

**ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**  
NEWPORT ON TAY



**CHRISTMAS 2013**

# ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SC 00338

Newport on Tay



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER

3.30 p.m

Mulled wine and mince pies

TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS EVE

### CRIB SERVICE

3 p.m

for children in Church



Please bring, if you can, a favourite or new toy  
to leave at the Tree for needy children



### MIDNIGHT MASS

& Blessing of Crib

11.00 p.m.:

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Sung Eucharist - family focused.

10.45 a.m.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Feast of St Stephen

Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m

at St Serf's Home

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

Feast of St John the

Evangelist

Holy Eucharist at 10.00 a.m

## AWAKE FROM SLEEP !

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment  
for you to wake from sleep

[Romans 13:11]

The start of a new year for the Church - Advent a lovely season when we can start, yet again, on our pilgrimage - when we can put off those dark things and ways in our life and, as St Paul says, put on the armour of light - that protective shield of Christ in great expectation and the hope of glory.

The 'moment' St Paul writes about is that the present is characterized as a 'time between times' - which he expresses in his metaphor of night turning into day. [Romans 13:12]

Advent is the time of preparation and anticipates the coming of Christ - firstly of longing for the Messiah, yet being alert to his coming – being ready, on guard – as Jesus said in the Gospel - "about that day and hour no one knows—". [Matt. 24:36]

Also, Advent is a time to look at the four last things - as they are known – Heaven, Hell, Death and Judgement. And the culmination of these days of Advent is Christmas – the Feast of the Incarnation when we remember the whole earthiness of our faith – that Christ was born into poverty, in a stable, to a young unmarried mother - when the secular world worries about cramming in as much shopping as possible and how will they make ends meet, sighing at the end of the 25<sup>th</sup> December and asking what it was all about! Whereas for us, that day is the start of Christmas and Christmas-tide.

But now is the time for preparation, not of presents and food, but the time to take stock of where we are on our Christian pilgrimage – now is the time to "live honourably as in the day".

Sad to say we see on our TV screens endless pitiful stories of wars and famines, flood, and terrible accidents. One minute sitting in a pub having a drink, the next thing badly injured or dead - people throughout ages have been set afraid by total eclipses and darkness over all the world. "Only the Father knows the day and the hour"!

God who is timeless - God's time that is now.

This is *Kairos*, which is an ancient Greek word and means the right or opportune moment (the supreme moment). As you probably know, the ancient Greeks had two words for time *chronos* and *kairos* - *chronos* meaning chronological time and *kairos* signifying a moment which is indeterminate but when something special happens.

The theologian, Paul Tillich "saw it, Kairos, as crises or turning points in history which demand specific existential decisions, while the opportunity is still present".

The coming of Christ is the unique example of this.

Kairos theology originated in South Africa, particularly with the publishing of the Kairos document in September 1985 - it was a document that came out of the township flames of '85 - the first question being asked was about the intolerable suffering of the people at the time. Where was God in these horrific times?

One of the greatest concerns was that the church, with exceptions, had not been the bearer of hope in the South African society and felt that the Christian message of hope had been neglected. Kairos and liberation theology have much in common - it has to be a prophetic theology reading the signs of the times i.e. interpreting the times from God's point of view. "Thus in a particular point in time can be seen as a visitation from God, a warning, an opportunity, a promise, a punishment, a reward or a call

to conversion” - so writes Albert Nolan a Roman Catholic S.A priest and theologian. Kairos is a moment of grace and opportunity - a favourable time in which God issues a challenge to decisive action.

Do we overlook these *kairos* moments today - when God says now is the time to repent, to change, to make all things new?

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Advent is the time we seek the promise of God’s glory. But it is also about hope, and challenge. And each day we are faced by challenges - international, political and humanitarian - beyond these shores and at our own fireside. Sunday 1st December, was World Aids Day - we see the horror and decimation of Africa by HIV/ AIDS - this church has been generous in its giving to the Raphael Centre, in the Eastern Cape. As some of you know I was in South Africa in October, and regrettably, despite the efforts

of many of the NGO’s such as the Raphael Centre, for one, South Africa, and particularly the Eastern Cape, has one of the highest incidents of Aids in the World.

Thank heaven now, and almost too late, the South African Government subsidises and supports the use of anti-retroviral drugs, which is making a big difference to the people who are HIV positive. However, South Africa still ranks the third highest in the world regarding TB with an incidence which has increased by 400 per cent over the past 15 years – which gives the statistic that three quarters of the people with HIV also have TB – and because being HIV positive means that their immune system is extremely poor, they are much more susceptible to TB and therefore death.

One of the most devastating things is the rape of children, and I have told you before about this and the high

incidence in the small Holy Cross School where there are 42 children from the impoverished farming communities being educated by the Benedictine Brothers, and of the 23 girls, 9 have been raped in their homes. These are children of about 7 years old.

I have every intention of raising as much money as I can to help pay for some psychological help for these little girls who tragically get none because no-one can afford it and the State Hospital is over burdened by the number of mentally ill people it needs to care for. Some of these little girls have been so well groomed that their behaviour is way beyond their years and perhaps they will never recover – if nothing is done a life of prostitution could well be the only way of life they will know. And yet the joy and purposefulness of all the children desperately wanting an education – hearts full of hope and song as they come to school – is always wonderful to see.

The Kairos document demanded a prophetic theology – where the churches were called to conversion - and demanded a faithful prophetic witness in what was seen as a demonic socio-political situation. Needless to say the document was condemned by many and was labelled as Marxist by some.

However, many Christians 'evaluated the document as a timely word of prophecy in a *kairos* (decisive moment) in the history of South Africa'. Five years later in February 1990 the government and the majority of churches in South Africa rejected the policy of apartheid as an unjust and evil system.

Perhaps our Kairos moment is to act for little girls.

Perhaps the important thing to bear in mind this Advent, as we prepare spiritually and physically for the Feast of the Incarnation - is the present moment – for we must be ready, for the Son of Man is

coming at an unexpected hour.

The present moment, the Kairos moment, when God says show your love, act now, do not wait - hear my Word, let love be fulfilled - be penitent, seek forgiveness - live in hope. Do that now, and each day, for we live with expectant longing for the Son of Man to come in glory.

Are we awake – and are we ready?

Denise

[taken from Sermon on Advent Sunday 2013]

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL



This terrible problem of rape of women, girls and boys is said to be happening worldwide. However, if you feel you would like to help these little girls by donating money so that they may receive psychological counselling and therapy please let me know. Helping just a few will make a world of difference - even if we cannot tackle a worldwide problem. If financial help is difficult please pray that by education and support this appalling situation will be contained. The Raphael Centre is also doing its best to help, even very young children, to become body aware and safer.



Denise

## AN EVENTFUL TRIP

The Lindisfarne Gospels were being exhibited in Durham, and Denise suggested that a group of us get together and hire a bus



to go and see them. Unfortunately there was not enough interest at St Mary's to make it cost effective, but having mentioned it to others, the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Dundee took up the challenge, and so, on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9am, 25 people congregated at the

car park at the Bridge access, and boarded a 50+ seater bus (the 25 seater having broken down before it even began the journey!) and set off.

Just outside Edinburgh, at Dobbies Garden Centre, we stopped for coffee. Half an hour or so later, we set off again, but the driver took a couple of wrong turnings and we passed Dobbies again twice before he found the A1. All was fine after that and we had a pleasant journey until arriving at Durham. The driver, looking for the coach park, managed to circuit the city at least 3 times before he saw the sign. At one point, the bus inadvertently had to negotiate the narrow streets. Anyone who has been to Durham will know how tricky that was in a full sized bus!



Eventually we disembarked at the coach park and found that there was a shuttle bus running up to Cathedral Palace Green where the exhibition was. This was most helpful as we had a couple of wheelchair bound people in the party. We had

time to look round the Cathedral before our allotted time for the exhibition at 4.15 pm. A good hour was spent at the exhibition, then we expected to get the shuttle bus back to the coach park, but we were told that the last bus was 5 pm! This seemed crazy since the exhibition was open till 10 pm!

The bus driver was phoned and told he would have to come up to the Cathedral to pick us up, but he refused – obviously having been put off by his last trip round the narrow streets. It was going to prove difficult to wheel wheelchairs down the cobbled streets to the car park, so a couple of us started off walking, intending to let the driver know we'd be a while getting everyone down. Meanwhile, one of the door people at the exhibition spoke to our bus driver and told him in no uncertain terms to get his bus up to Cathedral Green! However, this meant that 2 of us arrived at the coach park to find no coach!! After a couple of frantic phone calls, we started walking back up to the Cathedral and eventually met the bus!

The excitement didn't stop there, though! We got held up in rush hour traffic out of Durham. Then there was a diversion sign on the A1, so the driver went off the main road. I have no idea



where we went; as usual the diversion signs left us high and dry, but with the help of maps and directing the driver, we eventually reached the Lindisfarne Inn just outside Berwick where we were booked to have a meal – over an hour late!! - to discover that the roadworks we were diverted from only started just outside the Inn! We had diverted 25 miles for nothing!!

At that point the road was still fully open, but as we were having our meal, we saw the roads people laying cones across the road to close it – this was our exit road! And by now it was dark!

The hotel staff came to our rescue, however, and arranged with the roads people for our bus to be escorted through the roadworks and onwards to Berwick and home. Our knights in shining armour! The bus eventually reached Newport about 12.45 am!



Thanks, of course, must also go to Anne Meiland from St Fillan's Church, who was tasked (lumbered!) with the organisation of the trip. Without her, who knows where we might have ended up!

Incidentally, the exhibition was excellent, very well organised, and we had plenty of time to view the various manuscripts on display. Apparently, we were but one busload of 100,000 visitors to the exhibition.

A memorable day, although perhaps a little too much excitement!!

*Betty Evans*

## **NOT QUITE IN THE BIBLE!**

King David and King Solomon  
Lived merry, merry lives,  
With many, many lady friends  
And many, many wives;  
But when old age crept over them –  
With many, many qualms,  
King Solomon wrote the Proverbs,  
And King David wrote the Psalms.  
James B. Naylor

*Submitted by Frances Headley*

## One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty, and then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book, he never held an office, he never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of these things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He had nothing to do with this world, except the naked power of his humanity. While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross, between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, while he was dying - and that was his coat. When he was dead he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centre-piece of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of men and women on earth as powerfully as that solitary life.

*[A clipping from a Canadian newspaper and found on the notice board of the YMCA in Skegness - submitted by Graham Peacock]*



Tuesday  
24th  
December

3 p.m

## CRIB SERVICE

in Church for children  
with  
parents and grandparents





SUNDAY  
22nd DECEMBER  
3.30 p.m



*SERVICE OF  
LESSONS  
POETRY  
&  
CAROLS*



## VESTRY MATTERS

### RECTORY AND HALL

Following a visit to Vestry in November, Bishop David advised us to write to the Diocesan Buildings Committee regarding the state of the Rectory and Hall of St Mary's Church. Following the Quinquennial Report of October 2012, Vestry arranged for an architect to look at the Rectory. He was concerned about the structure and suggested we had an up to date survey from a structural engineer. We now have these reports to hand, which advise that there is a considerable amount of expensive work to be done, even to keep the property safe in accordance with current Health and Safety standards. The Rectory would also require major upgrading to bring it up to modern standards - and is too large for a modern day Clergy residence. The Bishop supported our sense that the property was now 'life expired.'

Whilst the hall is let and used by the community there are other halls in the village, and we could hire one when we need the space. We could re-structure the back of the church, with proper permission obtained, for social needs after church on Sunday, however we would need to make a plan regarding toilet and washing facilities. There are a few ideas coming forward but all require much more research, and appropriate permission from the Diocese and Historic Scotland as the Church is B-listed. We also seriously need to consider disability access to the church.

It seems wise for us to start considering the options now with the property becoming vacant from July next year, and from the end of January 2015 there will be an interregnum. Vestry has written to the DBC but they will only give an 'in principle' opinion and would then pass the matter to the Diocesan

Standing Committee.  
Following their review and if in agreement would then pass it to the Diocesan Trustees.  
The DBC meets on 6th December and it is hoped that a fruitful dialogue regarding the possibility of selling the property to a developer, which the structural engineer, David Rous, feels is perfectly feasible and if need be his company could help us in this, and of course for the Diocesan Trustees to back us in finding suitable, more modern, accommodation for a new priest in the future. All this will be raised by way of introduction for discussion by the church at the AGM and no doubt there will need to be further General Meetings of the congregation following feed back from the Diocese. Please contact the Rector and Vestry if you would like more information.

## **CHURCH HEATING**

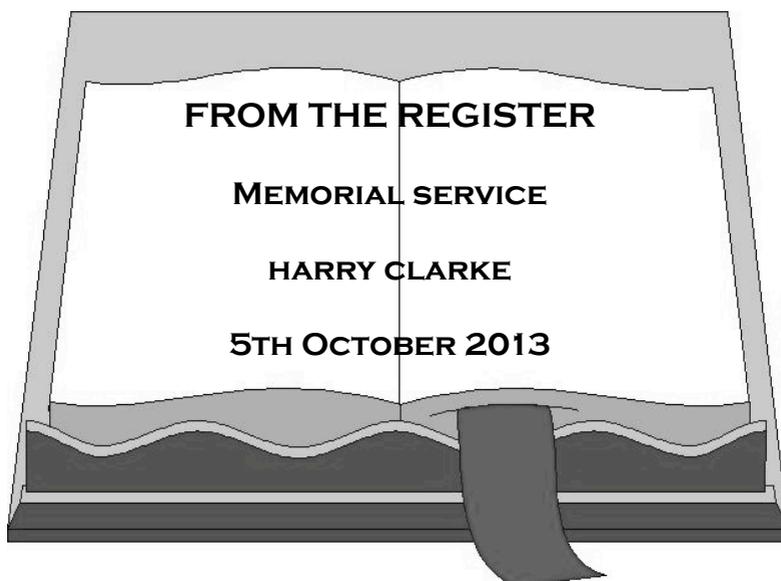
A lot of work and research has been done to work out the best way of heating the church. At present we have

oil-fired heating with fairly elderly radiators and as you know the church isn't that warm on Sunday, so we obtained a quote from the local Renewable Energy company which was in the region of £40,000. Quotes have also been obtained for gas heating and also for an electric boiler for wet central heating. All would have required new pipes and radiators with associated disruption to the church during installation - the gas heating quote was in the region of £30,000 and the electric around £20,000.

Denise went to Comrie because they had installed a marvellous biofuel system (far too big and expensive for our needs) but also destratification fans. These are rather like largish hair dryers situated right up in the apex of the roof and as warm air rises they fan down this air to keep warm air circulating where it is needed. The agent for Scotland who supplies the 'Heat Harvester'

brought along a demonstration model. There is almost no sound when working and they can be powder coated in a colour to suit - in our case this would be brown to match the wooden roof. They recommend two fans in the Nave and one up in the arch of the Chancel. If people walk around gazing into the roof they will be visible (but who does that) so they will not be intrusive and it is said that they should reduce the cost of heating. At the moment all this is still being considered by Vestry but will be taken to the AGM for the views of those present and as with any re-ordering of the property the matter will have to be considered by the DBC. The cost for 3 would be in the region of £2484 including VAT but in addition there would be the cost of electrical installation - even so this is considerably less than a new system. It is possible that the VAT could be reclaimed from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

DH



## Book review

### Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations edited by Gyles Brandreth, OUP £20

FOR OVER 70 years Oxford has been collecting quotations and in doing so it has created a rich language resource.



Gyles Brandreth is a well-known broadcaster and was an Oxford Scholar. The book is in alphabetical order, beginning appropriately with a section on Academic Life and a quote from Stephen Fry: “Old professors never die, they merely lose their faculties” and finishes with Youth: “The only way to stay young is to avoid old people”, attributed to James D. Watson.

Each section has cross references and covers a wide international field.

An excellent bedside book (though rather a weighty one) there is much to instruct, interest and, above all, entertain.

*Frances Headley*

#### **CHRISTMAS COMMUNIONS**

Please be sure to let the Rector know if you, or someone you know, wishes to receive Communion at home (or in hospital) at Christmas. She is willing to take communion to any who are sick, frail, or housebound during the week after Christmas. There are a few Saints' days after Christmas and there will be a Eucharist on two of them.

See Service notices

## SOME WISDOM FROM ST BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

Think of the word you think of your is kept in a bin, a mouse can find it, and eventually, mouldy. Once you bread, you have thieves, mice or way, treasure the those who keep it on it, digest it, allow into your body so that your affections and whole way of behaviour is nourished and transformed. Do not forget to eat your bread and your heart will not wither. Fill your soul with God's richness and strength.



of God in the way food. When bread thief can steal it, or its way in and gnaw of course, it goes have eaten your nothing to fear from mould! In the same word of God, for are blessed. Feed its goodness to pass

If you keep the word of God in this way, without doubt it will keep you also. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great prophet who will restore Jerusalem will come to you and make all things new. The effect of his coming will be that just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly, so we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly. Just as the old Adam used to possess our being and control us, so now let Christ, the second Adam, who created us and redeemed us, take possession of us whole and entire.



**Bernard of Clairvaux**, O Cist.(1090 – August 20 1153) was a French Abbot and the primary reformer of the Cistercian Order. Typically their monasteries were build by water, as seen with Balmerino Abbey. It was and is a strict order with prayer, work and silence predominant for the majority of the time.

## WEB NEWS

Our Web Mistresses Jean McGuinness and Betty Evans have worked hard on creating a new website for the Church. It should go into the public domain by the end of the year. At times photographs will be posted on the site and to save seeking permission from people each time a photograph is taken, please make sure that the Web Mistresses know if you do not want your photo to appear at any time. We will keep a list of those who prefer to keep their faces out of the public domain. Written permission will be sought for children under 16 before their pictures will be used.

The address will be <http://stmaryschurchnewportontay.org/>

### IONA PILGRIMAGE

Four of us (three from St Mary's and one from the RC Church) will be going to Iona for a time of prayer, quiet and exploration.  
from

Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th September 2014  
We are staying at Cnoc a' Chalmain,  
the RC House of Prayer.

The will be the Eucharist and a short address to reflect on during the day and also a time to pray together. Most of the day can be spent in exploring and walking or sitting and reading.

Should anyone else like to come they will need to stay elsewhere as the House is fully booked, but are welcome to join the 4 pilgrims for the times of prayer. Please speak to Denise if you are at all interested.

## **CHURCH OFFICIALS**

Rector	Revd Denise Herbert, 60, Riverside Road, Wormit	01382 541571
Lay Rep.	Mrs Jean McGuinness, 39 Queen Street, Newport	01382 541734
Alt. Lay Rep		
Vestry Members		
	Mrs Betty Evans, 31 Cupar Road, Newport	01382 542273
	Mrs Jane Campbell, 28 Linden Ave Newport	01382 542343
	Mrs Hilary Mylius, St Fort Farm, Newport	07580480708
	New Vestry members to be announced after the AGM	
Treasurer	Mrs Betty Evans, 31 Cupar Road, Newport	01382 542273
Vestry Sec.	Vacant	
Property Convener		
Organists	Mrs Judith Wilkes and Mrs Ruth Ingram	
Altar Guild	Mrs Marina Bailey, Mrs Betty Evans, Mrs Jane Campbell, Mrs Doreen Williams, Mrs Janet Rule	
PVG Officer	Mrs Jean McGuinness 39, Queen Street, Newport	01382 541734
Web Editors	Mrs Jean McGuinness and Mrs Betty Evans	
Sunday School	Vacant	
Flowers	Mrs Hilary Mylius	
<b>Web Address</b>	<a href="http://stmaryschurchnewportontay.org/">http://stmaryschurchnewportontay.org/</a>	

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

### **SUNDAYS**

10.45 a.m Sung Eucharist 1982 Scottish Liturgy

**WEEKDAY EUCHARIST:** on important festivals and saints days.

See notice board at the church and Sunday leaflet.

### **CARE HOMES**

TUESDAY 1.15 pm Communion - Reserved Sacrament - Leng Day Care

WEDNESDAY 11.00 Communion - St Serf's Residential Care Home 1st & 4th wks  
- with occasional changes. SC 003380 CCLI 570663

## **FESTIVALS & SAINTS DAYS**

27 Dec	St John Ap & Ev	25 Jan	Conversion of St Paul
28 Dec	Holy Innocents	2 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord
1 Jan	The Naming of Jesus	1 Mar	St David
6 Jan	Epiphany	5 Mar	Ash Wednesday
13 Jan	St Kentigern Bp		