

**ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LOCKERBIE
NEWSLETTER**



EASTER SPECIAL

APRIL 2022

Let us thank God for enabling us to step into the season of Lent. For us, lent is a time for preparation for the celebration of Easter through penance, prayer and works of charity. It is a time of preparation, purification, participation and proclamation. And it is the right time to make the right decisions. As we observe the Lent season, we are invited to hear God's words from our prayers, meditations and charitable activities.



During this Lenten desert journey towards Easter, the Word of God will challenge us to choose God and his ways above all else, and it will be aided by the gracious activity of God in Christ. In this season of Lent let us express our commitment to the ongoing mission of our church by offering our generous support to the children in Romania and the people of Ukraine. We hear terrible and shocking news from Ukraine as we walk towards the Easter experience. Easter is the sign of victory over war, death and darkening powers. We experience the new life of the risen Jesus not only as individuals but also a community. Where there is communal brokenness there is the possibility of communal resurrection. I would like to say that Easter did not happen just once in the past. It happens every day. The Covid 19 situation in the year 2021 was a time we learned from our faith in God that "we shall overcome."



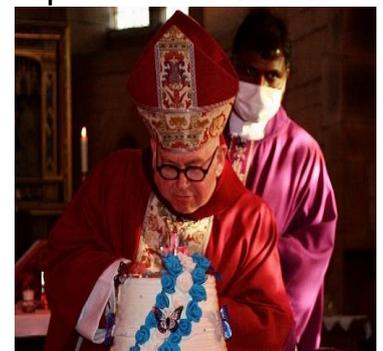
Thanks for the team of scientists who inherited the wisdom from God and invented effective vaccines and for the medical teams who have been rolling out to people. The Covid situation couldn't touch our Christmas celebrations. Abida baked 107 cakes for the members of our congregations and for the neighbours of our congregations. Said that, "This was a humble effort in seeing the baby Jesus in the face of our sisters and brothers."

I am happy to say that our teens have made wonderful performances in arts and games. On behalf of our church, I extend congratulations to our teens.



Last year we could celebrate the 120th anniversary of our church, and joyfully confirmed Kegan and Kevin on the day of its anniversary. Bishop Kevin and His wife Elspeth enjoyed our hospitality. We could commemorate and celebrate the 120th anniversary of our missional journey by lighting

120 candles and cutting a beautiful cake. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of our Vestry for their wholehearted support extended towards the success of this ceremony. Special thanks to Elizabeth MacDonnell, David Rose, Ian Stewart, Lyn Prahl and Abida for offering their support in different capacities.



Your sincere prayers and generous giving lead our church vibrantly in carrying out the ministry of our church. The Bible says, "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cori. 9:6-7). It is my sincere prayer and wish that the Almighty God will be with you always, and will pour His blessings and healing upon you abundantly. May the power of the Risen Christ will lead you at all times.

Re. Dr. Paul Singh JR
Rector

An odd title perhaps but for all of my ministry I have wrestled with the problem of how it is that we can join with the world easily in celebrating Christmas but really struggle with putting across the events of Holy Week and Easter to folk outside our own congregations. Perhaps it is to do with not wanting to believe that there can be such changes in a short time from the joy of Palm Sunday to the desolation of Good Friday and the joy of Easter morning. For me Holy week is something about reality because we look at the actions of not just the "goodies" but also the "baddies" in that tumultuous week. For example, I once led a service on the Wednesday of Holy week on Judas which left me with the question of how much was his betrayal of Jesus preordained and how much was it his choice. With Maundy Thursday comes the importance of that new commandment of Jesus which looks at Mission to all humanity. Good Friday is more than the Crucifixion because it is about drawing to our attention man's inhumanity to man. It further is a classic demonstration of how humanity fails to recognise what God gives us freely through grace. Thirdly it demonstrates how feeble our faith can be through the eyes of the disciples who flee like scared rabbits. Fourthly it is the day when God starts the fight back by his demonstration of power splitting the curtain of the Temple. Easter Sunday morning with the celebration of the Resurrection demonstrates that death is overcome. With that comes a recognition by the world of the need to allow God into our lives and the serious danger of ploughing our own furrow and ignoring God's grace.

Easter is a time for celebration and renewal. A time to resolve to follow Christ more faithfully and to show Christ in us to others in the way we lead our lives. We can do that more easily if we give time for reflection on the immense suffering that Jesus underwent for us.

Rev. Nick Mark

Treasurer's Report

The Vestry has approved various projects this year in relation to our buildings:

- New smoke alarms were installed in the Rectory in compliance with the new fire regulations.
- Lighting was installed on the footpath to make it safer for those attending evening events in the Church.
- External sockets were installed to enable floodlighting of the Church and to power the Nativity scene.

- The pointing of the external stonework of the Church is to be improved in order to prevent rainwater penetration.
- New LED lamps were installed in the Church, each with a loading of 17.5 watts compared to the original 500 watts.

In addition work is ongoing to upgrade our facilities for filming services, funerals, etc which will enable these to be streamed worldwide. We were awarded a grant of £4,000 from the Provincial Recovery and Renewal Fund towards this project. We also received a very generous anonymous donation, part of which the Vestry decided to use to finance the balance of the cost of this project. Most of the remainder of this donation has been invested which will assist our finances for years to come.

When All Saints became linked with St John's Moffat it was agreed to share ministry costs on the basis of 40/60 respectively. This reflected the level of reserves in each Church but now that we have been able to add to our investments both Vestries have agreed to change the formula to 45/55 with effect from 1 January 2022.

The position remains that our normally recurring income is insufficient to meet our annual outgoings so it is important that each of us regularly reviews the amount we are able to give each week.

As ever the Vestry would like to put on record our grateful thanks for all the generous support of our members, both in cash and in kind.

Ian Stewart

Hon Treasurer

Bishop's Lent Appeal

The charity chosen by Bishop Kevin this year is Children in Distress. This is a small charity whose head administrative office is in Glasgow and whose work is dedicated to helping suffering children in Romania. They work with the sick, the incurably and terminally ill, those with HIV/AIDS, autistic spectrum conditions, children with disabilities and those who face a daily challenge for life as a result of an accident, infection, genetic or congenital conditions, those who daily face discrimination or religious persecution, the socially excluded, the desperate and disadvantaged children and families, the poorest of the poor.

During lent there will be a plate at the back of the Church for donations or, for those unable to come to Church, donations can be given or sent to the Treasurer or the Rector.

HELP FOR UKRAINE

The Vestry is aware that many members will already have responded to the various appeals that have been recently launched to help those affected by the disastrous war in Ukraine. Nevertheless it is felt that as a Church we need to show our concern and pain in some way. It has been decided that on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June, we will hold a special service at which a collection for Ukraine will be taken. By that time the war will hopefully have ended and we will be able to decide how best to use your donations. As always donations will be gratefully received at any time from those unable to attend on 5 June. The Vestry will be considering the format of the service and may invite someone from the local Ukrainian community to give an address.

Message from David Rose

What a dilemma we find ourselves in; when all our thoughts should be about Spring and Easter, daffodils and lambs, sowing seeds in the garden.

Instead we have the horrible vista of war in Europe creating shortages, high prices of food, heating, thousands of refugees, thousands dying from bombardments of residential properties. What is in the mind of those launching missiles from ships over the horizon or firing artillery into residential areas from beyond the hill or forests. We see that populations are fed half-truths, that leaders are fed half-truths by those who do not dare to be found wanting. These are 'Christian' nations with beautiful churches and long histories of worshiping God and believing in Jesus Christ who died for us all. We must pray much harder for an end to conflicts throughout the world, for the real joy of peace and care for those not able to look after themselves, sharing our scarce resources of food and fuel and sharing the joy of our coming together on Sundays to worship and say thank you Lord for all that we have. Above all we must speak the truth, we must shun those who twist the truth for their own gain.

As we approach Easter and the great joy of the risen Lord we must believe in all that the Lord has given us, when we plant the seed knowing that it will grow and that we will harvest and share its produce with others. Help us to recognise when our prayers are answered and to be awake to your creatures great and small as they emerge from winter, with the new lambs and song birds and the whole joy of your wonderful world.

David Rose

Vestry Member

Report from the Lay Representative Galloway Regional Council

The meeting held at Greyfriars, Kirkcudbright held on the 8th February 2022 was attended by lay reps Paul Tofield and Pamela Young.

Nominations for election to the following boards were accepted; General Synod , Clergy nomination – Rev. Dr. Paul Singh JR. For the Diocesan Council, Clergy nomination - Rev Janice Aiton, (St John's Dumfries Rector). Lay nomination - Nicolette Wise, St Margaret's (New Galloway). During the discussion about the revisions proposed, a number of points were raised which were referred back to John Mitchell the Diocesan secretary. Information regarding Climate Change continues to be circulated about the requirements which vestries should meet as required by the SEC General Synod, key to this is a Ten Point Plan is to be considered by vestries, with each having to deal with a different set of goals, hence there is no one plan which will fit every situation. More detail would be offered at Synod.

Diocesan Synod Meeting

Held by zoom on Saturday 5th March 2022. The business of the day was conducted after a Eucharist and sermon from Bishop Kevin. For the financial year ending 30th November 2021 an operating deficit of £229k was posted against the budget deficit of £437K. An increase in total funds to the value of £1.1Million was mainly due to the assets received from the dissolution of St Mungo's Alexandria. The 2022 budget was presented with an expected deficit of £464k for that period.

The SEC intends to be net carbon zero by 2030. A toolkit to assist in the achievement of this objective was expected for dissemination in mid-March. (Now achieved).

The Dean highlighted the new care packages available to staff through a company called Spectrum Life. Ensuring a proper work/life balance for staff to support those whose role is to support their congregations, is now seen as a vital part of church life. Staff can access support now commonly available in the commercial world and the public sector.

During the Synod session the Dean Reuben Preston provided a virtual tour of the new facilities.

Paul Tofield
Lay Representative

Congratulations



Isla Derrek Beaton has done fantastic performance in a series of Dance competitions. Her performances are greatly appreciated by the judges. Congratulations Isla!

Job Jegan Paul has been selected to play for the Scottish Under 19 American Football. He played his first tournament in Sterling in January 2022. Congratulations Kegan!



Isla Derrek Beeton

Job Jegan Paul

Art of Green Living: Explained by our young members



Bethany Derrek Beeton



Isla Derrek Beeton



Hue Taylor



Hilary Bill's Christmas contribution to raise money

120th Anniversary & Confirmation Service



Dates for the Diary

Palm Sunday 10th April at 11.15am

Maundy Thursday 14th April at 6.30pm Holy Communion with Passover Meal

Good Friday 15th April

- 1) **Walk of Witness** (Churches Together in Lockerbie at 11.00am)
- 2) **Good Friday Meditation: Saying on the Cross** at 3.00pm

Easter Service 16th April at 11.15am

For more information

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