



St Mungo's Messenger

December 2012 / January 2013

Web edition





St Mungo's Messenger

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

Dec. 2012 / Jan 2013

Sharing the joy of Christ's love with all





SERVICES & EVENTS
Kalender Dec. 2012 / Jan. 2013

Sundays 9.00 am *Eucharist (not Jan./Feb.)* 11.00am *(Sung) Eucharist (Alt. Rites Jan./Feb.)*
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*



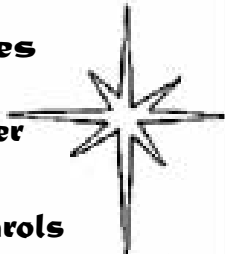
Christmas Services

Sunday 23rd December

6 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

(as well as usual 9am and 11am Eucharist Services)



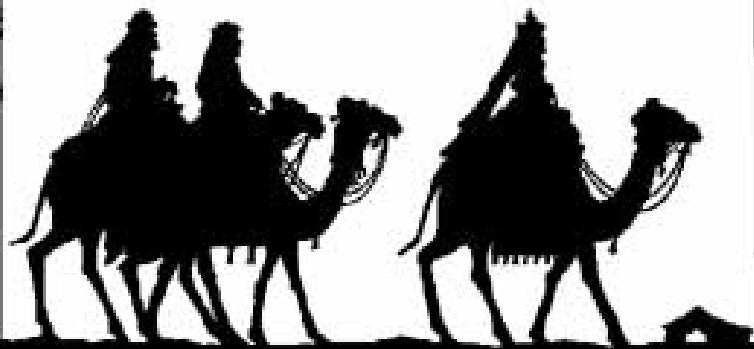
Monday 24th December

11.30pm




Midnight Eucharist

Tuesday 25th December 11am Eucharist

Please Note: No service Wednesday 26th December



Readers and Intercessors Rota: Dec. 2012 / Jan. 2013

9 am Eucharist Reader (RCL Year C)	11 am Sung Eucharist Reader (RCL, Year C)	Intercessor
2nd December Ian A. 1st Sunday of Advent (Violet)	Jean B. Jeremiah 33.14-16 Psalm 25.1-10 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Luke 21.25-36	Jim M
9th December John S. 2nd Sunday of Advent	Jim M. Malachi 3.1-4 Canticle: Luke 1.68-79 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6	Fiona
16th December Ian A. 3rd Sunday of Advent	Jock S-P Zephaniah 3.14-20 Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-6 Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18	Pauline
23rd December John S. 4th Sunday of Advent (18:00hrs Carol Service)	Jean B.  Micah 5.2-5a Canticle: Luke 1.46b-55 Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-55	Jim M
24th December 23:30hrs Christmas Eve (White)	Pauline Isaiah 9.2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14	Pauline 
25th December 11:00hrs Christmas Day 	Peter Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4 John 1.1-14	Peter
30th December N/A First Sunday after Christmas No 9am service	Jim M. 1982 Liturgy 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.41-52	Fiona
6th January N/A The Epiphany No 9am service	Jock S-P 1970 Liturgy Isaiah 60.1-6 Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12	Pauline
13th January Mungo (or Kentigern) N/A No 9am service	Pat B. 1982 Liturgy Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 16.5-11 1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23 Matthew 28.16-20	Jim M
20th January Second Sunday after Epiphany (Green) No 9am service	Jean B. 1970 Liturgy Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm 36.5-10 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11	Fiona
27th January The Presentation of The Lord N/A (White) No 9am service	Jock S-P 1982 Liturgy Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21	Pauline

From David Cook, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,



It would appear that, however much we enthusiastically celebrate Christmas, for many people there is no hope this Christmas. If you are a Syrian civilian longing for peace; or an ordinary Palestinian or Israeli longing for justice, peace, and reconciliation; or a starving African child; or a poor, hungry, homeless, unemployed American (even if you are white - and despite the re-election of President Obama); or poor, unemployed, homeless, and with more than two children and living in Britain, there is no hope. You don't count, no-one will listen to your voice, and any way, if you do speak up you may be silenced in some way, and on the face of it no-one cares.

But someone does care. That someone is Jesus. He came to live on earth as a human being to show us that God DOES care, and will listen, and will not ignore you. Jesus came to earth specifically for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the unloved, those who feel hope-less. He came to give them, and us, HOPE. He came to give us all hope in this life, and most certainly He came to give the poor and oppressed and the sick, hope for and in Heaven.

The possible flaw in the plan is that telling others there is hope in this life now depends on Jesus' followers. It depends on you and me, and on all the other people who know of and about Jesus; and that is actually a lot of people in this world. The success of the plan depends on whether we are all prepared to make the money, the materials, and the time, available to tell people and show people that there is hope.

In other words, as the Rector of Saints Paul & George in Edinburgh once said, we have to Keep the main thing the main thing! We exist to tell people about Jesus! If we tell people about Jesus we tell them there is hope. Then we have to provide the hope by doing what Jesus would have done.

So one of the other things Jesus' followers have to do is to try to prevent Jesus' followers, if not society around us, being 'diverted and distracted' as one of our curates at St. George's in Belfast once famously said.

This Christmas HOPE should be 'the main thing' and the Christian Church should try to keep it 'the main thing'.

God Bless you all. David Cook.

How would Jesus vote in the US Presidential elections?

According to Conor Gearty, professor of human-rights law at the London School of Economics, He would be a Democrat. There is Scriptural evidence for His left-wing credentials.

Political commentator John Boys, senior research fellow at King's College, London, claims Jesus for the Republicans. He observes that the Holy Family chose to stay in a stable rather than claim housing benefit from the state. Jesus Himself, Mr. Boys argues, was a non-union, self-employed carpenter.

Giles Fraser, former Canon Chancellor of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, claims Jesus would have abstained. He argues Jesus was too radical for main-stream politics, and anyway, as an 'unmarried community organiser' He would have struggled to enter America at all. "He's an alien with no means of support, and He's from the Middle East, travelling on a plane with 12 other men from the Middle East!"
(From The Tablet newspaper, November 3rd 2012)

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE!

If you were absent from the 09.00am and 11.00am services on recent Sundays you may have missed this important announcement. Please read this carefully, and make sure other people know about it if they are visually-impaired or have been away for some time.

Please bear this in mind when you read on: none of the ministers who can lead worship at St. Mungo's live in Alexandria, and certainly nowhere near the church. One lives in Dumbarton, two live in H'burgh, and other clergy come from all airts-&-pairs!

From **SUNDAY DECEMBER 30th to the END OF FEBRUARY INCLUSIVE**, there will be only **ONE** service at St. Mungo's on a Sunday. It will be at 11.00am each Sunday. It will alternate between using the old 1970 Rite (now used at 09.00am) and the newer 1982 Rite (used at 11.00am now). When we use the 1970 Rite we shall still sing hymns, but the rest of the service will be 'said', as normal.

The service will be at 11.00am to give the roads time to clear if the winter is another severe one. Safety of whoever is travelling is paramount.

The Eucharistic Rite will alternate to try to be even-handed to those who prefer the more traditional service.

Hymns will be sung each week, whatever the rite, so that our organist and choir members are not excluded every other week.

Even if you are not very happy about these arrangements, please try to be tolerant and flexible. Pauline and the Vestry members and I have considered and discussed (and worried) about this proposal, but genuinely feel that it is the best way of trying to ensure worship every Sunday at St. Mungo's, even if the winter is severe. (But watch! Now that we have made this change it will be one of the mildest winters on record, with balmy Sundays and clear roads.....)

And all being well, from the beginning of March 2013 we SHALL return to two Sunday morning services.

Thank you for giving this your attention.

David Cook.

PRAYER MEETINGS.

It IS very, very important that members of St. Mungo's should meet regularly to pray SPECIFICALLY for our church during the vacancy. We need more time for this praying than can be accommodated in the regular eucharists. And why should God act on our wish for that special priest who will come to build on Sally's work, and care for the people of our church, if we don't make a special effort, and sacrifice a bit more time (30 extra minutes), to pray together?

Holding a monthly Prayer Meeting on a Thursday night has obviously not been the right time! So we are going to have 30 minutes of prayer for our church on a WEDNESDAY MORNING after the 10.00am Eucharist. There will be coffee/tea after the eucharist, then we shall sit and pray for 30 minutes. If you attend (and I hope that you will) you will NOT have to pray aloud if you do not wish to!! You may pray silently! The important thing is that we praying TOGETHER!

Scripture and Christian tradition make it quite clear that regular communal praying is essential and also effective. (My wife Anne, and I, can testify to this.)

The first Wednesday Prayer Meeting will be on DECEMBER 12th.

David Cook.



Vestry notes

You will be aware from the content of recent magazines that this has been a very busy few months for the vestry and very varied – from the research and development of the Growth Strategy Profile to the physical labour of furniture and rubbish removal. It has also been very uplifting to have so many people working as a team to begin to make some improvements to our church environment. Members of the congregation, organist, Priest-in-charge, Lay reader, Pastoral assistant and people from our extended church family have worked side by side, week by week, with vestry members to maintain services and to care for people, buildings and gardens. We have also been blessed in our relationship with professional services and tradesmen who have wowed us with their work ethic and care.

I know that some people are sad to see the removal of some trees, especially when they have happy memories of the part they have played in their lives, but those happy memories will always be there. There were safety issues in respect of the trees which were discussed with



the Diocesan Architect and in fact, when cut, it was discovered that the sweet chestnut was rotten with a hole all the way through it. The bonuses of the tree removal include the visibility of the church and rectory and the amount of light (and occasional warmth) which now floods the Lady Chapel. The wood was distributed throughout the Vale and beyond, much of it to people in need.

We met with the Dean in November. He was pleased with the Profile of St Mungo's and advises that, providing the major work required on the Rectory is completed, we should be able to advertise for a new Priest in the early spring (subject to the Bishop's approval).

Many thanks to all those who responded to recent consultations. The Mission Statement chosen by the congregation is **'Sharing the joy of Christ's love with all'** This will now be included on all St Mungo's paperwork (and website) but the most important thing is that we strive to think what it means and make it happen.

The responses to the questionnaire also helped to give the Dean a snapshot of a typical week at St Mungo's and inform the vestry's deliberations for the future.

The majority of respondents identified growth, outreach and young people/families as priorities for St Mungo's

in the next five years. We need to pray about this and be realistic about what we can achieve but we can each make a start – lots of small actions can make a big difference! Could you give an hour a month or week to reach out to the community? If these are priorities for us, we need to make them happen!

Mindful of the consultation, at a recent meeting with our Growth Strategy facilitator, Gill Reynolds, it was decided to concentrate initially on the strands of ‘Welcome, integration and numerical growth’ and ‘Worship, prayer and spirituality’. More details soon.....

The vestry wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Pauline

Prayer Group

During the winter months, the prayer group will meet Wednesdays at 11am for 30 mins.

12th December, 2012

9th January, 2013

6th February, 2013

Coffee will be served in the vestry on these dates following the 10am Eucharist.



Church cleaning.



Vestry meet in Hall to discuss church business.

Preparing for Christmas

The church will be cleaned in preparation for Christmas on Saturday 22nd December from 10am. It would be really helpful if all those who are on the cleaning rota could come along, together with anyone else who can vacuum, dust, polish, reach cobwebs, clean brasses, put up the Christmas tree etc. That way it should not take very long – many hands make light work! Coffee, tea, biscuits etc will be available to keep you nourished.



Jim and Pauline will do the flowers on Sunday after the 11am Eucharist. We would welcome some help especially to decorate the tree but we do understand that Sunday afternoons can be very busy. If you can help, please let us know so we can provide some lunch for you.

Monthly Rota for December into February

Sidesmen/women Rota

Alicia S.	Dec. 2nd and Jan. 6th
Derek R.	Dec. 9th, 16th, Jan. 13th and 20th
Tom and Ian M.	Dec. 23rd and Jan. 27th
Bob McL	Dec. 30th and Feb. 3rd

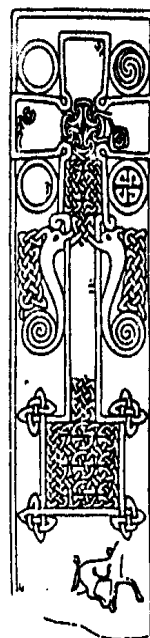
Cleaning Rota

Fiona and Jean	Dec. 2nd and Jan. 13th
Lynnette	Dec. 9th and Jan. 20th
Eveline	Dec. 16th and Jan. 27th
Finella and Jean	Dec. 23rd and Feb. 3rd
Iona and Mary	Dec. 30th
Margaret and Robert	Jan. 6th

Flowers

FS	Jan 27th and Feb. 3rd
E.MacP	Dec. 30th and Jan 6th
P.D.	Jan 13th and Jan 20th

No flowers from Dec. 2nd to 22nd



St. George's Mosque, Glasgow by Gertie

A faith that is growing faster than any other and can generate such fervour in its followers is too complicated to try to explain in a few sentences, so I will just describe my experience when I visited St. George's Mosque in Glasgow's West End. The fact that it is called St George's is an oxymoron, and is a complication in itself, as the Islamic faith reveres its Prophets, but certainly not Saints.

The building was non-descript from the outside and I and others visiting were welcomed by a Moslem gentleman into a little room with wooden benches around three walls, which were lined with shelves containing an assortment of mens footwear. We were politely asked to remove our shoes before entering the religious part of the Mosque.

From the small room we proceeded into the body of the Mosque. I was struck by how stark it was, no music, flowers, pictures or icons of any kind, everything was unbroken white, except for the sumptuous brightly coloured carpet which covered the floor, wall to wall. Walking barefoot on it was no hardship as the pile was so deep.

Then came our next surprise—we were introduced to a “Brother” who explained Islamism to us. The Brother was wearing jeans and a checked country and western type shirt and trainers. He had a soft pleasant voice and I began to feel quite saporific.

A question and answer session ensued over tea, juice and biscuits. The questions were fairly innocuous, until someone asked what he thought about acts of terrorism. For a split second there was silence to what was not really a religious question but a personal question. His answer, to my mind, was indecisive and as time was running out there wasn't time to pursue it.

There are some aspects of Islam I admire— like their close-knit family life, and protection of their young women. Some would say it is a restriction of freedom, others not.

As a postscript to the above, I was telling an acquaintance about it, she shocked me by saying that she wished her parents had been stricter with her when she was a girl, then she wouldn't have gone “of the rails” as she put it. So there are two sides to every coin.



St Mungo's East Window.