



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JULY - AUGUST '24

Schedule of Services

July

Sunday 7

Trinity 6

08.30 am - Said Eucharist
10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14

Trinity 7

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21

Trinity 8

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 28

Trinity 9

10.30 am - Eucharist (Lamington)
10.30 am - Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

August

Sunday 4

Trinity 10

08.30 am - Said Eucharist
10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 11 August

Trinity 11

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 18

Trinity 12

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 25

Trinity 13

10.30 am - Eucharist (Lamington)
10.30 am - Sung Eucharist (Lanark)

September

Sunday 1

Trinity 14

08.30 am - Said Eucharist
10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 8

Trinity 15

10.30 am - Sung Eucharist

News in the Pews

- Since the last magazine we have had a number of significant birthdays (those with a 0 on the end!). Congratulations and very best wishes go to The Revd Jackie Fenton, Beth Anderson, Ruth Coates and Sylvia Russell! Many happy returns.
- Sunday 9 June was an important day in the life of our congregation. The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, just weeks before his retirement as Bishop of our Diocese, paid us a visit to confirm three candidates, to receive a further eight people into the Scottish Episcopal Church, to present Rob Thain with his new Scottish Lay Readers licence and to celebrate the Rector's silver jubilee of ordination to the priesthood. A Japanese Maple tree was planted and blessed by the Bishop in the church garden to mark the occasion. There was a fully catered "slap-up" meal in the hall afterwards. A great time was had by all.
- We were very saddened as a community to learn of the recent death of Alan Comrie, a stalwart of the congregation who was loved and respected by us all. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his widow Janet at this difficult time for her. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. (Obituary to follow).
- All of our church premises are looking pristine and perfect these days thanks to the major repainting job that was done on them recently.
- We have had the joy of celebrating three baptisms in recent months. Eilidh Carter in April and twins Lewis and Christiane Watson in May. May God bless them and bring them to fullness of faith in years to come.
- The Rector will be on holiday from 12 until 26 July. In his absence, all pastoral emergencies should be directed to Sheila Cardwell (01555 728801), Bobby Burgon (01555 662986) or Rob Thain (07966 595156).



Clergy Cogitations



A story is told of the apostle John, who lived out his days on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. One day, one of his followers asked him, 'Master, tell me one thing. I've always wondered why you always write about love? Why don't you ever write about anything else?' St John paused for a very long time, waiting for his disciple to work out the answer for himself. Finally, he answered the question. 'Because,' he said, 'in the end, there isn't anything else. There is only love.'

Sam Wells, a Church of England vicar, writes: "Only love, all the way down. Only companionship with us, all the way down. Only relationship, in the very heart of the Trinity. In the end, that's all there is, all the way down."

Reading about what different people 'want from' the Church, I was struck by one commentator who urged churches in all things to 'be authentic'. What some people have called for is 'classic' church over 'trendy'; 'sanctuary' over 'auditorium'. People don't want an emphasis on marketing Jesus but on following him. People aren't disillusioned with tradition so long as it stays relevant, engaging and authentic. Worship that isn't entertainment (and that can cut several ways in the way services might be presented) is worship that engages those who attend. I wonder then if, along with a good standard of sermon, prayer and music, what people today are looking for is relationship. One writer in her 30s writes: "When I left church at age 29, full of doubt and disillusionment, I wasn't looking for a better produced Christianity. I was looking for a truer Christianity; a more authentic Christianity."

The ethic of love and welcome and inclusion is central to who we are and what we believe and practise as a Church. The way the Church is perceived to welcome questions and doubts; to work alongside science; to be open to those of different social backgrounds; to be non-judgmental about a whole host of things; above all else to practise what it preaches – that's what we have to be about. If we fail to show the love of Jesus to all, then we will be found out. If what we say about Jesus is not what we do about Jesus, then we will be found out.

People didn't stop coming to Church because it was out of date. They stopped because its message didn't always match up to its action. If we abandon the attitude of love, the attitude of welcome, the attitude of forgiveness, the attitude of

inclusion, we abandon the gospel of Jesus Christ. So the questions for us all are: What are we trying to communicate? Who are we communicating with? Are we using the most effective means of doing the above?

Let's start with Christ's ethic of love and see where we get to. That should keep us going over the summer!

Drew

The God of love

The God of love my Shepherd is,
And He that doth me feed:
While He is mine, and I am His,
What can I want or need?

From a poem by George Herbert

Autumn Ladies

On 22nd May eighteen of us toured Dumfries House in Ayrshire. It was a wonderful experience. Most of the furniture and mirrors of the rococo style. A late baroque style of the 18th century which is highly ornate. Many of the pieces of furniture were made by Chippendale, one dresser being worth approximately £11 million pounds. 10 per cent of the world's Chippendale collection can be seen at Dumfries House. All of this would not have been possible but for the timely intervention of King Charles and a programme of 'preservation and conservation' of the contents of the house.

Although the rain came on at lunch time everyone had a lovely day out. Some reporting they were returning to do the 'Grand Tour' and enjoy the fantastic gardens.

Fiona Leishman visits us for our last meeting of the season with her topic 'Unleish Your Mind' on the 5th June.

Autumn Ladies will restart after the summer holiday on the 11th September. Our speaker will be Frank Roy from the Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust.

The sun will always shine for those looking for it. Have a lovely summer.

Isobel Malcolm

Deacon's Deliberations



I would like to thank you all very much for the beautiful orchid plant and card that I received for my birthday in May. The plant has pride of place in my kitchen window where everyone passing by can see it.

Mark and I went on a lovely cruise for my birthday. While we were away there had been a lot of rain with only a few glimmers of sunshine in Clydesdale. Upon our return we

noticed how lush and green everything was, the trees full of leaves and people's gardens looking magnificent, the countryside so beautiful with lambs skipping in the fields. It made me smile and realise how wonderful God's creation is.

This reminded me off Psalm 96:11-12. "Let the heavens celebrate! Let earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Then all the trees of the forest too will shout out joyfully". We are so blessed to live in a place that has such beautiful countryside and amazing wildlife. Yes, God's creation is wonderful.

It is only right, then, that we should protect and care for God's creation. In Genesis 2:15 we are told: "Humans are commanded to care for God's creation". We do precisely that here in Clydesdale. As a church we recycle our refuse; I'm sure you do at home. And the Lanark Wombles ensure the town and surrounding area are kept litter free.

If you would like to know more about the Lanark Wombles please speak to Drew or myself. If you would like to know about what our diocese is doing about climate change and how it can support local church projects, why not check out their website. www.netzerochurch.scot

Many, many thanks to you all. Have a wonderful summer, enjoying the beautiful surroundings we are so lucky to live in.

Jackie

Monastic Musings



"Summer, June summer, with the green back on the earth and the whole world unlocked and seething – like winter, it came suddenly and one knew it in bed, almost before waking up; with cuckoos and pigeons hollowing the woods since day-light and the chipping of blue tits in the pear blossom... Outdoors, one scarcely knew what had happened or remembered any other time. There had never been rain, or frost, or cloud. It had always been

like this. The heat from the ground climbed up one's legs and smote one under the chin..."

Wouldn't it be nice if we were in for a summer like the one Laurie Lee describes in *Cider With Rosie*. Conditioned by the long summer holidays of our childhood, we all still have an expectation of sunlight, of rest, and of easier times. The reality for many people is different, though. For those who work, looking longingly out of windows to the sunshine and imagining the breezes; for others the worry that it might get so hot that the airless oppression of sultry days will sap our energy and strength. The reality more often than not is horizontal rain and haar-draped mornings and the fear that the sun might never shine again, or at least not on two consecutive days.

For me, with some weeks off in the middle of the summer, I enjoy the change of pace. Things don't grind to a halt, though, as there are always matters needing attention, but certainly the number of 'must do' tasks drops and I get the chance to refresh my spirits and recharge my batteries. It's also a time to catch up on reading, or sketching and to do some planning for later in the year. It's often in the summer weeks when some of the pressure is off that the more creative ideas bubble to the surface.

When I was a wee boy there was a summer television programme called *Why Don't You? - or Why Don't You Just Switch Off Your Television Set and Go and Do Something Less Boring Instead?* It was filled with lots of different ideas and challenges and thoughts that helped fill in the long days of the summer holiday. This summer, why don't you let your imagination run riot, listen to what the Spirit of God is whispering to you about the way ahead for your life and your church. Then share it with us – it could change everything!

Gerry Creaney

Bishop's Visit

On Sunday 9th June Bishop Kevin Carried out one of his last services before he retires. He confirmed Margaret Hannah, Zarah Hobbs and Robbie Patrick.

Barbara Waters, Mark Fenton, Isobel Malcolm, Ian Malcolm, Kenneth Scott, Myra Murphy, Elizabeth Carroll and Ann Irvine were received into the church and Rob Thain was licensed as a Lay Reader. He then delivered a Silver Jubilee Blessing for the Revd Canon Drew Sheridan.



After the service we all enjoyed a delicious lunch in the church hall.

The tables were beautifully laid out and even had 'Bishop's Mitre' table napkins. Many thanks to the catering ladies who arranged it all.



Bishop Kevin then presented Drew with a gold cross and a travelling bag which were gifts from the congregation.



Bishop Kevin planted and blessed the ceremonial Japanese Maple tree to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Drew's ordination as a priest



Garden Notes

A corner of the woodland garden needed to be cleared to enable the planting of a ceremonial tree by the Bishop for Drew's silver jubilee of ordination as a priest. After much thought and studying an A-Z of plants loaned to us by Mark Jenkins (thank you Mark!) a Japanese Maple - variety Acer Palmatum Beni-Shichi-henge - was selected. This variety has very beautiful decorative coloured foliage and will enhance the corner by the church door where the leaves will catch the light. Over the years it can grow to 8 - 10 ft tall. Maples like the protection of other trees and grow well in our Scottish acidic soil. We prepared the ground by clearing out ferns and roots and digging in bonemeal, compost and leaf mould, making sure the area is clear to give the tree a good start. Taking a cue from our visit to Dumfries House, we shall mulch round the tree deeply with bark chippings to encourage growth. Hopefully all will go well on planting day!

Joan East

22nd July St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her 'past' is that Jesus had cast 'seven devils' out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of 'fallen women'.

Some see her as the woman 'who was a sinner' who washed Christ's feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that 'she had been forgiven much' and consequently 'loved much'. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

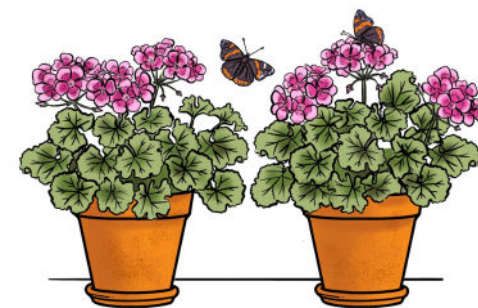
The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can't leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and in literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

For nature

We thank you Lord of all creation, for the wonder of the world in which we live: for the earth and all that springs from it; and for the mystery of life and growth.

From a prayer by Basil Naylor



Bumper Baptisms



Eilidh Carter was baptised at Christ Church on 21st April 2024.

Eilidh is the daughter of Matthew and Helen Carter and granddaughter of Bob and Doreen Cleary. Eilidh is a little sister for Jenna Carter.



On Sunday 12 May Drew had double trouble as he baptised twins Christiane & Lewis, son and daughter of Christiane and Robert Watson

Sad Goodbyes

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my beloved Dad, Alistair Brown. His health and mobility, had gradually declined over many years and he finally agreed to go into care in April 2022.

My Dad had been a member of Christchurch since moving to Braidwood over 30 years ago. It played a very big and important part of his life.

Although he had dementia, he always had a big smile on his face for me. I have many happy memories of him at Christchurch (although he wanted to be the first there!) and the lunch club.

I'd like to thank the ministers past and present, as well as many members of the congregation that he classed as friends.

He was my hero and the best Dad ever. I will miss him everyday. A true Gentleman.

Your Daughter Alexis xx

Eternal rest grant upon him o lord and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace.



It is also with great sadness that we learned that Alan Comrie had died. He was a stalwart of the congregation who was loved and respected by us all.

He will be sorely missed.

Our condolences go to his widow Janet at this difficult time for her.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Numbers

1. How many eyes does a Bee have?
2. After how many games are the balls changed in a Wimbledon Championship match?
3. How many red snooker balls are there on the table at the start of a game?
4. At the 2012 Olympics Great Britain won a record number of gold medals. How many?
5. Between 1923 and 1939 The Austin motor company built a car nicknamed the 'Baby Austin'. What was its official name?
6. How many arms does a Squid have?
7. How many squares are there on a standard Scrabble Board?
8. How many stars are there in Orion's Belt?
9. How many years would you be celebrating on your Diamond anniversary?
10. How many rooms are there in the murder mystery game 'Cluedo'?

Answers

1.5, 2, 7, 3, 15, 4, 29, 5, Austin 7, 6, 8, 7, 225, 8, 3, 9, 60, 10, 9.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Descriptions

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.
 Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.
 Raisin: Grape with a sunburn.
 Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better.
 Beauty salon: Where women curl up and dye.
 Cannibal: One who is fed up with people
 Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, but....!

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
 Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
 Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
 New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
 Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
 Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
 Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
 Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
 Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

With July weddings in mind

"If we did become engaged, would you give me a ring?" she said.
 "Yes, of course!" he replied. "What is your number again?"

Mother-in-law

Young man asked to describe his mother-in-law: "Generally speaking, she's generally speaking."

Weight

Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put you weight on it," said the vicar. So the groom complied: 'John Smith (twelve stone, four pounds)'



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Bishop: Rt Revd Kevin Pearson, 25 Quadrant Rd., Newlands, Glasgow, G43 2QP, email: bishop@glasgow.anglican.org

Tel: 0141 221 5720/2694

Rector: Revd Canon Andrew Sheridan, The Rectory, 1 Cleghorn Road, Lanark, ML11 7QT. Email: thecanteringcanon@outlook.com Tel: 01555 663065

Assistant Curate: Revd Jacqueline Fenton, 6 Cairnhill Court, Carluke, ML8 4EP. Email: jacqueline.fenton@outlook.com Tel: 07712 761249

Church Office: 01555 663065

Lay Readers: Robert (Bobby) Burgon, Rob Thain

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Sheila Cardwell 01555 728802

Adult & Child Protection Officer: Revd Jacqueline Fenton 07712 761249

Vestry:

Sheila Cardwell - Rector's Warden 01555 728802

Jane Milliken - People's Warden 01555 751514

Gerry Creaney 07871 250323

Margaret Hannah 01555 662100

Ken Scott 07900 857247

Glenys Wilcox 07722 520257

Rob Thain, Lay Representative 07966 595156

Secretary -

Treasurer - Robert Burgon

141 Hyndford Road, Lanark, ML11 8BG 01555 662986

Please remember Christ Church in your will as an act of thanksgiving for the Church. For confidential advice please speak to the Treasurer

Church Flowers: Jane Milliken, 01555 751514

Church Hall Bookings: Peter Glancy, 01555 661859

Web site: www.christchurchlanark.com

Magazine Editor: Sylvia Russell: 01555 662676

E-Mail: sylviarussell555@gmail.com

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