

**ST EBBA'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EYEMOUTH**

December 2015/January 2016



Times of worship

Every Sunday: 11am Eucharist in church



Dear Members of St Ebba's,

When the Editor asked Vestry members if we would consider taking a turn at writing the 'letter' at the front of the magazine I thought to myself well, no, couldn't do that. However, an idea did come to me.

St Ebba's congregation, like many other small churches, is ageing and shrinking. It is always possible that a family or two may arrive in Eyemouth and seek out the local Episcopal church. (This happened at a small country church in Lancashire which totally transformed the congregation) but in the absence of this miracle I feel it is up to each and every one of us to try our best to do something to increase our numbers.

If someone asks you what are you doing this weekend or what did you get up to on Sunday, do you tell them that you'll be going to church or that you went to church? I don't believe in ramming religion down people's throats but I make a point of mentioning it maybe to gauge reaction, be different or mostly because so few of us are attending church now and going to church needs all the mentions it can get! There are a lot of other activities going on and church attendance is never considered these days. If you meet someone new to the area and church or Sunday activities come into the conversation, tell them about St Ebba's. Even some small mention like our working garden parties, the church being crammed full for baby Eva's Baptism in October or merely saving the plastic milk bottle tops and stamps for a good cause.

When I tell local people I attend St Ebba's they nearly always ask "oh which church is that?" expecting me to describe one of the three churches at Holy Corner. No, no I reply, stand in the Co-op-car park, turn around, look up the hill and that's St Ebba's. So lots of people don't even know where we are in the town! I tell them we have lovely views over Eyemouth and the Bay, not that that is a prime reason for going to church but I do think the building (and St Ebba's IS lovely inside) and its setting make a difference. Think how nice a wedding would be!

So let's hear it for St Ebba's Go out and make little mentions to your friends/colleagues/acquaintances. A new topic of conversation you can tell

them very soon will be our plans for developing and modernising the back of the church. Now that's exciting!

Frankie Taylor

POLITICS AND RELIGION

Mahatma Gandhi said : Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is.

Ayatollah Khomeini said: Anyone who says religion has nothing to do with politics is a fool.

Do you agree? Share your thoughts in our next newsletter

Jennifer

INVITATION

On Sunday January 4th 1976 I was ordained priest in St. Mary's Cathedral by the newly-elected Bishop of Edinburgh, Alistair Haggart. It was his first ordination and I am sure he was more nervous than I was.

So this January marks my 40th anniversary of ordination and as Irene and I will be away over Christmas, I will be celebrating it on Sunday January 17th at the 11.00 am Eucharist.

After the service we would like to invite everyone to come back to our house (2 The Firs, Foulden Newton) for a buffet lunch.

Please do join us on this special day.

RSVP to Tim or Irene (01289386615) or tim@foulden.org.uk

DECEMBER DIARY

Wed 2nd 10.00am Eucharist in the Parsonage

Sun 6th **ADVENT 2**
11am Eucharist
Readings Baruch 5 vs 1-9
Phil 1 vs 3-11
Matthew 11 vs 28-30

Wed 9th 10.00am Eucharist in the Parsonage

Sun 13th **ADVENT 3**
11am Eucharist
Readings Zephanaiah 3 vs 14-20
Phil 4 vs 4-7
Luke 3 vs 7-18

Wed 16th 10.00am Eucharist in the Parsonage

Sun 20th **ADVENT 4**
11am Eucharist
Readings Micah 5 vs 2-5a
Hebrews 10 vs 5-10
Luke 1 vs 39-45

Fri 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**
11am Eucharist
Readings Isaiah 52 vs 7-10
Hebrews 1 vs 1-9
John 1 vs 1-14

Sun 27th **CHRISTMAS 1**
11am Eucharist
1 Samuel 2 vs 18-20, 26
Coloss 3 vs 12-17
Luke 2 vs 41-52

JANUARY DIARY

- Sun 3rd** **CHRISTMAS 2**
11am Eucharist
Readings Jeremiah 31 vs 7-14
Ephes 1 vs 3-14
John 1 vs 10-18
- Wed 6th** **EPIPHANY**
10.00am Eucharist in the Parsonage
Readings Isaiah 60 vs 1-6
Ephes 3 vs 1-12
Matthew 2 vs 1-12
- Sun 10th** **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
11am Eucharist
Readings Isaiah 43 vs 1-7
Acts 8 vs 14-17
Luke 3 vs 15-17, 21-22
- Sun 17th** **EPIPHANY 2**
11am Eucharist
Readings Isaiah 62 vs 1-5
1 Corin 12 vs 1-11
John 2 vs 1-11
- Sun 24th** **EPIPHANY 3**
11am Eucharist
Nehemiah 8 vs 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corin 12 vs 12-31a
Luke 4 vs 14-21
- Sun 31st** **EPIPHANY 4**
11am Eucharist
Jeremiah 1 vs 4-10
1 Corin 13 vs 1-13
Luke 4 vs 21-30

INTERCESSORS AND READERS – DECEMBER

	Server	Intercessor	Reader
Sun 6 th	Richard Oldale	Joan Shelmerdine	Simon Furness
Sun 13 th	Richard Oldale /Joan Shelmerdine	Joan Thomas	Frankie Taylor
Sun 20 th	Richard Oldale	Ernie Cox	Debbie Higson
Fri 25 th	Joan Shelmerdine	Simon Furness	Ernie Cox
Sun 27 th	Joan Shelmerdine	Jan Simpson	Brian Payne

INTERCESSORS AND READERS – JANUARY

	Server	Intercessor	Reader
Sun 3 rd	Richard Oldale	Ernie Cox	Jan Simpson
Sun 10 th	Joan Shelmerdine	Simon Furness	Brian Payne
Sun 17 th	Joan Shelmerdine	Joan Thomas	Pat Elliott
Sun 31 st	Joan Shelmerdine	Sheila Cox	Joan Thomas

NOTE YOUR DIARY

Ecumenical Advent Study: Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. in the Parsonage beginning on 2nd December. There will be a Eucharist at 10 a.m. and coffee at 10.30. We will be following the new York Course:
Making Room:---

2nd Dec - for the newcomer

9th Dec - for the stranger

16th Dec - for what really matters

23rd Dec - for God

20 Dec 6.30pm Carols by candlelight Coldingham Priory

24 Dec 9.30am Decorating St Ebba's Our church always looks beautiful at Christmas but, since several of us will unfortunately be unavailable on Christmas Eve, your help decorating the church that morning would be very much appreciated.

Faith in Action for December

December



Recent years have seen an increase in new HIV infections in Scotland – the majority within the heterosexual population. There has been inadequate sexual health education for the general population, with the resultant increase in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. People living with HIV face stigma and discrimination on a regular basis and they need our support and our care.

- Pray for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Pray for all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS
- Pray for more effective drugs to combat this disease
- Support charities who work with people living with HIV/AIDS
- Unconditionally accept people living with HIV/AIDS as equal members of the body of Christ

PRAYER

God of all compassion

We remember the millions of people throughout our world who are living with HIV. People in the developed world who have access to treatments but who often struggle to manage the regimes. People in the developing world with little or no access to treatment. Families who have lost an entire generation, orphaned children who struggle to bring up their siblings.

We pray for all those who are committed to changing this situation. God of love and compassion, hear this prayer.

Amen

ADVENTURES IN FAITH



Wednesday 2nd December 2pm – 4.30pm

Windows on Reflective Practice – for all involved in paid or voluntary pastoral roles or helping professions, including youth leaders, social workers, NHS or healthcare workers, church visitors, clergy etc. These individual sessions will offer two tasters of soulful, creative reflective practice for anyone who wishes to be more resourced for their paid or voluntary role. Reconnect with work-life values, revitalise vision, explore tricky encounters, negotiate working relationships and gain new perspectives. We will use creative methods such as images and objects, and move across soul, mind, body and imagination, in a session which cuts through the need for lots of words or disclosure of details.

Come and see. Maximum 7 people at each session. £15.

Held at the Diocesan Office, 21A Grosvenor Cres, Edinburgh, EH12 5EL.

Facilitated by Elizabeth White, spiritual director and supervisor.

To book please send a cheque payable to 'Edinburgh Diocesan Synod' to

Elizabeth White, Adventures in Faith Coordinator, Diocese of Edinburgh, 21A Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL
adventures@dioceseofedinburgh.org



RATHER THAN A LAST MINUTE RUSH Source unknown
Extract from Families First – the magazine of the Mothers Union

While many of us would echo the sentiments of this plea, we know that in reality the season of Advent and Christmas can be taken up with busyness, occasional panics and a constant battle within us between the commercialisation and holiness of the moment. We may agree wholeheartedly that Advent is a time of waiting and expectation but, practically, this may be epitomised by waiting for deliveries from online retailers and low expectations as to how the festivities will pan out! So how do we avoid adding guilt at our spiritual shortcomings to the list of seasonal pressures? How do we take steps to embrace the significance of the celebrations, so that we do, indeed, approach Christmas with an expectant hush?

Well, rather than promising ourselves that we will spend hours in meaningful contemplation, and then failing to keep our commitment, the key may simply be to take steps in prayer throughout Advent – small, manageable ones – a few minutes each day. We could try to find some precious moments for ourselves to prayerfully review the year gone by; to reflect afresh on how the birth of the Messiah is key to our lives; and to look ahead, both to the coming year and to the coming again of Christ.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STEPS IN PRAYER

- ❖ **Consider what has happened in your life this year – what is different for you at the beginning of this season? What is the same?**
- ❖ **Reflect on how the events of this year may affect your attitude to this Advent and Christmas**
- ❖ **Take time to acknowledge disappointment; to celebrate the good and the unexpected; to be thankful**
- ❖ **Choose a verse from the Bible about the Nativity and use it as an inspiration for prayer**
- ❖ **Reflect on what may lie ahead in the coming year. Be honest with God about your hopes and concerns**
- ❖ **Choose a verse from the Bible about the second coming of Christ and use it as an inspiration for prayer**

VISIT TO ST KIARAN'S, CAMPBELTOWN, KINTYRE



Ian and I spent four days in Kintyre at the end of October so we planned to visit the Episcopal church in Campbeltown. We found it on the Friday and noted the service was 10.45 a.m. We also wanted to walk out to Davaar Island off Campbeltown which is tidal so got the times from the Tourist Information Office. The only suitable time was Sunday morning but if we got up early we could make it before church. We did get up at 7.30 a.m. but didn't start walking till 8.50 so this was pushing it a bit to be back and changed for 10.45. So we just decided we'd walk for 40 mins and see where that got us to. We'd hoped to reach the lighthouse on the east side of the island. Well we just made it. 40 mins took us exactly to the lighthouse, time to take a couple of photos and head back. Quick change of trousers and out of walking boots in the non-salubrious public toilets by the harbour and we made it to St. Kieran's with about three minutes to spare.

A very nice lady called Jane handed us 'Mission Praise' and the Book of Common Prayer explaining that it was Morning Prayer today followed by coffee and congregation discussion which we'd be very welcome to stay for and it always finished by 12 noon. Our gut reaction was to do a quick turnaround saying oops, no thank you but that seemed very rude and I'm very glad we didn't. (we are not fans of Matins). Nice lady Jane was also leading the service. It was strange to be reunited with the Venite, the Jubilate and the Te Deum. Also interesting to be reminded that some prayers which we use in the Scottish Liturgy come from the Morning Prayer service. They have several leaders and always have to use reserved sacrament. There were probably about 25 attending.

St Kieran's is about twice the size of St Ebba's with lots of tall stained glass windows which let in loads of light. We were very interested to hear later that they made alterations about seven years ago exchanging their hard wooden chairs for the comfiest they could find and carpeting throughout with a nice green colour with tiny coloured specs under the seating area and another plain colour for all the walking areas. They left a big social space at

the back where there was a table for serving coffee and enough space for a circle of chairs for discussion. They still have a real organist who also doubles as the Lay Chaplain (and probably several other roles). On this first Sunday of the month they don't have a sermon but "minister to each other" over coffee. They had a small book whose title I'm afraid I've forgotten but it had various short passages written by a variety of people on different subjects and people shared what they thought of a certain passage. The Lay Chaplain went over the 'tweaks' he had made since the congregational Mission survey which had had a good response and there were several new plans afoot.

They asked us to tell them about St Ebba's which we did and a lady from Isle of Islay told us about their struggle with a membership of three(!) - and we thought we had problems! Islay will pay all expenses for a clergy person to go over and take a service for them! We heard about St Kieran's previously falling numbers and how they had managed to turn things around. Lay Chaplain and Islay lady had both met and benefited from meeting our own Tim Morris.

So all in all quite an inspirational visit. If they can do it, so can we!

Frankie Taylor

What we do is very little, but it is like the boy with a few loaves and fishes: Christ took that little and increased it. He will do the rest. What we do is so little we may seem to be constantly failing, but so did Christ fail. He met with apparent failure on the cross. But unless the seed fall into the earth and die, there is no harvest. And why must we see the results? Our work is to sow. Another generation will be reaping the harvest.

Dorothy Day: *Selected Writings*

REMINDER

If you wish to donate to the food bank (tinned or dry goods only please or money), there are boxes at the back of the Church to receive your contributions.

“Why should the Welsh have all the good tunes?”



One Sunday in October we sang the hymn “O for a thousand tongues to sing” to the tune Lyngham. Afterwards, I heard the comment passed that this must have been a Welsh tune, so I did some research to find out about it.

The tune was actually written by an English composer, Thomas Jarman. He was born on 21st December 1776 in Clipston, a small village in Northamptonshire. His father was a Baptist lay preacher and a tailor, and Thomas was brought up in the same trade. His natural taste for music, however, considerably interfered with his work, and he was frequently reduced to dire financial straits. He was a man of fine, commanding presence, but self-willed, and endowed with a considerable gift of irony, as choirs frequently found to their cost. It was said by a contemporary that Jarman neglected his work and ‘this kept him poor...and soured his temper’.

He had joined the choir of the Baptist chapel in the village when quite young, and soon became the choirmaster there. Then he decided to adopt music as a profession (with occasional returns to his old trade), and was engaged as teacher of harmony and singing in many neighbouring villages. He was a successful choir-trainer, spending several years at Leamington, and conducted concerts as well as services, for which he was ‘constantly composing works’. The village choir festival held under his direction at Naseby, in 1837, is said to have been the talk of the district for long after.

Jarman published an enormous quantity of music, including over six hundred hymn-tunes, besides anthems, services, and similar pieces. He also wrote for special occasions such as an anthem for the opening of the new Baptist chapel at Clipston and a Magnificat for Dr Marsh's Episcopal chapel at Leamington.

The tune “Lyngham” was published in Jarman’s book “Sacred Music” around 1803. It is known as a fuguing tune, which begins in unison and then moves to imitative lines that require part singing as well as repetition of some of the words. The tune works well for both choral singing and for congregational singing in parts. It is said that “the rhythmic vitality of the

music needs brisk organ accompaniment” to add to what should be vigorous singing.

Thomas Jarman lived to the good old age of eighty-five, dying in 1861, and lies buried in the graveyard attached to the Baptist chapel at Clipston in Northants.

Tim Morris

Change can be challenging

LAMENT TO THE LORD



They have brought you up to date Lord, down at Saint Cecilia's
They have pensioned off the organ, they are praising with guitars
They have done it for the young ones, we want to draw them in
But I DO wish they could worship without making such a din
For I am growing rather deaf Lord, and when there's all that noise
It gets so very hard Lord, to hear your loving voice
They have written brand new hymns Lord, with tunes that I don't
know
So I hardly ever sing now, though I did love singing so
They have modernised the Bible and the Lord's prayer and the Creed
When the old ones were so perfect that they filled my every need
My mind's not quite so agile as it was long ago
And I miss the age-old beauty of the words I used to know
It's very clear to me Lord, I've overstayed my time
I don't take to change so kindly as I did when in my prime
I guess I'll stick it out here, though it's not the same for me
But while others call You 'YOU' Lord, do you mind if I say 'THEE'?

Mavis Clark, "This England", Spring 1990, Vol.23 No.1

You've got to smile

Home Schooling



Most older folk were taught at home, as well as actually attending a school...

Our mothers taught us TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I've just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us RELIGION: "You'd better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Our fathers taught us MORE LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

Our mothers taught us about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

Our fathers taught us about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until we get home."

Our mothers taught us about ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally, our fathers taught us about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

CHURCH CONTACTS

Priests	the Revd Sheila Cox	01890771764
	the Revd Jennifer Edie	01890750169
	the Revd David Smout	01890771220
	the Revd Tim Morris	01289386615
Lay Rep	Brian Payne	01890781825
Alt Lay Rep	David Garside	01890751159
People's Warden	Richard Oldale	01890750939
Administrator	Jennifer Edie	01890750169
Treasurer	David Garside	01890751159
Asst Treasurer	Ian Taylor	01890751123
St Ebba's Church, Fort View, Paxton Terrace, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL		
St Ebba's Parsonage, Beach Avenue, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL		
<u>www.stebbas.org.uk</u>		

If you are in hospital and would like us to know and/or to visit, under the current regulations you have specifically to 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:

Our thanks as always to the Parish Pump website for providing material for our newsletters throughout the year and to our own contributors.

As you can see, this is a double issue to cover Dec and Jan. Please send all contributions and comments for the February 2016 newsletter to me at thebordersdesignhouse@hotmail.com by 15 January at the latest.

*With very best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and healthy New Year. **Pat***



*Sara preferred to let people work
out the hymns for themselves*