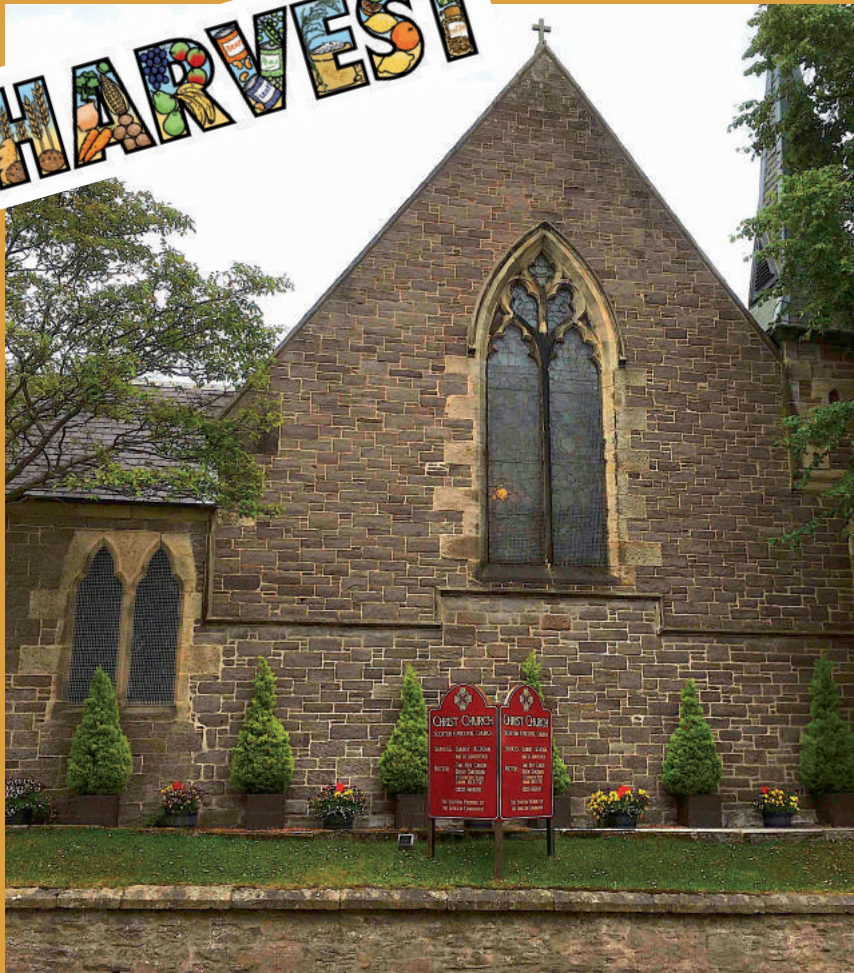


HARVEST



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021

Bishop's Lent Appeal 2021: Aberlour

Bishop Kevin chose Aberlour as the subject of our Lent Appeal this year. Aberlour supports children, young people and families to give them the best chance to flourish, and has been doing so for over 140 years. The origins of the charity have a fascinating history and explain the strong link with the Scottish Episcopal Church. In February, Bishop Kevin announced this year's Lent Appeal. He wrote: "This year my Lent Appeal is for the outstanding work undertaken by the Aberlour Child Care Trust, a charity that has longstanding links with our Scottish Episcopal Church, a charity dear to my heart, and a charity that is there for Scotland's hidden children, whose considerable difficulties have been hugely exacerbated over the last year of pandemic. The list of work done by Aberlour is extensive and enormous, encompassing early years to young adulthood, and including residential and fostering services, addiction recovery programmes, support for early years children and for families affected by child disability, early intervention programmes, urgent assistance funds, self-directed support and school support."

More detail is available on Aberlour's website: www.Aberlour.org.uk

Christ Church and the wider Diocese responded powerfully to this call from the Bishop and gave generously to this worthy cause. At our Diocesan Synod held at the end of July we heard that the people and churches of this Diocese have raised over £12,400 to support their work. During the Synod, the Bishop recounted a visit he made to meet some of the young people helped by Aberlour and expressed his heartfelt thanks to all people and churches which have enabled these projects to continue through their donations. This fund will go a long way to helping young people particularly during this time of Pandemic and Recovery.



Clergy Cogitations



Dear Friends

On Monday 9th of August Scotland returned to a level of normality not seen or experienced for over 18 months. It is now possible to do a whole host of things that had been banned during lockdown, including singing in church and tripping the light fantastic in a night club! After all the isolation and separation, we have a renewed sense of how important social connection is to us. We are social beings who have missed togetherness and contact so very, very much.

Our Lord Jesus had a strong social instinct. He enjoyed human contact: dining, chatting and sharing with friends; touching people to heal, reassure and bless them. He still makes that contact wherever two or three are gathered in his name, wherever anyone acting with Jesus in mind brings his love and peace to others.

As things return to normal in Christ Church and social contact increases, we are aware that we need to proceed with cautious optimism. There will be no apres service tea or coffee in the hall until the renovations in that part of our plant are completed; we will review how we do worship, and take careful decisions about social distancing in the church; we will continue to wear masks, use hand sanitiser and respect people's space for as long as is absolutely necessary.

We hope this reassures you and gives you confidence that we are being responsible, careful and compassionate - as Jesus himself was in the company of his friends.

Yours

Drew and Lee

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Homily

In Mark's Gospel we hear familiar yet inspirational stories – the woman who's suffered for 12 years; the little girl at the point of death; one has struggled on for many years, having tried everything and spent all she has to get better; the other is merely a child, robbed of life suddenly and well before her time. Both are healed by Jesus.

These people who come to Jesus for help are very different. The little girl's dad is powerful – in charge of a synagogue – he's expected to be full of faith, but instead is gripped by fear because of his daughter's illness. The other character, the woman, has been considered ritually unclean and excluded from places of worship for at least 12 years, yet she's full of faith and is commended by Jesus. She's tried everything, she's spent all she had on false cures, but she's willing to try one more thing: reaching out to touch even the hint of Jesus clothing to be made well, and to be healed.

Yet these stories are not without difficulty. If I thought, if anyone thought, that strong faith would result in instant miraculous healing then we'd go and empty the nearest children's hospital or hospice. We know, don't we, that faith and life are more complicated than that, without the neat happy ending found in this story.

People and preachers in the past have said – wrongly – that if only you had enough faith like the woman in the story then you or your loved one would be healed or escape desperation. It's a dangerous claim that has made faithful Christians doubt whether they were good enough to receive God's love and healing. At worst it blamed people's hardships on a lack of faith.

It wrongly put all focus on what strong feelings or religious fervour we can produce or stoke up in our selves, rather than true faith which always looks outside of me – towards God – as this woman did. God who we find most close to us in the person of Jesus who suffered like we do, died like we will and rose again – like the little girl asked to get up and walk, as if she were asleep.

Elsewhere in the gospels Jesus said that the faith of those who don't see miracles – yet still trust, still believe – is stronger than those who believe because they've seen signs and wonders. Strong faith is the miraculous ability to believe that God loves and takes care of us even when our prayers for physical healing are not answered and along with them, the question "why".

But if this is not all about physical healing, then what can be hoped for? When we read each story closely we see that physical healing and being made well are two different but related gifts. The synagogue leader asks that his daughter will live – physical healing – and be made well – a word meaning the same as salvation, or wholeness. The woman who clings to Jesus is looking for both spiritual and physical healing because this healing will allow her to worship in the temple of God she was excluded from by illness. To her, Jesus uses the comforting words she hadn't heard in 12 years – Daughter, Shalom, Peace. So she is made well and healed. The physical healing is an outward sign of the reality of salvation, wholeness, healing her inside. The girl, the woman, the synagogue leader and we as witnesses among the crowd are invited to be well, receive peace with God and from God by trusting in Jesus. Peace which believes after we die that Jesus will take us by the hand too and say: get up and walk.

Being made well in the spiritual sense is not always the help we want – we pray and ask for the miracle like in the story, and so we should, so we must at times; and will struggle always with the 'why' if it never comes. Yet it is the spiritual help we can be sure of. Most of us know, and all of us are invited, to walk out of church or end a time of prayer; feeling well, whole, saved – having reached out and known that we've touched the very heart of God with whatever we're going through.

Faith reaches out to Jesus knowing he will put us back together, time and time again, when the worst happens, or when the long grind gets too much. Faith reconnects us to God when suffering makes him feel distant. Faith knows he's there, he cares and will respond in love, not coldness. Reach out and grab a hold of him and be made well.



Confirmations



It was a very special occasion when our new Bishop, Kevin Pearson, came to Christ Church for the first time on the 27th June for a Confirmation and Receptions Service

It was a joyous occasion with Irene Bryce, Irene Sneddon, Ann Millar, Sandra Pringle and Christopher McNally being confirmed and the Reception of Br Gerry Creaney, FMJ and Rev Liz Clelland.

The Bishop seemed to be impressed by our little church and congregation and managed to have a word with everyone present.

Many thanks to Joyce for organising the coffee and cake following the service.



Birthday Boy

Presentation of Gifts for Drew's 60th Birthday ~ Rev. L Johnston

On Sunday 15th August it was my pleasure to present Drew with the wonderful array of gifts that you have all generously contributed to for the occasion of his 60th birthday. You can read the words of my presentation below, which details the gifts that we managed to surprise him with at the end of today's Service. I'm pleased to report that Drew had no idea that this presentation was taking place and each gift was joyfully received by the birthday boy, who assured us that each one of them will be enjoyed. Read below:

"This August has been a month of big birthdays for celebrity stars. You had Meaghan Markle, Royal Bride, turn 40. You had the former president of the United States, Barack Obama, turn 60. And, no less prestigious nor impressive, you had the Rector of Christ Church Lanark, the Canterling Canon himself hit the milestone birthday of 60. So please join me in wishing Drew a very happy birthday! Drew, whilst you've been away on holiday, Christ Church has been secretly arranging some treats for your big six zero, to show you how much we appreciate you and your ministry and to help you celebrate. So, please enjoy:

A lovely bouquet, expertly made by our very own Jane Milliken. A heartfelt card from us all at Christ Church designed and crafted by Marie-Christine Glancy.

A generous voucher for La Vigna, which I know to be one of your favourite restaurants, to treat you and your family to a cheeky three course meal and drink or two.

A hamper from Waitrose and Majestic Wines, complete with some of your favourite red vinos from Australia and California, along with fine cheeses, chutneys, sweets, nibbles and a bottle of Champagne to top it all off.

A framed painting of the Falls of the Clyde after a Flood, painted in 1852 by James Ward – which is just a few years before Christ Church itself was consecrated and opened for worship. So, it's how the falls of the Clyde at New Lanark may have looked when our church was first opened.

Because people have been exceedingly generous, here's also contributions towards another gift of your choosing, just as long as you spend it on something you'll enjoy.

*Again a very happy 60th Birthday to you Drew. I think we can now all start referring to you as **the Auld Canon!**"*



Another Birthday Boy

Dear Christ Church,

On the occasion of my 80th birthday in June, Drew presented me with a lovely plant of *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens*, a largely prostrate Californian Lilac. It is a beautiful plant and was a most unexpected gift of great worth. Thank you to those responsible, and to Lee for his very kind and delightful words: it was all greatly appreciated.

Nicolas (Broadbridge).

Diocesan Synod Report

As Alternative Lay Representative, I ‘attended’ the postponed Synod, which was held via Zoom on Saturday, 31 July.

Synod always begins with a Eucharist and this year +Kevin chose one of the new settings from the 2021 revision of the 1982 Scottish Liturgy which we use in Christ Church, and I have to say that I was rather taken with it; perhaps in due course we might all experience this or similar in our own service settings.

Following the usual appointments, elections etc, Synod went on to discuss the main business of the day – the tendering to Synod of a revised Diocesan Constitution. Wearing my other hat as Diocesan Treasurer, I have been involved in looking at, then looking again and again(!), at various proposed changes since about 2015 but the project fell onto fallow ground as a result of +Gregor’s illness and his subsequent retirement.

Our new Bishop and Dean worked very hard, bringing a fresh impetus to the revision which better reflects the structure of the present-day Diocese. Some of the anomalies that had been discovered over time have been removed – chiefly governance issues affecting Regional Councils and membership of General Synod – while an adjustment to the make-up of Diocesan Council (the charity trustees of the Diocese) was also part of the proposed new Constitution. Expecting that some opposition would be forthcoming from Synod members, I was rather surprised that there were few negative voices raised and the adoption of the new Constitution passed by a substantial majority.

One sad part of the day’s business was to seek Synod’s approval of the closure of our congregation at St Mungo’s, Alexandria. While Covid hasn’t help this small congregation, the Vestry had become increasingly concerned that numbers and finances didn’t warrant their continuation and, very bravely and honestly, they approached the Bishop and asked to be closed. A final Thanksgiving Service to mark the ministry and witness at St Mungo’s will be held on 29th August.

It was announced that the Bishop’s Lent Appeal had raised a total of £12414 for Aberlour Child Care Trust; Christ Church donated £600 towards the appeal from congregational funds.

After lunch, Dean Rueben reported on some important aspects on the recent General Synod chiefly ‘Personnel Matters’, such as Complaints Procedure, Bullying & Harassment and Holidays & Time off Guidelines, and Climate Change

Vestries are requested to engage with these points and fuller details can be found on the Provincial website - www.scotland.anglican.org

Audrey Stewart, Canon Missioner, then gave a report on her work regarding Transitional Ministry which will feature more across our Diocese as vacancies appear, and finally, Synod received an update on the recently completed new Diocesan Centre complete with exciting photographs.

More detail on most of what I've highlighted will appear in due course on the Diocesan website - www.glasgow.anglican.org

All in all and interesting experience, albeit I was glad to close down the computer!

Bobby

For What We Are About To Receive (Nick Broadbridge)

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals," he said to himself. As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot Bear charging towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up, but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him. At that instant the atheist cried out, "Oh my God!"

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice from heaven asked, "You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light. "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the Voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful, Amen."

Lee and Harriet have new Charges



It was announced in church and across the Diocese on Sunday 8th August that Harriet and I will be moving on to new charges in the coming months.

Harriet will be appointed Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock, and I will be appointed Priest-in-Charge of the North Ayrshire Team (St. Andrew's, Ardrossan/Irvine & St. Peter's, Dalry)

We hope to move to the Parsonage at Kilmarnock in the coming months.

I will still be at Christ Church for a little while longer, whilst the house in Kilmarnock is made ready, and I will save my farewell words until then. When I know a leaving date I will be sure to share this with you all.

Until then, know that I am deeply grateful to Drew and all of you, and that I will be sad to move on and miss you all: considering Christ Church and my time here with great fondness. It was lovely to hear such heartfelt and encouraging words from many of you as we chatted after the announcement, as you shared my excitement for the future.

You can read the announcement in full below:

The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, is pleased to announce the following two appointments:

The Rev Harriet Sarah Johnston as Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock, and The Rev Lee Johnston as Priest-in-Charge of the North Ayrshire Team.

Harriet says, “I’m really looking forward to becoming Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Church. The congregation has found innovative ways of keeping in touch and worshipping together during the pandemic and are involved in an impressive range of ecumenical and community initiatives. I’m looking forward to meeting them in person, getting to know them, and discovering a shared vision of what God can do in Kilmarnock.”

And Lee says, “I am delighted to be going to St Andrew’s and St Peter’s in North Ayrshire to support their Christian worship and witness as Priest-in-Charge. These churches collaborate closely together and with other denominations; they warmly welcome refugees and the wider community; and have lived with change courageously during the pandemic. I’m most looking forward to meeting everyone in person, at services and during visits, as we encourage one another towards God’s future for us and the communities we serve.”

Bishop Kevin commented, “We are delighted to make two such strong appointments from within our diocese to these two charges who are seeking a way forward in ministry over the next decade. The skills and talents which Lee and Harriet bring to the charges, and have already been shared in their training curacies of Lanark and Bishopbriggs, will enable much growth and adaptation as we look to the new reality of ministry post-pandemic. We look forward to being able to support them both as they take on new responsibilities in these charges and witness the flourishing of all associated with Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock and the North Ayrshire Team. It is a very exciting development for the charges in the diocese that these talented young priests are committed to the diocesan vision of building the Kingdom of God in Glasgow and Galloway.”

Please pray for Harriet and Lee as they make preparations for their moves over the coming months and pray for Bishopbriggs and Lanark as they prepare to hand on their curates to the wider life of the diocese.

Details of the Licensing Services will be announced in due course. Harriet and Lee will live in the rectory at Kilmarnock once it has been made ready for their occupancy by the Diocesan Property Committee and the charges.



God is in a Garden

I wonder how many of you have had a good look at Christ Church's beautiful garden? This is maintained by Joan and Brian East and it has been quite beautiful this summer. Many thanks to them for all their hard work.



Doreen and Irene enjoying a chat in the garden after morning service



Laughter is the Best Medicine

Wi Children's Kitchen Terms

BOIL: The point a parent reaches upon hearing "Yuck" before a food is even tasted.

CASSEROLE: Combination of favourite foods that go uneaten because they are mixed together.

DESSERT: The reason for eating a meal.

EVAPORATE: Magic trick performed by children when it comes time to clear the table.

FRUIT: Something that is never to be confused with dessert.

REFRIGERATOR: A very expensive and inefficient room air conditioner when not being used as an art gallery.

TABLE LEG: Percussion instrument.

Gym?

Before setting off on a business trip to Birmingham, I called the hotel where I'd be staying to see if they had a gym. The hotel receptionist's sigh had a tinge of exasperation in it when she answered.

"We have over 100 guests at this facility," she said. "Does this 'Jim' have a last name?"

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

Diagnosis

A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirled and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

Break out

With the exception of world unrest, nothing breaks out in more places than an old garden hose.

For sale

Notice in local newspaper: Wedding dress for sale. Worn once by mistake.

Who first

While flying home, my mother was sitting across the aisle from a woman and her eight-year-old son. Mum couldn't help laughing as they neared their destination and she heard the mother say to the boy, "Now remember – run to Dad first, then the dog."



The previous month's Harvest Festival donation from the Genetic Modification Research Laboratory was proving to be a useful stop-gap until the steeple restoration fund reached its target

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