**ST EBBA’S**

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**EYEMOUTH**

**November 2015**

**C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Temp\pp_nov_2014_artwork_1_poppy_wreath_fr.tif**

**Times of worship**

Every Sunday: 11am Eucharist in church

OSCR number SC023275

**Priest’s Ponderings**

With our AGM looming on **29th November**, I have been thinking long and hard about where we are and where we might go. It’s a while since I heard anyone mention Local Collaborative Ministry so I’d like to remind you of our present status.

If you go back and meditate on St Paul’s epistles, you may notice that all the places he wrote to give us glimpses of groups of people who had come to belief in Jesus and were creating their own churches in small, compassionate, cantankerous, hospitable and believably human congregations. The evidence is thin but the pictures painted by Paul’s letters are of congregations inventing their own structures as they go along according to what fits their local needs. Although the congregations were small, they were totally committed to exploring the ways in which they could support each other and spread the word of God as they had discovered it in Jesus.

We have a long history of church life in this country but it is crumbling around us. I find it fascinating to observe the differences between a novel called ‘Jane and Prudence’ by Barbara Pym written in the 1960s and another novel written in the 1990s by Susan Howatch called ‘A question of integrity’. Both are about Christianity and the church but the earlier one assumes commonly understood belief while the later one has characters who are struggling in a world where belief is an anachronism. We have witnessed the breakdown of belief systems and allegiances. Priests are in short supply and the historic bases of church finance are crumbling away so that local churches must find their own solutions if they are to continue to exist.

This is what we started at St Ebba’s in 2009. We looked at possibilities and agreed to set out on the road to collaborative ministry. Looking back at that decision, I am not sure we had really understood what that means. When I look at Paul’s description of the young churches he visited, he paints a picture of groups of people wholly committed to the life of their church. Those churches recognised each individual’s gifts as given to them by God and each member exercised their gift within the family of their church so that they supported each other and grew together in faith and love. Each member has to play their part in that growth and accept responsibility for their church’s life and work. No-one is likely to shoulder

that sort of responsibility unless they are truly committed.

It is clear that in all of the churches Paul wrote to, leadership is corporate. They are loving families who share the responsibilities of day-to-day living and growing. I was caught by a quotation in a book I was reading (though I have no idea who said it originally): “A boat is safest when it is at anchor in a sheltered harbour. But that is not what a boat is for.” Jesus never looked for safety and if we are to be his followers, we may have to take risks in order to grow in fellowship and faith. We may have to rock the boat a bit but then we can move out together into new life, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Through the strength of praying and sharing together, we will be able to take forward the messages of love and support that God invites us to share with all those around us.

I hope and pray that you will be able to come along to the AGM to hear about what we might be able to do if you are willing to give us your active support.

Jennifer

**EAST BERWICKSHIRE CHURCHES TOGETHER - Dates for your Diary**  
   
**Sunday 8th November** Remembrance Sunday Service with Royal British Legion 2.30 p.m. Parish Church   
**Sunday 29th November** 5 p.m. Switch-on of Christmas lights by Eyemouth Herring Queen   
**Sunday 20th December** 6.30 p.m. - Carols by Candlelight - Coldingham Priory   
**BIBLE 4 2-day (2nd & 4th Monday evenings)**  Parish Church Hall  
'Getting to Grips with the Bible'.  Tea/coffee available from 7.15 p.m. 7.45 Short, simple worship followed by talk with group discussion. Close with short act of worship finishing 9 p.m. prompt. Come along and bring questions and an open mind   
**Wednesday Advent Study Group** beginning 2nd December - St Ebba's Parsonage, Beach Ave  
10 a.m. Communion;  10.30 Tea/Coffee;  11 a.m. Discussion of York Course Advent material. Finish 12 noon. Arrive at 10, 10.30 or 11 a.m.   
**Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday of every month** 8.30 a.m. Parish Church Hall  
**Joint Service - 2nd Sunday** of every month 6.30 p.m. venues by rotation

**NOVEMBER DIARY**

**Sun 1st ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS**

11am Eucharist

Readings Isaiah 25 vs 6-9

Revelation 21 vs 1-6a

John 11 vs 32-44

**Wed 4th** 10.00am Eucharist

In the Parsonage

Readings Romans 13 vs 8-10

Luke 14 vs 25-33

**Sun 8th PENTECOST 24**

11am Eucharist

Readings 1 Kings 17 vs 8-16

Hebrews 9 vs 24-28

Mark 12 vs 38-44

**Sun 15th**  **PENTECOST 25**

11am Eucharist

Readings Daniel 12 vs 1-3

Hebrews 10 vs 11-14, 19-25

Mark 13 vs 1-8

**Sun 22nd CHRIST THE KING**

11am Eucharist

Readings Daniel 7 vs 9-10, 13-14

Revelation 1 vs 4b-8

John 18 vs 33-37

**Sun 29th ADVENT 1**

**AGM**

Readings Jeremiah 33 vs 14-16

1 Thessalonians 3 vs 9-13

Luke 21 vs 25-36

**INTERCESSORS AND READERS – NOVEMBER**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Server** | **Intercessor** | **Reader** |
| Sun 1st | Richard Oldale | Ernie Cox | Debbie Higson |
| Sun 8th | Joan Shelmerdine | Simon Furness | Frankie Taylor |
| Sun 15th | Richard Oldale | Joan Thomas | Brian Payne |
| Sun 22rd | Joan Shelmerdine | Jan Simpson | Pat Elliott |
| Sun 29th | Richard Oldale | Jennifer Edie | Susan Struthers |

***DON’T FORGET***

**The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St Ebba's will be held on Sunday, 29th November 2015.**

**This is an important part of our life as a church community so we hope as many people as possible will make the effort to attend. There will be a shortened Eucharist at 11 a.m. (no sermon) and we move directly into the A.G.M. as a part of our life and service for God. We need**

**NEW MEMBERS FOR THE VESTRY**

**Please think about this. Volunteer yourself or ask other members if you may nominate them. This is your church and you have a contribution to make to our future so please come to the meeting and take part in discussions about future plans. If you have been in church lately, you will see that our numbers are getting smaller. Can you help us with suggestions of how we might make changes if you think they are necessary? Come and tell us what you would like to see happening in St. Ebba’s.**

5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **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   **A WAR MEMORIAL IN IRELAND**  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\OXUDGCYJ\2864309_e34089b9[1].jpgI spent much of my childhood in the small market town of Portlaoise (formerly Maryborough) in the South Midlands of Eire 50 miles SW of Dublin. It was the county town of Laois (formerly Leix or Queen’s County). At that time it was little bigger than Eyemouth is today. There was a lot of poverty in the Ireland of the 1940s and 50s and Co. Laois had its fair share of it. The memory of the Potato Famine of the 1840s was still vivid in the minds of many and the effects of World War I were still evident when I was young as evidenced by a number of people suffering from shell-shock.  Before 1914 The Irish National Party had a lot of support from the people as it was aiming for Home Rule. That policy was postponed because of the outbreak of World War I. The Allied cause was popular in Ireland because Catholic Belgium had been invaded by the Germans. Over 100,000 Irishmen volunteered for the front including Major Willie Redmond, the brother of John Redmond, leader of the Irish National Party. Willie lost his life in the conflict in 1917. Almost 50,00 Irishmen died in the Great War, including several hundred from Portlaoise. A war memorial was erected in the town with the a verse from Ezekiel’s Vision of the Dry Bones inscribed below the names of the fallen:  *“Come from the four winds, O Breath and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”*  Many of those named were from the 4th Battalion (Queen’s County) of the Leinster Regiment. That battalion lost a total of 177 soldiers along with Lt Col T. Stannus and 15 other officers including 11 Second Lieutenants, eight Sergeants, 14 Corporals and 139 men. The majority of the casualties were very young. Judging by the names, most of the officers were Church of Ireland and the NCOs and men were mainly Roman Catholic.  John Redmond died in London in March 1918, and the moderate Irish National Party was almost wiped out in the General Election held in December 1918. Sinn Fein had gained many seats at the expense of the National Party. The mood of the people had changed to more extreme nationalism after the execution of the leaders of the Easter Rebellion in 1916. The Irish War of Independence broke out after the formation of the Irish Provisional Government – the first Dail Eireann in January 1919. The soldiers returning from the front came back to a changed country.  The official opening of the Portlaoise War Memorial took place on the overcast day of Thursday 15th November 1928. More than 500 people attended that ceremony, including around 200 ex-soldiers. Due to extensive redevelopment, the Portlaoise War Memorial was moved to a small park at Mill View in 2001. After decades of non-recognition by the Irish government and local authorities, ecumenical memorial services take place regularly on Armistice Day in Portlaoise and in many other parts of the Irish Republic.  Portlaoise has moved on. It had a population of 3,800 in 1961, now it has over 20,000 (2011) – owing much of its prosperity to good road and rail links to other parts of Ireland.  **Ernie Cox**  **Time for Remembrance**  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpgC:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\remembrance-day-poppy-20731699[1].jpg  If you would like to pay your own personal tribute to the soldiers who died during the First World War, then why not consider participating in a very easy project being run by the British Legion? Not only is it commemorative, but it is one which will yield big results for your garden next year!  It is the Centenary Poppy Campaign, in which the Royal British Legion has joined forces with B&Q to encourage the public and local authorities to plant Flanders poppy seeds on their own land. The Flanders poppy seeds can be purchased from B&Q, where a donation of £1 will go towards the work of the Legion. Just visit your B&Q for more details.  **ST EBBA's WAS FULL!**  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\baptism[1].jpg   Well if you weren't in Church on Sunday 11th October you missed something special.  Not only was it Harvest Festival but it was the Baptism of baby Eva Ruth and wow did she have a big party!  St Ebba's was full and members of the congregation had to double up in the pews to make space and share books which was great.  They even sat in the choir stalls.  Lovely to have a large body of people singing (especially male voices) and the Christening party also joined in the responses well which so often visitors unfamiliar with our service don't.   So thank you to Simon and Patricia for the bulk of the church decorating which looked lovely and to the family's photographer who got stuck in and dusted our window sills(!) and Sheila also did a bit.  Well done Sheila on coping with such a busy service and the complication of two different versions of the Baptism booklet!    Here's to more Baptisms!   Frankie Taylor **All Saints’ Day – the feast day of all the redeemed** C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\SA5APA66\Hallowmas_-All_-Saints_-Day_-Craft_-Ideas_-_09[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. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:  *He wants not friends that hath thy love, And made converse and walk with thee, And with thy saints here and above, With whom for ever I must be... As for my friends, they are not lost; The several vessels of thy fleet, Though parted now, by tempests tost, Shall safely in thy haven meet.... The heavenly hosts, world without end, Shall be my company above; And thou, my best and surest Friend, Who shall divide me from thy love?\** \*(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.  **All Souls’ Day – a time of reckoning with the past****C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EBFLV5PK\all-saints1[1].png** The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain ‘the Beatific Vision’ through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls’ Day should follow the feast of All Saints’ Day.   In bygone centuries All Souls’ Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For 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.   On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe’en.  When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church. **TALK ABOUT AUSTERY** *David Winter remembers the end of the Second World War…C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JUZDLAR7\Graph-showing-government--010[1].jpg*  This year we have marked the 70th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day, memorable days of celebration as the Second World War came to an end. What some of us are now remembering, however, is what followed. It was certainly no instant transfer from the arduous years of war to the joys of peace. Indeed, for many ordinary people in Britain the immediate post-war years were times of acute struggle. It was lovely to welcome back the men and women who had served in the Forces, but – speaking as a teenager at the time – the fruits of victory were hard to identify (though we did get our first bananas!).  Our cities were pockmarked with ugly bomb-sites. There was still rationing of food, clothes and ‘luxuries’. Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, could promise no immediate relief – he was dubbed ‘Austerity Cripps’. Fuel was often in short supply, and we had a couple of very cold winters. If this was what it was like to be the winners, how must it have been for the losers? We learnt later the answer: no worse, and in some cases a bit better!  When politicians speak now of ‘austerity’, we children of the post-war age are tempted to reply: ‘You don’t know what austerity is’.  **HEALTH TIPS**  **C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\KBZLBU08\health-and-wellbeing1[1].gif**  **WAIST HIGH**  ***How does your waist measure against your height?***    If you want a quick way of determining whether you should lose weight or not, simply measure your waist, and compare it with your height. The secret to a long life is having your waistline no larger than half of your height.  A recent study by Cass Business School at City University, London, based on two decades of medical research, said that a waist to height ratio of 80 per cent or more could reduce your life expectancy by up to 20 years.  **MIND YOUR BACK**  Lots of everyday activities can take a toll on your back, even if you don’t notice it at the time. Here are a few tips that will help you to avoid back problems:  Firstly, while standing to perform ordinary tasks like ironing or folding laundry, keep one foot on a small step-stool. Then, when bending from the waist, always use your hands to support yourself.  Don’t sit or stand in the same position for too long. Stretch, shift your position and walk about a bit when you can. When sitting, keep your knees a bit higher than your hips and bend them at a 90-degree angle. Your feet should be comfortably on the floor (if they don’t reach the floor, put a book or a small stool under them).  Finally, remember that even using a vacuum cleaner can take a toll on your back. So tackle a large room in chunks, spending no more than five or ten minutes at a time on this task. Simple tips like these will pay dividends.  **LAUGHTER LINES**  **C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\34GZLM5O\laughter[1].gif**  Preacher: Can everyone hear me at the back?  Voice from the back: Yes, but I wouldn’t mind changing seats with someone who can’t!  A Sunday school teacher asked her children: “And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?”  One little girl replied helpfully: “Because people are sleeping.”  He’s an original preacher, our new curate. He makes a lot of mistakes, and they are different every time.  The vicar was preaching a powerful sermon concerning death and judgment. In the course of the sermon, he said: “Just think – all of you living in this parish will one day die.” At this, a man in the front pew began to laugh quietly.  After the service the vicar demanded sternly why he had found such a serious subject so funny? The man explained: “I was just happy, because I don’t live in this parish.”  The new minister was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Finally he took out a card, wrote "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock*." *Revelation 3:20’* on the back and stuck it in the door.  When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, ‘*Genesis 3:10’.*  Reaching for his Bible, he read: "*I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked." Genesis 3:10’*  **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 Brian Payne 018907 81825  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:***  *Thanks to everyone who has contributed 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*  [*thebordersdesignhouse@hotmail.com*](mailto:%20thebordersdesignhouse@hotmail.com) *(tel 01890 761271) by 15 November at the latest.*  *Thank you.*  Pat  C:\Users\Pat\AppData\Local\Temp\pp_nov_15_cartoon_-_vacuum_cleaner_dark_rw.png  © 2015 Parish Pump Ltd, all rights reserved |
|  |  |