**ST EBBA’S**

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**EYEMOUTH**

**November 2014**

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**Times of worship**

Every Sunday: 11am Eucharist in church

OSCR number SC023275

**C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900371036[1].wmf MINISTRY TEAM LETTER C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900371036[1].wmf**

The first time that I ever wrote a “Clergy Letter” for a church newsletter was in early 1976 when I was a curate following my Rector’s resignation. I remember it well because I wrote about the impending Scottish referendum on devolution. I argued in it that the real issue that the Scots voters faced was not so much about the location of government - Westminster or Edinburgh - but about its quality.

Almost 40 years later and here I am writing a “Ministry Team letter” in the aftermath of another referendum. On September 18th we cast our votes for or against Scotland being an independent nation, resulting in a clear majority to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Despite all the facts and figures bandied about in the run-up to the vote about the economy and currency, in the last two weeks before the vote, one fundamental question seem to be re-emerging, prompted by the promises and “vows” made by the UK party leaders. It was about the relationship between national identity and democracy - in other words, as in 1976, about the quality of government. Following the referendum, intensive conversations have continued to be held at all levels about constitutional issues: further devolution of power, federalism, “English votes on English issues”. Whatever else the referendum achieved, it has brought forward – in an almost unholy rush – a rash of suggestions as to the reform of government.

For there is almost universal agreement throughout the United Kingdom that many of our democratic structures are unsatisfactory and not “fit for task” in the 21st century. Some commentators argue that they are already in melt-down crisis. Many citizens are deeply disillusioned with and angry with the structures of society (“The Establishment”), including every dimension of political life. They feel alienated from decision-taking, powerless, and a growing sense of inequality in a society to which they cannot relate. For them the real truth is that “We are not all in it together”.

The high level of political debate in advance of and the massive turn-out on the day of the Referendum is evidence that there is a real desire for fundamental reform. As was agreed by all participants, the status quo is no

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longer an option. It is incumbent on us urgently to find ways to offer better government which meets the needs of all citizens, in the four nations of the UK and throughout the varied regions of England.

As Christians we have often been rightly criticised for reductionism in how we have slimmed down and privatized the Christian gospel, making it only a matter of our personal relationship with God. Yet both Old and New Testaments are full of passages dealing with our corporate responsibilities, showing us how we should be acting as members of society. There is much in the prophetic literature about how government is to work, its structures and its priorities. Jesus himself spoke the all too clearly about the coming of the “kingdom of heaven” (or “of God”) and its implications in civic society and instructs us to pray and work for its coming. The quality of government must be a fundamental Christian concern.

While in the USA this summer I visited the National Archives in Washington DC and read the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the three foundational documents on which the government of the USA is built. I became aware of the deeply religious tone of the writing (e.g. “God-given rights”) and the overt Christian faith of the USA’s founding fathers reflected in their actions and decisions. Their concern was always for good and godly government.

As we move into what can be the turbulent waters of constitutional reform, as citizens of Scotland and the United Kingdom, each of us should have the same concern.

Tim Morris

**BEST BOOKS** 

The Church Times is publishing a  list of the 100 best Christian books and the best 10 Christian books for children.   If anyone wants to see the list, Jennifer can provide it.

Let us know what you think is the best Christian book (excluding the Bible!) and why. Here is a starter recommendation:

[**Paul and Poverty: An Evaluation of the Apostle’s Economic Location and Teaching**](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk/contact/link.php?M=6539&N=115&L=962&F=H) by Simon Jones **Price: £ 3.95**[www.grovebooks.co.uk](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk)

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**NOVEMBER DIARY**

**Sun 2nd All Saints & All Souls**

**PENTECOST 21**

11am Eucharist (1982)

Readings Revelations 7 vs 9-17

Psalm 34 vs 1-10

1 John 3 vs 1-3

Matthew 5 vs 1-12

**Wed 5th** 10.00am Eucharist

In the Parsonage

**Sun 9th Remembrance Sunday**

**PENTECOST 22**

11am Eucharist (1970)

Readings Job 19 vs 21-27

Psalm 90

1 Corinthians 15 vs 51-57

John 6 vs 37-40

**Sun 16th**  **PENTECOST 23**

11am Eucharist (1982)

Readings Judges 4 vs 1-7

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5 vs 1-11

Matthew 225 vs 14-30

**Sun 23rd CHRIST THE KING**

11am Eucharist (1982)

Readings Ezekiel 34 vs 11-16

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1 vs 15-23

Matthew 25 vs 31-46

**Sun 30th ADVENT 1** WITH HEALING

Isiah 64 vs 1-9

Psalm 80 vs 1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1 vs 3-9

Mark 13 vs 24-37

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**INTERCESSORS AND READERS – NOVEMBER**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Server** | **Intercessor** | **Reader** |
| Sun 2nd | Richard Oldale | Jan Simpson | Pat Elliott |
| Sun 9th | Joan Shelmerdine | Simon Furness | Brian Payne |
| Sun 16th | Richard Oldale | Ernie Cox | Debbie Higson |
| Sun 23rd | Joan Shelmerdine | Sheila Cox | Irene Morris |
| Sun 30th | Joan Shelmerdine | David Smout | Ian Taylor |

***Please note***

**The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St Ebba's will be held at the close of the morning service on Sunday, 30th November 2014.**

There are 3 vacancies for Vestry Members. If you wish to nominate a member of the congregation to the Vestry please complete the nomination forms in the Vestry folder at the back of the church and either leave in the folder or give to a Vestry member. A list of Vestry member’s responsibilities can be found in this folder

At the AGM there will be an opportunity for church members to appoint the Peoples Warden and St Ebba’s Lay Representative to serve in 2014/15.

The Vestry is exploring a number of options to

* strengthen the Ministry Team and support the Worship Team to ensure that Sunday Services continue at St Ebba’s.
* review the use of the Parsonage and Church Hall to seek more accessible modern meeting and church rooms to foster community outreach in and around Eyemouth.

This work will be fully discussed at the AGM to seek the opinions, advice and guidance of members of St Ebba’s on future work and ministry.

Irene Morris

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|  | **Faith in Action for November**      The most common form of violence against women in Scotland is Domestic Abuse. This is more than just physical violence: it can be sexual, mental or emotional, and is based on exploiting unequal power relationships. The vast majority of domestic abuse is carried out by men against women, though it can occur in any intimate relationship.  It is much more common than most of us imagine - in a typical year in Britain, I in 5 women experience domestic violence, and every week two women are killed by their current or former partner. We cannot and must not ignore the facts: SEC congregations will contain both victims and abusers - domestic abuse affects us all.  You may wish to try the following:   * pray for the victims of domestic violence and the perpetrators * include prayers for perpetrators and victims of violence, and for agencies that assist abused women in services * preach/invite a guest preacher on this topic * observe the 16 Days international campaign raising awareness of domestic violence: 25 Nov - 10 Dec   **6**  **Outside our Borders**  *Brian Payne continues his series with a visit to central France*  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900415196[1].wmf  Azay-le-Rideau, a large village in central France, possesses a wealth of attractions for the casual visitor. A population of about 3000 locals go about their business, many of the adults involved in servicing the needs of the thousands of tourists who come to see the triumph of a Chateau that rises out of the waters of the Indre river. The busy station car park speaks of a commuter population going into work in Tours, keeping the community fed and watered when harvesting tourists comes to an end in the autumn.  A couple of miles outside of Azay, and indicated by some discrete road signs, is the Museum of Maurice Dufresne. Unless you have a flyer from the local tourist office, or have had a personal recommendation [and I recommend it highly, you might like to know], it is almost unpublicised. You will not have heard of Maurice Dufresne. He is not an author or poet, a famous politician or war hero. He trained as a blacksmith in a time when the horse was disappearing from agricultural life, and ended up in the scrap business. He was not a rapacious businessman determined to extract every last sou or centime from the derelict remains of machines that passed into his hands because at some point, he decided to put the more unusual machines to one side. Seemingly once folk found out that he had an interest in old machines and artefacts, he was directed towards other items which he added to his private collection.  And what a collection it became. Now housed in what was once a huge paper mill, there are halls filled with machines as diverse as a travelling guillotine [very popular with children], a 1930’s washing machine and a mechanised tandem. There are tractors by the hundred, railway locomotives, a wartime searchlight, some incredibly old, fragile and rare looms for ribbon making, a  7  escaped from England. In all, over 3000 exhibits of all shapes and forms are packed in.  What is important about this collection, slightly eccentric though it might be, is that Monsieur Dufresne kept machines that have now long gone from everyday life. Everything had a working life, was designed, built and maintained by humans. He did not recycle that which had become useless – and now the passage of time has given every item a new value as a record of the past.  **∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞**  **Where to get started**  *This exploration of ’where to get started with the bible’ is an extract reproduced with kind permission from the blog of Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary’s Cathedral, Glasgow ( www,thurible.net).*    Last month, Kelvin reminded us that ‘reading the bible isn’t optional for Christians – it is part of what makes us who we are’. He continues:  ‘Don’t miss the best bits of Paul. Right in the middle of all that stuff about women you get one of the best bits of St Paul’s writings – 1 Corinthians 13. It is such a fabulous celebration of love that it still gets read frequently and often very badly) at weddings.  ‘End up with Revelation. The last book of the Bible is the Revelation of St John. It is a wacky read at first sight. You’ll find yourself asking “what was he on?” Is this drug-induced writing or something that comes from a mystical state? Whatever it is, you find, amidst some rather gory stuff which is probably an allegory of how people thought the world was ending at the time it was written, some glorious images of what heaven is like – fabulous food, music and sex are the basic images of heaven that run through a lot of biblical thinking.  ‘Start reading [the bible] systematically. Reading a few short passages a day is a good idea.’  8  **ALAN CAMPBELL’S WARC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\OXUDGCYJ\MC900024290[1].wmf**  Alan Robertson Campbell was born in Hertfordshire in 1917, and was educated at Aldersham, near Elstree and at l’Ècole des Sciences Politiques in Paris, before reading Economics and Law at Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1939, and in that year joined the Royal Artillery Supplementary Reserve as an officer with the British Expeditionary Force, which had been sent to France in the attempt to halt the German advance through Northern Europe.  Campbell was captured near Béthune in Northern France as the Allied Forces were fighting to defend Dunkirk. He and his comrades were marched, or packed into rail trucks to be imprisoned in the 15th Century Laufen Castle in Bavaria. Campbell was later moved to Kassel. One stormy night, he and a fellow officer crossed the prison drawbridge in an attempt at escaping, but they were spotted by a guard and then sent to Colditz. During his time at Colditz, Campbell advised the German Defending counsel (via the Swiss legal authorities) in many cases of Allied prisoners facing serious charges. By virtue of his skilful advocacy, he saved many Allied soldiers from execution or solitary confinement.  One case involved 13 Czech aircrew serving with the Royal Air Force who had been shot down over enemy territory. As subjects of the Greater Reich, they were charged with treason by the Nazi authorities, but were saved from execution by the dogged and skilful defence by Campbell, who made the point that these airmen were wearing British uniforms at the time of capture, and so had all the rights of the Geneva Convention for British servicemen. The German legal authorities in Leipzig to their credit, carried out these proceedings with much care for the correct procedures.  Colditz is now remembered mostly for the escape attempts of such prisoners as Airey Neave and Douglas Bader, but in the 5 years he spent there, Campbell saved the lives of many prisoners-of-war. He was President of the Colditz  Association for many years, and a member of the Colditz Veterans’ Society.  *Footnote*  *In 1981 Alan Campbell was admitted to the House of Lords as Baron Campbell of Alloway, and sat as a Conservative. He was a member of the Scottish Peers Association. Before he died in June 2013 at the age of 96, he was the oldest peer sitting in the House of Lords. In 1998 he became involved in the case of the two Scots Guardsmen who had been convicted of murder after a patrol in Belfast in 1992. He assisted them after their release from prison and advised them on the best means of appeal. The two soldiers were released under licence in 1998 under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, and Lord Campbell was elected to the Scots Guards Dining Club.*  **Ernie Cox.**  **∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞**  **HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED YET …**  to prepare and serve coffee in the Parsonage after Sunday morning services on a rota basis?  Please contact Sheila on 077885 57102 to add your name to the rota.    **Quote of the Month**  The Church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, never its tool.  Martin Luther King Jr.  10  **SAINTS DAYS IN NOVEMBER**  ***This month celebrates two important dates in the church calendar - All Saints’ Day, the feast day of all the redeemed, on 1 November and St Andrew’s Day on 30 November.***  **All Saints Day**  **C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900444685[1].jpg** All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven.  When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints’ Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.  This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating ‘the martyrs of the whole world’. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.  The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians.  On All Souls’ Day on 2 November prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain ‘the Beatific Vision’ through purification. In bygone days it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe’en.  11  **Saint Andrew**  The apostle Andrew is patron saint of Scotland. According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matt 4:18,19)  Without more ado, they obeyed. “At once they left their nets and followed him.” The story is touching for the simple but total faith which they had in Jesus.  Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew’s name is always in the first four. It was Andrew who helped introduce a group of Greeks to Jesus (John 12:20-2) and Andrew who offered Jesus the five small barley loaves and two small fishes when Jesus challenged them to feed the five thousand. (John 6:8) His faith in Jesus over small things was richly rewarded, and this faithful, kindly Galilean fisherman turned disciple went on to become one of the 12 apostles of the Christian Church.  Andrew never settled back in Capernaum by Galilee. Instead, his ‘fishing for men’ seems to have taken him far. Like Jesus, he was crucified, but the story goes that during the two days it took him to die, he preached earnestly to the people about Jesus.  But how did he end up as patron saint of Scotland? Well, according to one ancient legend, his relics were taken from Patras to Scotland in the 8th century, and ended up in Fife. As he was the only apostle to make it as far as Scotland, he was chosen as patron saint.  In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross ‘X’, commonly called St Andrew’s Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.  [http://www.hgsitebuilder.com/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator181757/image/standrew-02.jpg](http://gator1747-standrew-primary.hgsitebuilder.com/)  12  **VULNERABLE PEOPLES**  ***Poverty cannot be tackled without fighting climate change***  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900160558[1].wmf    As world leaders recently met in New York at a summit convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the global fight against climate change, a new report highlighted the crucial role a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must play in meeting the challenge.  It says the goals, to be agreed next year, offer a vital opportunity for the international community to tackle the way that climate change is driving people into poverty.  Written by CAFOD, CARE International, Christian Aid, Greenpeace, Practical Action and WWF-UK, it says it is now clear that without action to tackle climate change, efforts to eradicate poverty will be severely compromised.  The report, *The Right Climate for Development: why the SDGs must act on climate change*, says rising sea levels and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as typhoons and floods – all the result of global warming – are claiming lives, damaging and destroying homes and infrastructure, reducing crop yields, and ruining employment prospects.  These impacts will only increase, it warns, if action is not taken to cut carbon emissions and support is not given to the most vulnerable countries to adapt to the changes that they are already experiencing.  The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the expected successors to the Millennium Development Goals which expire at the end of 2015, must therefore include a stand-alone goal on tackling climate change.  **13**  **Time to Smile**  **C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\MC900141353[1].wmf*Since it’s said laughter is the best medicine, here are some feel good tonics for November voted Best Jokes for 2014.***   * ‘I’ve decided to sell my hoover...well, it was just collecting dust.’—Tim Vine * ‘I’ve written a joke about a fat badger, but I couldn’t fit it into my set.’—Masai Graham * ‘I wanted to do a show about feminism. But my husband wouldn’t let me.’— Ria Lina * ‘Money can’t buy you happiness? Well, check this out, I bought myself a Happy Meal.’—Paul F Taylor * ‘I’ve been married for ten years, I haven’t made a decision for seven.’—Jason Cook * ‘This show is about perception and perspective. But it depends how you look at it.’—Felicity Ward * ‘I go to the kebab shop so much that when they call me boss in there it’s less a term of affection, more an economic reality.’—Ed Gamble * ‘Leadership looks fun, but it’s stressful. Just look at someone leading a conga.’—James Acaster * ‘I bought myself some glasses. My observational comedy improved.’—Sara Pascoe * ‘My mate sat on my pumpkin. He butternut squash it.’—Leo Kearse * ‘I had a friend call Iain. Two ‘i’s…to go with the face.’—John Kearns * ‘I’m lazy—my childhood ambition was to be an injured footballer.’—Mike Shephard * ‘I tried to Google endangered species. They were hard to find.’—Suns of Fred * ‘I’d like to start with the chimney jokes—I’ve got a stack of them. The first one is on the house.’—Tim Vine * I took the shell off my racing snail, thinking it would make him faster. In fact it made him more sluggish.   14  **CHURCH CONTACTS**  Priests the Revd Sheila Cox 01890 771764  the Revd Jennifer Edie 01890 750169  the Revd David Smout 01890 771220  the Revd Tim Morris 01289 386615  Lay Rep Irene Morris 01289 386615  Alt Lay Rep David Garside 01890 751159  People’s Warden Richard Oldale 01890 750939  Administrator Jennifer Edie 01890 750169  Treasurer David Garside 01890 751159  St Ebba’s Church, Fort View, Paxton Terrace, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL  St Ebba’s Parsonage, Beach Avenue, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL  [www.stebbas.org.uk](http://www.stebbas.org.uk)  ***If you are in hospital and would like us to know and/or to visit, under the current regulations you have to specifically ask the hospital to inform us.***  If you want to keep up with what’s happening here and across the Borders, you will find the minutes of our own Vestry meetings and the Borders Area Council meeting in the files at the back of the church.  ***EDITOR’S NOTE:***  *Thank you to everyone who has contributed so many interesting pieces to this month’s newsletter.*  *The next newsletter is a double issue to cover Dec and Jan so please send all contributions and comments to me at* [*info@thebordersdesignhouse.co.uk*](mailto:info@thebordersdesignhouse.co.uk) *(tel 01890 761271) by 15 November at the latest.*  *Thank you.*  Pat  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Temp\pp_nov_2013_cartoon_nf.tif  © 2014 Parish Pump Ltd, all rights reserved |
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