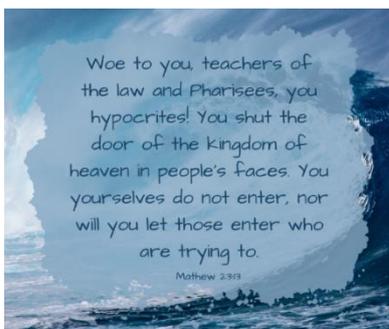


29th May 2022

Spotify, which seems to have a good handle on my musical tastes, picked out Sit Down by James as I was driving the other day. As often happens, one word or phrase can jump out at me. This time it was the lines "If I hadn't seen such riches, I could live with being poor". As a group, us Christians do like to talk about God. We like to share. If I am honest, sometimes we don't always share in the best way, but it is always with the best of intentions. We have seen the glory of faith, we have experienced God's love, we felt the hope that God brings. Having seen such riches, we don't want to anyone else to be poor. We think it would be selfish not to share. I think we just need to find the right way to do that. God has a voice for everyone



5th June 2022

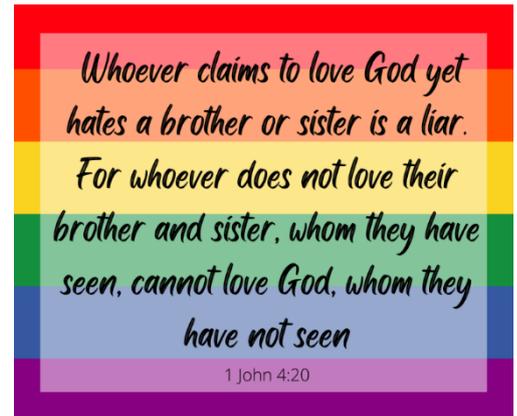


Jesus was a radical, itinerant, preacher who stood up to the authorities of the day who had become more concerned about their own positions than serving God. Jesus's short life was packed with meaning as was his death on the cross. Jesus laid the foundation for an entire religion that today gives peace and hope to billions across the globe. Church structures and ritual have developed to support the faith of these people and we hang on to these traditions. Sometimes that is good, but sometimes that can hold us back. It's good sometime to strip away all the finery and go back to the basic of what the Jewish preacher was trying to tell us.

12th June 2022

The way of Jesus is simple. Love God and love your neighbour. Get those two things right and everything else fall into place. You don't get to choose who your neighbour is. God puts people in front of you and expects you to show them unconditional love, no matter how difficult you may find it. If you are trying your hardest to be a loving presence in the world, even if you sometimes get it wrong, then you can call yourself a Christian. You are a follower of Jesus. However, if you peddle hate and sow division in the name of God or if you weaponize parts of the Old Testament to further your own prejudices, then please don't call yourself a Christian, because you're not. If you hate your neighbour, then you can't love God. Strong words, but Jesus never pulled his punches when he challenged hate. Neither should we when we speak in his name.

Steven Coull



Wonder and Worship: Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest- Dr Ruth Bancewicz

It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.

I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for - thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those

species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of creation?



A sermon in sand - Revd Richard Higginbottom

If you are fortunate enough to get to the seaside this summer, then you might like to wriggle your toes in the warm sand, and consider the following:

It has been said that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches in the world. More recently, as the estimated number of stars has increased, then even the grains of sand in all the world's deserts have been added to the comparison!

The Sun, vast though it is, is a fairly ordinary star, 93 million miles away. It is not easy to grasp that sort of a distance, but here's a measuring stick: if you were to fly in a fast passenger jet at 600 miles per hour, then it would take you about 17 hours to fly from London to Sydney; about 17 days to reach the Moon, and about 17 years to reach the Sun!

As for how long it would take to fly on to the next nearest star to us - Proxima Centauri - it would take about 4.2 light years, as the distance is more than 24 trillion miles! And that is just to the next nearest star after the Sun.

How many stars are there in the Universe? Astronomers recently estimated that there are about 70,000 million, million, million stars.

As you sit there you might care to pick up a couple of grains of sand. Let the first grain represent our Sun, the second grain the next nearest star to us. Then look at the whole beach and after that consider all the beaches on Earth, with every grain of sand representing a star then it gives some meaning to the phrase "God the Father *Almighty*, Maker of heaven and earth."



The lady who wanted three hymns

One Sunday a minister announced that the church needed some extra money. He asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra, and as an enticement, added that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns.

The offering plate was passed around, and to the minister's amazement, someone had put in a cheque for £1,000. He shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to thank the person who'd given the cheque. A very quiet, elderly lady shyly made her way down to the front of the church. The minister told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much, and asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation. She pointed carefully to the three handsomest men in the building and said: "I'll take him, and him, and him."



You wait for us

You wait for us until we are open to You.
We wait for Your word to make us receptive.
Attune us to Your voice, to Your silence.

Speak and bring Your son to us – Jesus, the word of Your peace.
Your word is near, O Lord our God, Your grace is near.
Come to us then, with mildness and power.

Do not let us be deaf to You, but make us receptive and open
To Jesus Christ Your Son, who will come to look for us and save us
Today and every day, for ever and ever.

By Huub Oosterhuis, (b 1933), is a Jesuit priest in Holland whose ministry has mainly been to the student community of Amsterdam. He has played a major role in the renewal of the Dutch liturgy.

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ROTA **JULY** **2022**

Date:	CELEBRANT/ Pastoral Assistant/ Address	Readers/ Intercessions:	Readings:	Sidesperson	FLOWERS (cleaning) Teas
03/07/22 PENTECOST 4	BISHOP ANDREW <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Bishop Andrew	Dee Foulds Andrew Herbert Michael Price Sue Selway	2 KINGS 5: 1-14 GALATIANS 6: 1-16 LUKE 10: 1-11, 16-20	Irene Butler	Sheila Usher Carol/George
10/07/22 PENTECOST 5 Irene	GEORGE MASSON <i>Irene Butler</i> Address: George Masson	Carol Herbert Ken Tonge Sheila Usher Dee Foulds	AMOS 7: 7-17 COLOSSIANS 1: 1-14 LUKE 10: 25-37	Sue Selway	Sue Manson Rhoda/Carl
17/07/22 PENTECOST 6	REV MARY JEPPI <i>Steven Coull</i> Address: Rev Mary Jepp	John Usher George Masson Carol Masson Ken Tonge	AMOS 8: 1-12 COLOSSIANS 1: 15-28 LUKE 10: 38-42	George Masson	Rhona Vassilikos Sylvia/David
24/07/22 PENTECOST 7	ARMA ISLES <i>Sheila Usher</i> Address: Arma Isles	Katy Gill Andrew Herbert Steven Coull Sue Selway	HOSEA 1: 2-10 COLOSSIANS 2: 6-19 LUKE 11: 1-13	Steven Coull	Sheila Usher Katy
31/07/22 PENTECOST 8	REV MARY JEPPI <i>Irene Butler</i> Address: Rev Mary Jepp	Dee Foulds Michael Price Carol Herbert Sheila Usher	ISAIAH 1: 1, 10-20 HEBREWS 11: 1-3, 8-16 LUKE 12: 32-40	Sue Selway	Sue Manson Carol/George
07/08/22 PENTECOST 9 Transfiguration of the Lord	GEORGE MASSON <i>Irene Butler</i> Address: George Masson	Ken Tonge John Usher Carol Masson Dee Foulds	DANIEL 7: 9-10, 13-14 2 PETER 1: 16-19 LUKE 9: 28-36	Steven Coull	Rhona Vassilikos Rhoda/Carl