



St Mungo's Messenger

February/ March 2012

Web edition





St Mungo's Messenger

Twinned with All Saints-Sharon Chapel, Alexandria, Virginia, USA

February / March 2012





SERVICES & EVENTS Kalender Feb. / April 2012

Sundays 9.00 am *Eucharist* 11.00am *Sung Eucharist*
There is no Sunday School /Mini Mungo Club at present, but children are always welcome at our services.
Story cards and Children's Communion Books are always available.

Wednesdays in the Lady Chapel 10.00 am *Eucharist*

Special Services during February, April

Wednesday 22nd February (Ash Wednesday) 10.00 am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
 7.30 pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Monday 19th March (St. Joseph) 7.30 pm Eucharist

Monday 26th March (The Annunciation) 7.30 pm Eucharist

Sunday 18th March (Mothering Sunday) 9.00 am Eucharist
 11.00 am Sung Eucharist

Holy Week and Easter Services

1st April Palm Sunday

9.00 am Blessing of Palms & Eucharist
 11.00 am Blessing of Palms & Sung Eucharist

Monday 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross 8.00 pm Eucharist

Tuesday 2.00 pm Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Eucharist

Wednesday 9.00 am Stations of the Cross 10.00 am Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper
 followed by the Stripping of the Altar
 and Watch of the Passion until midnight

Good Friday

11.00 am Ecumenical Walk of Witness
 2.00 pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday

9.00 pm Service of Light
 and Lighting of the Paschal Candle

8th April Easter Sunday

9.00 am Eucharist
 11.00 am Sung Eucharist



Readers and Intercessors Rota: February/April 2012

9 am Eucharist Reader (RCL Year B)		11 am Sung Eucharist Reader (RCL, Year B)		Intercessor
12th February Epiphany 6	David McB.	Pauline D.	2 Kings 5 : 1 - 14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9 : 24 - 27	Jim M.
19th February Sunday before Lent	Ian A.	John G.	Deuteronomy 5 : 12 - 15 Psalm 81 : 1 - 10 2 Corinthians 4 : 5 - 12	Fiona W.
26th February Lent 1	John S.	Jean B.	Genesis 9 : 8 - 17 Psalm 25 : 1 - 10 1 Peter 3 : 18 - 22	Jock S-P.
4th March Lent 2	David McB	Jim M.	Genesis 17 : 1 / 16 Psalm 22 : 22 - 30 Romans 4 : 13 - 25	Pauline D.
11th March Lent 3	Ian A.	Jock S-P.	Exodus 20 : 1 - 17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1 : 18	Fiona W.
18th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	John S.	Pauline D.	TBA	Jim M.
25th March Lent 5	David McB	John G.	Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34 Psalm 119 : 9 - 16 Hebrews 5 : 5 - 10	Fiona W.
1st April Palm Sunday	Ian A.	Jean B.	Isaiah 50 : 4 – 9a Psalm 31 : 9 - 16 Philippians 2 : 5 - 11	Jock S-P.
8th April Easter Sunday	John S.	Jock S-P.	Isaiah 25 : 6 - 9 Psalm 118 : `1 / 24 Acts 10 : 34 - 43	Pauline D.

Readers, please arrive at the Church in time to make sure that the book is on the Lectern and open at the right place before the service starts. At the 9.00 am Eucharist the reading is normally just the Second Reading/Epistle from the Revised Common Lectionary, and at the 11.00 am Sung Eucharist readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, as shown above. In the RCL it is Year B. The page numbers and layout are the same as in the smaller paper-back edition.

If you need to change dates, please arrange an exchange, and let me know.

S.G.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

You may have seen a large advertisement in the national press recently for a well-known funeral undertaker, offering a personal service caring for everyone's needs. A young man sitting on a park bench is saying "I want mine in the church my Nan used to take me to."

I can understand his wish for his funeral to take place in a church with fond memories from long ago, a place where he has felt nurtured, a spiritual home. I have conducted a number of such funerals in St. Mungo's, and I imagine that most clergy have done likewise. It is one of the things that we and the Church are here for, and I assure you that not being "a member", or being a "lapsed member" does not mean that the church offers a "second class" funeral. Everyone is a born a child of God, and the church does not discriminate. We try to do our best for the deceased and the bereaved family in all circumstances.

However, unless the young man actively supports a local church, he runs the risk that when he needs it for his funeral, it may have fallen out of use as a place of Christian worship. Many church buildings have been converted into flats, concert halls, gymnasias, indoor markets, restaurants and so on, and in general this is preferable to having them stand empty, gradually becoming more and more dilapidated, like Millburn Church in Renton.

"Supporting" a church may mean different things to different people. Financial support is welcome, and vital to the everyday running of a church. Bills for heating, everyday maintenance, annual checks of fire extinguishers and so on have to be paid - take a look at our annual accounts and you will see what I mean! But financial support alone will not keep a church thriving. More important even than the church building is the church congregation, the Body of Christ on earth, the organic, living, loving people whose corporate worship, fellowship and friendships support each

other in the faith, bind the whole thing together, and enable outreach into the wider community.

One of the strengths of our Scottish Episcopal Church is that we are inclusive; our ethos is one of acceptance. Apart from the necessity to keep a Communicants' Roll *, our concept of Church membership is quite fluid - we have no hard and fast boundaries - it is not a case of being either "in" or "out". If folk seem happy to see me when I visit, and to receive their copy of St. Mungo's Messenger, then they are part of St. Mungo's family - even if it is a long while since they've attended. I would rather see folk attend once in a blue moon than not at all!

But for St. Mungo's really to thrive, we all need each other's support, young and old. We need each other to be involved, in our worship, social events, and the various tasks that have to be done, such as cleaning, flower arranging and so on. Please don't leave it all to a handful of people. The whole is much more than the sum of the parts.

Obviously it is not realistic to expect everybody to attend every Sunday - other commitments may also be an important part of our Christian witness - and illness and the recent bad weather have kept some folk at home - but surely we can do better than the recent average of 30 on a Sunday, (total for the two services), and a handful on a Wednesday, out of a total congregation of round about 140!

Please think, and act, on these things. Otherwise, in a few years' time, the church your Nan used to take you to might not be there for you.

The peace of Christ be with you all

Yours *Sally*

* Communicants' Roll: See Canon 41 : basically a list of those members of the congregation who have made their communion at least once during the preceding year, and hence (if they are 18 or over) are eligible to vote at the AGM and/or to hold office.



Patronal Festival

The celebration of St. Mungo's Day went very well, both liturgically and socially. The congregation enjoyed the Dean's sermon, and the Dean really appreciated the welcome and the hospitality and the excellent Bring and Share lunch. Many thanks to everyone who participated in any way, especially to Lynnette for all her work in the Kitchen! Jim B. was away, and the rest of us forgot to take any photographs for this magazine - Jim really is indispensable!

Real Easter Eggs £3.99 each Put Jesus back into Easter

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only milk chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. Inside there is a Bible quote and with every egg a free 8-page Story of Easter booklet. It is also Fairtrade and supports Traidcraft Exchange. Supplies are limited. Churches can place orders online, preferably by 9th February. If you would like to order one, tell me asap!

Sally

Bishop's Lent Appeal



This year the Bishop's Lent Appeal is for Waverley Care, a charity which supports people who are living with, or affected by, HIV.

See Diocesan News pages for more information..

Collecting boxes will be available from Ash Wednesday onwards.

Lent Lunch

A Lent Lunch has become a St. Mungo's tradition! Sunday 25th March seems to be the most suitable date this year, so I hope you will put that in your diaries right away. The idea of a "Lent Lunch" is that after the 11.00 am service we have a very simple meal of soup and bread, and maybe a piece of fruit, with a cup of tea or coffee, and make a donation to the Bishop's Lent Appeal of the cost of the "Sunday roast with all the trimmings and a bottle of wine" that we're not eating. We are hoping to get a speaker to talk about Waverley Care, the focus of this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal.

The Church will be prepared for Easter on Holy Saturday 7th April, starting at 10 am. Please come and lend a hand with flowers, brasses, sweeping, polishing, making the tea etc.



Lent Group

Many people make a practice of adding something extra to their devotional life during Lent, often by attending some kind of Lent Group. Here at St. Mungo's we will have a weekly discussion/study/prayer group, meeting in the Rectory, on five Tuesday evenings during Lent at 7.30 pm, beginning on Tuesday 28th February and ending on 27th March. The exact format is still to be decided, (for example: Bible study, or prayer and meditation, or one of the published Lent "courses", or discussion based on a suitable book, etc.) but the plan is for it to be user-friendly and non-threatening! If there is anything that particularly interests you, please have a word with me, and I will try to match supply to demand!

Sally.

A 17th century Nun's Prayer, sent in by Myrtle

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN

Organist



Peter, our organist, first played in St. Mungo's on a few occasions in 2002. In 2003 he came on a more regular basis, to help out "for a few weeks", which gradually turned into more than eight years! In all that time he has averaged less than one Sunday off per year. Our grateful thanks for all that he has brought to St. Mungo's over the years in music and in fellowship.

The Sunday before Christmas 2011 Peter fell down the stairs at his home in Lenzie. The injuries which he sustained were painful - a broken collar-bone and a great many bruises - but could have been much worse. He was sent home after a hospital check-up

to take things easy. But at the age of 85, he feels that it is now time to retire gracefully from St. Mungo's organ stool. The collar-bone is mending nicely, and when the weather is better and he feels able to drive as far as Alexandria, Peter will come back to see everyone.

Meantime God works in mysterious ways and has provided! We have not had to sing unaccompanied. Our gratitude to all those who have stepped into the breach: Andrew at the Nine Lessons and Carols, George at the Midnight Eucharist, Jim on several occasions, and Graham, who has, not for the first time, come to our help for a few months. Their music adds something special to our worship, and we cannot thank them enough for their generosity with their time and talents. Many organists are paid to be good; ours have all been good - for free!

But Graham has other commitments once the sailing season begins. We need to find someone for the long-term, or possibly two people who would be willing to take turns. Please keep an ear to the ground and if you hear of a likely organist, let me know asap.



A special thank you

Now that David's ashes have been laid to rest in the graveyard at St. Anne's and a new year is well underway, it seems fitting to now put pen to paper with a few observations.



On October 5th David died in the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, after catastrophic brain stem injury made clear that he couldn't recover. This most traumatic, devastating event seemed so cruel following so closely after Fiona's recovery from cancer and yes, we did rail against it and ask why.

There followed 10 days of the usual business to attend to interspersed with quiet reflection, dog walking, and cards and floral tributes arriving by the drove. Your cards, prayers and expressions of love kept us going.

The funeral requiem mass at St. Mungo's, Alexandria was a moving, beautiful service and the good folk at St. Mungo's, led by Rev Sally Gorton, did us proud, and it was heart-warming to see so many friends and choir members from St. Anne's, Halifax and further afield.

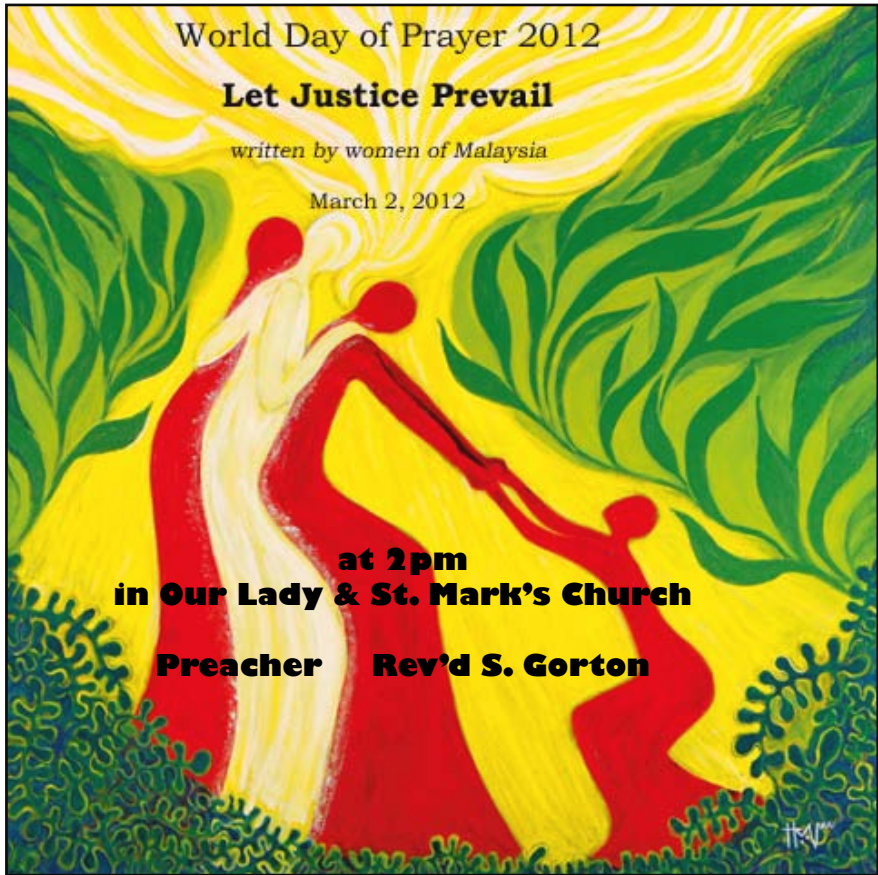
Following our arrival home we followed the seasons of the church's life through the quiet waiting of Advent, the joyous arrival of our Lord at Christmas and the arrival of the wise men during Epiphany, to the joyful memorial service planned by Fiona and Fr. Guy on January 7th (the homily was superb and the contributions of members of the congregation to the service itself, and to the provision of hospitality afterwards was much appreciated). David was laid to rest in the churchyard and we retired to the Pack Horse where superb food was served and stories about David were circulated, the singing commenced and Happy Birthday was sung at midnight as it would have been his 50th birthday on January 8th. He would have loved it!

R.I.P David, and God Bless

Robert and Sheila Sunderland

From Fiona

I would like to thank all my St Mungo's family for the cards, expressions of sympathy, offers of support and help, flowers, etc. both at the time of David's death and in the weeks since then. I have said to many people that I cannot imagine how anyone without Christian faith can cope with such a bereavement, without that promise of the Resurrection life, and I can't imagine how life would be without the love and support of not only friends and family, but also of the Lord Jesus and a church family. Please keep me in your prayers. You have my love and gratitude.



Diocesan Growth Strategy

The Vestry met with Gill Reynolds, our Growth Strategy Facilitator, on Thursday 26th January. A wide-ranging discussion took place, around the six strands of mission, and how they relate to St. Mungo's at present.

- Worship, prayer and spirituality
- Learning and discipleship
- Missional leadership
- Numerical growth, welcome and integration
- Children and young people
- Imaginative outreach into local community



Before our next meeting with Gill, our first task is to carry out a Community Audit, in

order better to understand the needs and resources of our neighbours and local area. To do this community audit, we need more than just the Vestry to be involved. It would be very helpful if everyone in the congregation could

- Make a list of ten things that you like about Alexandria and the surrounding area
- Make a list of ten things that you dislike
- Talk to your friends and neighbours outwith St. Mungo's and ask them to make their lists
- Make a list of the community resources you use, and how often, e.g. library, swimming pool, clubs
- Hand all the lists to a vestry member, or put them in the church porch, by Sunday 4th March
- If you are a volunteer in the local community, e.g. in a charity shop, tell us about it.

Watch this space!



Monthly Rota for February / April

Sidesmen/women Rota

Derek R.	Feb. 5th and Mar. 4th, & 11th
Tom and Ian M.	Feb. 12th and Mar. 18th
Bob Mc	Feb. 19th and March 25th
Alicia S. and Jock S.-P.	Feb 26th and April 1st

Cleaning Rota

Fiona and Jean	Feb. 12th and March 25th
Lynnette	Feb. 19th and Apr. 1st
Eveline	Feb. 26th
Finella and Jean	Mar. 4th
Iona and Mary	Mar. 11th
Margaret and Robert	Feb. 5th and Mar. 18th

Flowers

Finella S.	Feb. 5th and 12th
Jim M	Feb. 19th

No flowers 26th Feb to April 7th



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE DAYS TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Bishop Gregor warmly invites you to join him next Lent on a day of Pilgrimage to our Cathedral

1000 - Arrivals, coffee and welcome

1030 - Tour of the Cathedral (on theme of Sacraments) led by the Provost

1130 - Time for photographs, personal exploration of building etc

1200 – Lunch (please bring a packed pilgrim lunch. The Cathedral will provide tea/coffee etc)

1300 - Activities around Growth Strategy themes including optional visit to local Gurdwara or Mosque

1500 - Eucharist led by Bishop Gregor

1600 - Pilgrims blessing and depart

Please register through your Priest or Vestry Secretary

Date for the Pilgrimage

Saturday 17th March for Glasgow North-West Region (which includes St. Mungo's)