

January, 2016



From the Minister



Dear Friends in St. Cuthbert's,

I first came as your locum in Advent and shortly I'll be leaving you in Lent as we approach Easter. Christmas and Easter are known as Christian Feast Days – no wonder, when you read the next sentences!

Pancakes before we start and chocolate eggs when we finish? It almost looks as if those Christian soldiers march, as Napoleon might have said, on their stomachs! Yet both of these food specialities have a story to tell.

The pancakes on Shrove Tuesday are about emptying our cupboards of tempting foods as we prepare to get down to some serious thinking about God's world and our place in it. He has called us to a life of service, and it's a good idea to spend some time every spring contemplating how we can use the gifts he has given us to serve others.

The chocolate eggs – bursting with calories! – are about feasting as we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Day.

There are other interesting foods associated with Lent and Easter: hot cross buns, of course, which were traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The spice reminds us of the drugged wine given to Jesus on the cross to deaden the pain of his crucifixion.

But my favourite is simnel cake, not much heard of these days. It is a light, moist fruit cake with marzipan on top and in the middle. Traditionally, it was baked by girls in service to take to their mothers on the one Sunday a year they got off – Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent. The top of the cake is usually decorated with eleven marzipan balls, to symbolise the disciples who remained true to Jesus. It was saved to be eaten on Easter Day, when the fasting of Lent was over at last.

God bless you all,

Alan H. Ward.



Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, 7th February, at 10.45 a.m.

Holy Week Services

- * *Informal Communion on Maundy Thursday, 24th March, at 7 p.m.*
- * *Service on Good Friday, 25th March, at 7 p.m.*
- * *Family Services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, 20th and 27th March.*

Evelyn Slater,
Session Clerk



The Guild

The new session of The Guild will commence on Wednesday, **17th February**, instead of Wednesday, 3rd February. The change has been necessitated because the speaker for the Project is only available on Wednesday, 24th February.

The opening meeting on 17th February is a return visit by Rev. Sandy McCallum and the topic will be *Words and Music*. Please bring any gifts of toiletries, etc. you may have for South Beach House.

We look forward to welcoming you all on our return, and any visitors will be made most welcome.

Sheila Sarginson



Choir

Anthems for February

- 7th - Bread of the world. Norman Bowman
14th - Christ be with me. Norman Bowman
21st - There is a wideness in God's mercy.
Norman Bowman
28th - Christ the Shepherd Norman Bowman

Rosemary Smith



Youth Group

Before the Christmas holiday break, I'm sure you'll all agree what a great job the Youth Group and the Sunday School did on the nativity play!

On return after the holidays, we were talking about New Year resolutions and if anyone had made any, and the group made calendars with Bible verses. We have also been learning about the Christian symbol of the fish called Ichthys.

Diane Lambert



Church Flowers

The poinsettia plants have just been taken away after brightening our church window sills for six weeks. They do quite well in the church despite the changes in temperature. Thanks to everyone who contributed towards their cost. Also thanks for donations to the flower fund.

Flower donations:

December, 2015:

- 6th - Jenny Horwood
- 13th - Jane Chalmers
- 20th - Mary McGonagle
- 27th - John Gray

January, 2016

- 3^d - Elaine McKellar
- 10th - Flower Fund
- 17th - Flower fund
- 24th - Elsa Kirk
- 31st - Flower Fund

Annita Gillespie,
Flower Convenor



Cleaning Rota

- Fri. 5 Feb. - Ann Turner, Elsa Kirk
- Fri. 12 Feb. - Maureen Crilley, Eileen Ramsay
- Sat. 20 Feb. - Susan Cross, Nan Smith
- Fri. 26 Feb. - Sheila Hanlon, Elizabeth Murray
- Sun. 6 Mar. - Gillian Morrison, Shona Turner
- Fri. 11 Mar. - Ena Grove, Muriel Parker
- Fri. 18 Mar. - Sheila Hanlon, Christine Saunders
- Fri. 25 Mar. - Sheena Love, Agnes Algie

If any of the above dates are not suitable, please feel free to swap with someone else or, alternatively, contact me.

Ann Turner

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Church Register

Funerals

- December - Mr. G. McGregor, Barony Court, Ardrossan
- Mr. J. Moriarty - Saltcoats Parish Funeral
- Mrs. M. Reid, St. Mary's Place, Saltcoats
- January - Mr. T. Baillie, West Kilbride

** Please remember to sign and return your Data Protection form delivered by your District elder. There are over 60 members on the current Roll who have yet to complete and return their form. Failure to do so will result in the church being legally prevented from continuing to record you as a member on the Church Roll. Any lost forms can be replaced at the church door or by calling 471207.

William Parker

Humour

How children perceive their Grandparents

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him 80. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate

outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

..... *More next time.*

Contributed

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Material for the MARCH edition of the magazine will be due on Sunday, 21st February, 2016.

Weekly Calendar

Mondays:	2.00 p.m. - Afternoon club for beginners', improvers' bridge, crafts, etc. 7.30 p.m. - Country Dancing (a social dancing class)
Tuesdays:	10.30 a.m. - Informal mid-week service 6.00 p.m. – Girls' Brigade
Wednesdays:	10.30 a.m. - Keep Fit Class 2.00 p.m. (fortnightly) – The Guild
Thursdays:	9.30 a.m. - Mother and Toddler Group
Fridays:	6.00 p.m. – Boys' Brigade