

NEWS & VIEWS



December 2014 & January 2015

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Luton Place, Edinburgh

The Anglican Communion in Scotland
in full communion with the Church of England.

DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Bishop: The Rt Revd John Armes

St Peter's Church Office

The Office is in the Church Lodge, 14 Lutton Place, EH8 9PE.
Charity No: SC017358

It is open from 9am – 2pm from Monday to Thursday.
Visitors are welcome to pop in and see our Administrator, Derek Harley
0131 662 9171 or office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Clergy Days Off:

Rector, The Revd Canon Fred Tomlinson - usually Monday

If you or one of your family are sick or have gone into hospital,
please let the clergy know as soon as possible
and, if you want them for any reason, please do not hesitate to
telephone.

Please consult the Rector before any arrangements are made for
Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals.

If you would like to have a copy of sermons please let the Rector know.

Notices for the Sunday Newspaper

Need to be with the office by noon on the preceding Wednesday.
Additional notices may be passed to the clergy to read out at the
various Sunday services.

Contributions to *News & Views*

Articles and advertisements are welcome and can be emailed to
office@stpetersedinburgh.org and cc'd to
rector@stpetersedinburgh.org

Copy in the body of the email or Word documents, please do not send
PDF's. Handwritten or typed articles can also be left at the Church
Office (address above). Photographs and drawings are also welcome.

The DEADLINE for articles for the December & January edition of *News
& Views* is Wednesday 21st January for publication on Sunday 1st
February.

Rector's Letter December 2014 / January 2015

Dear Friends

Christmas Angels

A newspaper ran a story reported by the staff members of Dorset County Hospital. It concerned a little boy's personal account of his recent tonsillectomy at the hospital. He said, "When I went into the big room it was very bright there were two lady angels dressed in white. Then two men angels looked down my throat and one said, "God! Look at that child's tonsils." Then God looked and said, "I'll take them out at once."

The lad obviously mistook a doctor for an angel. And yet, it seemed perfectly natural to him that angels should be in the operating room watching out for him. Are angels just a figment of a child's imagination? Or, is there something to the whole idea of angels with whom it is possible for human beings to experience a close encounter of the spiritual kind?

During the Advent and Christmas season we will all hear and sing the traditional songs:

"Hark the herald angels sing..."

"Angels from the realms of glory..."

"While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground..,

the angel of the Lord came down..."

"It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old..,

from angels bending near the earth..."

"Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation..."

"The first noel, the angels did say... "

And... all of our traditional Christmas stories speak of:

An angel who brought news to Mary that she would be with child by the Holy Spirit

An angel who told Joseph not to break it off with Mary...

An angel who broke through the heavens to tell shepherds that the Saviour had been born...

Of course Sunday by Sunday we speak of angels in our liturgy, but so quickly that often we scarcely notice it – we say, “therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven....” In other words our services week by week take place in the company of the heavenly host.

Is this just something it’s okay to speak and sing about in church, but not something we’d even countenance speaking of outside? In our modern, sophisticated, scientific, rational world, is there a place for all this singing and reading and discussion of angels? I hope so!

So let me encourage you in the coming season to be open to God and his messengers. Remember their function... To bring you a message from God - To bring you strength, hope, peace - that is to minister to you in your inward spirit.

You may not ever be aware of an angelic presence..., but the whole subject can keep you open spiritually. The lesson for us is that we can expect to hear from God... inwardly ... in our spirits.

You may also trust that God is with you no matter what the circumstance... There may be times when you wonder, but God is there and it is very possible that the Lord may have a personal representative at your side during your toughest times.

As you enter the New Year, may you discover the grace and guidance of God and may you be touched by an angel!

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Monday Group

The Monday Group meets regularly at 7.30pm in the choir vestry during the winter months – October to April – on the first and third Mondays of the month. Please note that membership is now open to all – both men and women.

We resumed our meetings on Monday 6th October with a Welcome Party with wine & nibbles and also a speaker – Karen Docwra gave us a most interesting talk about Waverley Care. On Monday 21st October the Revd Sue Whitehouse took a service of Holy Communion and told us a little bit about her journey through life and to the priesthood. On Monday 3rd November the talk about Water Aid was excellent and on Monday 17th November Ruth Green spoke about the mind / body relationship which was most enlightening.

At the time of writing work is under way for the St Andrew's Party on Monday 1st December for senior members of the congregation, which we hope will go with a swing.

Our own members' party is on Monday January 12th at Kate Gemmell's house, 14 Midmar Gardens, please note change of date – NOT on 19th as previously intimated. On Monday February 2nd Derek Harley will be giving an illustrated talk about his visit to Borneo.

We would very much welcome new members. Members of St Peter's of all ages and their friends are most welcome to join the group, we are a friendly bunch and have an interesting variety of speakers.

Liz Philp

Community Outreach Group

Since the Summer Fair, COG has continued to be active, seeking ways of strengthening the St Peter's family and reaching out to the wider community. The Age Scotland ceilidh on 3rd Oct was enjoyed by all. Our band, Scotch Snap, were brilliant as ever and Rebecca's singing was a delight, but we didn't sell quite enough tickets to make much of a profit to send to our chosen charity. We hope to boost this with the proceeds of a Coffee Morning on 31st January 2015. Please put this into your diaries so we have a good turn-out. There will be a baking stall and some home-grown entertainment. Let me know if you'd like to contribute to this event.

On Sunday 16th Nov, we revived the St Peter's tradition of church walks, starting with an easy one from the church round the Old Innocent Railway. Arthur regaled us with stories of his days driving a train through that long tunnel and showed us pictures of the old line and sidings at St Leonards. The photo shows Yorick, Derek, Angus, Daniel, Alec, Ian, Roger, Nicholas and Liz emerging from light into darkness!

We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed the good fellowship, guided by Mark's helpful route instructions and fortified by June's lovely sandwiches. Let us know if you've ideas for future walks.

The next event will be a trial Bethany Night Shelter to be held in the church hall in January. Bethany would like St Peter's to join their list of churches offering to help them provide shelter and a hot evening meal for homeless people around Edinburgh. The first time we do this, the catering team will be an experienced group from the Hope! Church with some of the St Peter's volunteers shadowing them to find out how it's done. Two COG members have already observed at Granton Parish church and were very impressed by the Bethany organisation and the demand for this service. We hope this will be a regular feature of St Peter's Christian witness.

Once again, please let me know if you have suggestions for events you would like to see COG organising or helping with in 2015. We also need more volunteers to help us plan and deliver our activities.

Liz Hare

0131 337 8570/lizhare@blueyonder.co.uk

Bible Reading Fellowship

BRF is celebrating 25 years of their 'New Daylight' notes. I picked up a free sampler while on holiday in Guernsey. I managed to get a few more from BRF and have left them at the back of church. They consist of a short reading, a commentary and a short reflection for each day. Please take one away if you are interested in this. The notes come out every 4 months, and are very reasonably priced at £4.25, and £5.25 for the large print. If you would like further details, please get in touch.

Dorothy Munro

669 3953

Eulogy of Alison Gemmell

“Alison never realised how much she brought to the world, or how funny she was and it’s like a lightbulb has gone out in the world”. That’s how Geri, one of her friends, described Alison and in a few words summed up for us the feelings of so many people who have been profoundly touched by her life and by her early passing.

It’s meant much to Kate and Gavin that Geri and others have taken time to recall both their memories and also the qualities which they will for ever associate with Alison. Even as a young child Alison made an impression, as someone recalled, “I just remember the lovely little well behaved toddler I used to babysit for”.

This carried on when she went to school, “I remember Alison in her Watson uniform with her pals – thinking how ‘cool’ they were and hoping one day I might be just like her”. Or again, “I can honestly say that Alison is one of my oldest and most special friends. We met aged 17 and I have very strong memories of dinners at your house before rugby matches, and her amazing orange bedroom in your family home”.

For a number of years Alison worked in banking and could well have gone on to flourish in that profession. Instead, Alison chose to step back and re-orientate her career towards the love of her life – sailing. A number of people have written to say how “courageous, gallant, brave and adventurous” she was to make that change to a sailing career.

Robert has written to say that just a fortnight ago “.....she was teaching us how to manoeuvre the boat in and out of the marina without endangering ourselves or our boat. In both cases she taught with great good humour and competence which made the whole learning experience most enjoyable”. Many of her sailing friends and her trainees over the years would echo those sentiments.

Just one example of this comes from a feedback note from someone who had sailed with Alison to St Kilda. He notes, "Alison Gemmell was outstanding in every way and deserves particular mention. In over 30 years of sailing, I would have to work hard to recall a more gifted and better-informed instructor, and even perhaps, a better skipper. She was always miles ahead of the game and, in particular, had us in shelter at Loch Maddy about 14 hours before our Force 9/10 arrived."

Time and time again, it's Alison's warm and generous spirit which speaks to people and leaves its mark on them for good. Again, as Robert says, "Alison had a really great personality and I will always remember her welcoming smile and embrace whenever we met. I and her many friends will miss that smile and embrace."

Robert here speaks for all of us in our sense of loss. Nothing can take away the fact that Gavin and Kate have lost a much loved daughter, John and Lynsey a loving sister, their children a devoted aunt, and for so many people a good and caring friend.

We started with a memory shared by Geri and it seems appropriate to finish with her words also. "I last saw Alison in May and she was full of beans. And indeed was planning to come out and stay with me and get away from a cold Edinburgh winter. I loved your gorgeous, amazing, kind-souled daughter. I hope she is in eternal sunshine now with just the right amount of sea spray on her face".

Today then, her voyage among us here finished, we commend Alison to God's care and protection; in that haven may she find his rest and eternal peace.

Journeying with Mark

On Advent Sunday (November 30th) we shall move into Year B of the church lectionary which lists the Bible readings for our services. The three year cycle takes each of the first three Gospels in turn as the lead Gospel for that year, with St John's Gospel featuring at different points in each of the years. This means that over time we have an insight into the characteristics of each of the Gospels: the different approaches and perceptions of the various writers contributing to our own understanding of Jesus....who he is...what he has done for us...our response to him.

This year we shall be concentrating on St Mark's Gospel and, as part of St Peter's Five Year Plan, we shall endeavour to journey together as a church with Mark as he leads us to Christ. When the Sunday Gospel is from Mark the sermon will be based on that reading; the Vestry will consider readings from Mark in the prayer and meditation at the beginning of their meetings; there will be opportunity to join a Bible-study group and Lent groups, perhaps based on the area groupings mentioned in the new directory, might focus on aspects of Mark's writing.

It's an exciting prospect! Mark's Gospel is short, vibrant and immediate. He includes small details in his accounts and descriptions which help draw us in to the narrative. And, as we become involved, the "good news" thread throughout the Gospel becomes immediate for us today - together with the challenges of what discipleship means for us in our own situation.

Everyone will receive a copy of Mark's Gospel (£1 donation – if you wish) so that it is readily at hand. This will be the Good News version which includes some telling line drawings which in themselves can evoke meditation. As Christians we are a pilgrim people moving together in our earthly lives as Christ's Church in the light of his teachings, his death and his resurrection. Journeying with Mark will be a focused part of that overall journey and, as with any expedition, it is important that we do all set out! – and with hope and expectation.

Sue Whitehouse

St Peter's Cumulative Giving over Advent and Christmastide

This year the Vestry has decided that all our fundraising during Advent and Christmastide shall be headed to "*Feed the Minds*".

Feed the Minds helps marginalised people transform their lives through education by means of community-led projects in the Global South. *Feed the Minds* has been operating for the past 50 years and is set to continue for the next fifty.

So let us help *Feed the Minds* to make a world of difference to the world! For those who are able to tick the giftaid box there will be giftaid envelopes available or you can use St Peter's envelopes, but in either case if you use a cheque in payment please make it payable to "St Peter's Church" and we shall send a single cheque from St Peter's on behalf of us all. Groups who have had special involvement in the fundraising will be indicated in our submission to *Feed the Minds*."

Thank you

Jim Phillips

Congratulations Anne



On Sunday 16th
November Anne
Tomlinson was made a
Canon of the Diocese of
Edinburgh at St Mary's
Cathedral.

Congratulations Anne



Children and Youth Work



As always the year has flown by and what better way to end it then a Star Wars Marathon (for the uninitiated this involves watching a number of the movies one after another, in our case episodes 4, 5 and 6) and a trip to the cinema to see the final instalment of the Hobbit trilogy!

Our older teenagers have been watching a movie of a different kind in Sunday's Cool. "God's not dead" is a thought provoking film that I discovered thanks to one of our teenagers pointing it out to me on Youtube when he was on work experience in the office earlier this year.

The film follows the trials of a number of Christians in their daily lives. They include, a university student who is challenged by a philosophy professor to defend his faith, a young woman from a Muslim family and the minister of a local church.

Many of the most challenging questions that face Christians today are raised and addressed with answers that are both biblically sound and common sense. It is my hope that it will encourage our teenagers to firmly hold to the view that:

God's not Dead!

As always I am indebted to the members of our congregation who support our Children and Youth Work through their willingness to attend events, teach or sing in Sunday's Cool or indeed to pray at home.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Derek

childrenandyouthwork@stpetersedinburgh.org

07578132568

Prayer Points

This year I have decided to write a prayer for each magazine and then say it every day. I would like to invite all those who wish to support our children and youth work to say this prayer with me.

Father,

Mighty and merciful, holy and true, you rule, you reign, and we bow before your greatness.

Thank you for the year that is ending and year ahead of us.
Thank you for the things that you have helped us to achieve this year.
Thank you for the plans you have for us in the year ahead.

We ask that you will bring our children and teenagers to faith in you through your son Jesus Christ.

A faith that is strong and deep.
A faith that will stand the test of time and trials.
A faith that they will share with others.

O Lord there is none like you.
May we live our lives peacefully and quietly
and know that there is nothing in heaven or in earth that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



Scientists in Congregations



Four Advent collects have now been completed and will be distributed on each of the four Sunday's of Advent for use in the 10.45am services. Two devotional readings will be available in a booklet form by the end of January and will be available at the back of church.

If you are unable to attend on Sunday mornings and would like a copy of either the collects or devotional readings please contact Derek in the church office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org, 0131 662 9171

Fresh Start

First of all I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who supported our Christmas Sale on Saturday. It raised a fantastic £850 for the work of Fresh Start! We still have a few items for sale which would make great Christmas gifts, so if you are down in the warehouse please pop in and have a look.

At the moment we are on the lookout for volunteers for our curtain team and specifically to join our current team on Wednesday mornings. Following our last request for volunteers we received some replies for which we are very thankful, however we are still on the lookout for people who are able to come to volunteer at the warehouse at Ferry Road Drive with our current volunteers. Working in a team is a very valuable aspect of volunteering and is also extremely helpful in terms of physically handling some of the aspects of the curtain team volunteer role. If you or somebody you know is interested in finding out more please have a look at the website or give me a call and we can chat some more about what this role would involve.

As it approaches the end of the year we are beginning to look ahead to what next year will hold for Fresh Start and its supporters.

Homelessness Sunday will be on *Sunday 18th January 2015* and on *Sunday 15th February 2015* it will be Poverty Action Sunday, both of which are extremely relevant to the work that Fresh Start does.

I attach two links with some more information regarding these two dates for further information:

<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/380/>

<http://www.actionweek.org.uk/home.html>

With best wishes from all at Fresh Start,

Lorna Bowry

Volunteer Coordinator - Provision of Goods

Fresh Start

0131 476 7741

www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Happy Christmas from Yorick

Dear Friend's at St Peters,

I spend most of my working time as a full-time Bible storyteller preparing and rehearsing on my own. I have been very blessed over the last two years by being able to rehearse in St Peter's garden, in the hall, the Millar Chapel and the church itself.

Fred and the team have been most supportive and accommodating to the development of this ministry, and as I am now entering into the fifth consecutive year of ministering, '**Christmas from Luke**', I would very much like to take this opportunity to thank Fred, Derek and the team and to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas.

Music Notes

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Tom Wrench has been awarded the first Penny Turnbull Organ Scholarship, which has very kindly be donated by Anne Tomlinson in memory of her mother. Tom is a first year student at Edinburgh University studying History and Politics, and has previously played organ at St Laurence, Kirby Misperton in Yorkshire. The scholarship will enable him to have organ lessons with Sheila Chisholm and also give him a small emolument when he plays at services.

Tom has also been awarded a scholarship from the Nancy and Sidney Hibbs Organ Fund, which is administered by The Prayer Book Society to support young organists wishing to learn to play Prayer Book Services. Three of the five or six choral services at St Peter's each month fall into this category: Matins, the 1970 Scottish Eucharist and Choral Evensong. This award will allow Tom to double the frequency of his lessons with Sheila. We wish him well in his studies and look forward to hearing him play at services.

VOICE FOR LIFE

Congratulations to one of our junior choristers, Daniel Ippolito, on achieving his *Voice for Life* Medal and White Ribbon.

Mission to Seafarers

I spend a lot of time knitting, especially during the long winter evenings. I often knit hats for seafarers and I enjoy doing it because I know the hats are for a very good cause. My father-in-law served in the merchant navy and my husband Matt and three of his brothers all served in the navy. These hats are so important to seamen and they are very grateful for them.

Not only do the hats help against the cold winter winds, but they are treasured as a sign that people care about them, especially as they have been blessed, as the Revd Tim Tunley blessed the hats we gave him in October. Tim told us true stories about the lives of the seafarers and the work of the Mission to Seafarers. I know how much the seafarers in my family appreciated seeing the chaplains when they came ashore.

Warm hats are always needed, so I hope we can all keep knitting. If you are not a knitter, please try to bring in some double knitting wool (not white or pastel colours) for others to knit into hats. I hope we can hand over another pile or two of hats before very long.

Nan Murray



Revd Tim Tunley and Nan Murray with the 103 hats we handed over on October 12.

A treat for children, a gift to parents

Workshop for children

P1 – P7



Friday, 19th December 2014
1.30 – 5.30 pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Lutton Place
Cost: £3 per child



Candles, games, music, crafts, storytelling, quizzes and more

.....
Child's

Name:.....Phone:.....

Address:.....

e-mail.....

School year:..... Parents' signature.....

Applications no later than 17th December to:

Mrs Vreni Fry, 12 Munro Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 0EG, Tel: 0131 441
1207

e-mail: vreni.fry@zen.co.uk

cheques made payable to 'St Peter's Church'.

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14th January 2015

7pm

**St Bride's Centre,
10 Orwell Place,
EDINBURGH
EH11 2DZ**

16th January 2015

7pm

**Tynecastle High
School,
2 McLeod Street,
EDINBURGH
EH11 2ND**

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Christmas at St Peter's

Sunday, 14th December
Christingle Service at 10.45am

Sunday, 21st December
Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols by candlelight at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve
Crib service at 4pm
Midnight Communion Service at 11.30pm

Christmas Day
All-age Communion Service
at 10.45am

*You will receive a warm welcome at each of these services.
Why not bring a friend?!*

Dates for your diary

December	
Thursday 4 th	Lunch club meets at the Reverie after the 11am service.
Sunday 7 th	Bring and share lunch after the 10.45 am service
Sunday 14 th	All Age Service with Christingles
Sunday 14 th	Youth Group Event
Friday 19 th	Children's Christmas Workshop
January	
Sunday 4 th	Bring and share lunch after the 10.45 am service
Saturday 31 st	COG coffee morning

Sunday Services at St Peter's

7th December. Advent 2

8.30am Holy Communion
(Scottish Communion Office)
10.45am Sung Mattins
Hall Service
6.30pm Compline

4th January. Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion
(Scottish Communion Office)
10.45am Sung Mattins
Hall Service
6.30pm Compline

14th December. Advent 3

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am All Age Communion
6.30pm Compline

11th January. The Baptism of The Lord

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am 1982 Communion
6.30pm Compline

21st December. Advent 4

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am 1982 Communion with
Sunday's Cool for children
6.30pm Compline

18th January. Epiphany 2

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am 1970 Communion with
Sunday's Cool for children.
6.30pm Compline

28th December. Christmas 1

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am 1982 Communion
6.30pm Compline

25th January. Epiphany 3

8.30am Holy Communion (1929)
10.45am 1982 Communion with
Sunday's Cool for children
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday Services at St Peter's

8.30am Holy Communion

This spoken Morning Prayer and Communion follow the 1929 Prayer Book. There is no music and, on the first Sunday of each month, there is no sermon.

10.45am: Sung Mattins

Held in the Church with the choir and organ: This follows the 1929 Prayer Book, and sometimes includes a choral version of a Canticle.

10.45am: Hall Service

An All-Age Communion service that is held in the hall. It is contemporary in style and music, uses a simple Liturgy and is led by an informal choir and instrumentalists.

10.45am 1982 Communion

This Communion service follows the 1982 Liturgy, with choir and organ, and the congregational Communion Setting is by David Sanger, Noel Rawsthorne or David Jenkins (James MacMillan in Advent and Lent).

10.45am 1970 Communion

This Communion service follows the 1970 Liturgy, with choir and organ, and the Communion Setting is by Merbecke.

Sunday's Cool is held during the 1982 and 1970 Communion services with the children leaving at different times depending on their age. Everyone returns in time for Communion.

All Age Services

All Age services follow a simple Liturgy and mix traditional with contemporary music using both the Organ and Instrumentalists as appropriate.

6.30pm Evening Services:

Compline follows the 1929 Prayer Book.

Choral Evensong is a sung evening service that follows the 1929 Prayer Book.

People

CLERGY:

Rector The Revd Canon Fred Tomlinson 667 6224
3 Bright's Crescent EH9 2DB

Associate Clergy

The Rt Revd Bob Halliday 28 Forbes Road EH10 4ED 221 1490
The Revd Sue Whitehouse 157 The Murrays EH17 8UN 672 1308

Lay Reader Mrs Janet McKinnell,
The Mill House, Newmains, Dunbar EH42 1TQ 01368 850604

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES:

Lay Representative Pam Dugan 448 0995
Alternate Lay Representative Fiona Smith 449 4830

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS and GROUPS

Director of Music Rupert Forbes 664 3030
Organist Sheila Chisholm 629 9085
Choir Warden Fiona Barton 663 0283
Sunday's Cool (Term time) Derek Harley 07578132568
Sanctuary Guild Ann Wotherspoon 445 4611
Servers' Guild Bill Polson 667 6628
Parents & Toddlers Mondays 9.30-11.30am Derek Harley 662 9171
Parents & Toddlers Thursdays 9.30-11.30am Derek Harley 662 9171
Monday Group 1st & 3rd Mons 7.30pm Elizabeth Philp 667 1191
Prayer Group Tuesdays 7pm Revd Marian McKean 667 4573
Thursday Group 1st Thurs at 11am Delia Keir 667 3865
Singing Club Thur 3.30pm Vreni Fry 441 1207
Magazine subscriptions Nancy Smith 443 2736
Magazine distribution Elizabeth Philp 667 1191

CHURCH OFFICERS:

Vestry Secretary Michael Green 629 2018
Hon Treasurer Duncan McKinnell 01368 850 604
Gifts Secretary Jim Phillips 667 1107
Administrator Derek Harley 662 9171
Sacristan Liz Mackay 343 2216
Verger Javi Gallarin tbc
Hall Bookings Derek Harley 662 9171
Finance convenor TBA
Works convenor Liz Mackay 343 2216
Admin & Gen Purposes convenor Alison Mowat 667 2295
Social/Outreach COG convenor Liz Hare 337 8570