

# ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOCKERBIE

## Green Craft



**Newsletter September 2022**

### **Rector's Message**

The present global generation is called to give attention to the cries of the living beings who are undergoing severe problems due to drought, storms, floods, crop damage and sea-level rise and Heatwaves. Spiritually evolving human moral climate is vital in responding to the ecological crisis. We, as members of All Saints Lockerbie, have been entrusted by the Creator God to initiate nature-based solutions to create eco-system aiming at sustaining rich-biodiversity habitats. Finding solutions naturally, I believe we can play a vital role in preserving soil, vegetation and ecosystem, and to play our maximum role in absorbing carbon from our atmosphere. It is a local solution to the global climate crisis. This can be called, "Green Craft."

The very initial book and chapters of the Bible (Torah) begins with the revelation of God as Creator of the universe and a Gardener of Eden. In the Garden we witness that God "planted trees" and "made springs." These verbs clearly express the image of God which is portrayed as Creator and a Gardener.

Our houses are surrounded by ecosystems. There trees and plants have anchored in the soil. They use water, sunlight, and carbon dioxide from the air to produce energy by photosynthesis. This energy is the foundation for the vast diversity of interacting life forms that are our biological inheritance, and we too are part of that web. By crafting green philosophy in our house premises, we treat the lungs of the earth and sustain them as reservoirs of biodiversity.

I understand from the photos of your garden that you are following the wisdom of God the Green Gardener to refine and restore our local ecosystems. Let us continue the task of the Green Gardener.

I would like to sincerely thank Olwyn McCallion for giving me her Green House. I hope this would help improve my gardening skills creatively in tune with the Scottish weather. While I was trying to



shift the Greenhouse from Olwyn's house to the Rectory, Rev. Nick Mark and Paul Tofield gave their skilful and physical support to transport them and erect them at the Rectory Garden. I record my wholehearted gratitude to them for their enormous support.

While I was on my holidays Tomy, my neighbour watered my flowering plants and vegetable garden. I would like to extend my profound thanks to his green mind and generous heart.

I believe that you all would join me in appreciating the brilliant Green Craft work Lynne is doing at her garden and in the church. She plants colourful flowering plants in her own garden and brings them all to the church for decorating the church. On behalf of our church, I extend heartfelt thanks to Lynne.

God the Green Gardener has placed us on the earth with the task of greening our living habitats. Let us continue the task of the Green Gardener now.

**Rev. Dr. Paul Singh JR**  
**Rector**

### **Individual Approach to Respecting Creation**

In 1995 Nigel Cooper in *Wildlife in Church and Churchyard* wrote, "The science of ecology helps us appreciate the interdependence of all life on this planet. We can no longer

believe that our relationship to the natural world is a simple hierarchy: God's will being imposed upon the brute creation through human agency and the brute creation serving God through meeting human needs. There must be a mutuality; the natural world sustains our life while we must nurture it." Twenty seven years later our failure to follow this through is resulting in a continuing extinction of species, drought, fire and flood. All is not lost because the number of people who realise that failure to respect God's creation and our efforts to tame creation can only result in increasing chaos. Our Creation services give us the opportunity to rethink our individual approach to respecting creation. It is easy to say someone should do something about it. God I believe wants that someone to be each one of us. It is time for humanity to accept that our efforts to subdue creation are the root cause of problems arising all over the world. Let us implement the changes God wants in our lives.

**Rev. Nick Mark**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our annual coffee, chat and gift day was held on Saturday 2 September. Although not many managed to attend, it was an enjoyable social occasion and 11 members donated a total of £1,090. Thanks to all who supported this event and if you were unable to attend I will be happy to accept any further donations. We are awaiting clearance from the Diocesan Property Committee to go ahead with the further development of technology in the Church which will enable live streaming of services so this expenditure has been delayed into the new financial year. This initiative will also allow live streaming of

events such as funerals, weddings or baptisms when this is requested by the family.

We have been given advance warning to expect a significant increase in the Standard Stipend and associated costs next year. Our electricity contract will also be up for renewal in the spring so the Vestry are expecting to have to cope with a an increasing budget shortfall in the coming years.

On a brighter note we hope to be able to restart fundraising events as long as Covid remains firmly under control.

On Pentecost Sunday a special service was held for Ukraine and, together with donations which Malcolm received at his Jubilee beacon celebration at Rammerscales, a total of £700 was raised. This was topped up to £1,000 by the Vestry and it is hoped to use this to support refugees who are currently living locally.

As always we are grateful for the generosity of our small membership which ensures that All Saints will be able to continue to be an important part of the fabric of Lockerbie and District well into the future.

**Ian Stewart**

**Hon Treasurer**

### **Children's Garden (Scavengers Community Garden Project)**

A group of lovely children, aged between 4 to 8 years old, come to All Saints Church every Thursday evening as part of a community award scheme, which includes tending to a



garden and looking after plants. This group usually has between 8 and 12 members each week. They grew lettuce, strawberries and some flowering plants. Paul Tofield gave some wooden pallets to make their gardening work easy and comfortable.

### **2022 Vegetable Growing; A Disaster**

I am really not sure what went wrong at home this year, but the crops are variable and much poorer than last year.

Germination of the peas, dwarf beans and broad beans were hit and miss. The seed was planted at the same time in ground cultivated, then rotavated twice, as last year, yet there were long runs in the drills where nothing germinated. I used a new seed supplier this year, so suspected the seed. Not one dwarf bean germinated, so I sowed 12 plants indoors and they all germinated. So it is probably not the seed.

Everything including the potatoes and onion sets were planted 3 to 4 weeks later than last year. Each time the weather came right for working the ground and sowing, I did not have time to cultivate



and plant before the next band of rain. Rabbits and possibly deer are damaging the plants this year which I have not seen in previous years. Then the onion sets, although in raised beds and shielded, took three days of punishment from strong winds which flattened and broke the leaves. I think they just gave up.



I was surprised to see the volunteer potatoes from last year's crop I missed harvesting having survived the winter and being chopped by the rotavator outgrowing the new seed. The seed by chance came from a well-known local seed potato grower, so I had confidence in what I planted.



So next year the approach will be different. A fresh area of west facing ground sheltered by the house will be cleared and "bunny" and his friends will find a wooden fence and buried rocks to negotiate in 2023. On a recent visit to Annandale Distillery to stock up with well proven amber liquid for medicinal purposes, I picked up a free gardening magazine which had a poly tunnel



designed for the climate of Shetland with a high content of recycled material. These tunnels have been around for over ten years and if they can work in the Shetland climate, then they should do well at home.

Perhaps another hard lesson learned is that I should have prioritised my time better in favour of the garden and avoiding less worthwhile activity. Now I can raise a glass of Annandale whisky, either Man of Sword which recognises the life of Robert the Bruce, or Man of Words inspired by Burns. One thing is for

sure it will be a long time before they distil Man of Gardening in recognition of my horticultural achievements.

**Paul Tofield**



When Ian sowed these sunflowers the seed packet said they would grow to 4-5 feet so he put in 6 foot canes to support them. After much TLC they grew to more than 12 feet 6 inches!

**Ian Stewart**



"I picked flowers from my garden and with a some time, patience and effort turned them into this arrangement at church which I hope everyone enjoyed." **Lynne Prhal**





**Mary Marr**



**Dianne  
Endacott**



**Hilary Carmichael & Bill Carmichael**



**David Rose**



**Ann Wilson**







**A click from Ann's Eco- Garden**



**From the Rectory Garden**

### **Forthcoming Events**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October Taize Service 7.00pm**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October Confirmation Service 11.15am**