



**News from the Episcopal Churches  
Serving the Trossachs and Strathendrick**

Issue 43

December 2012



**Church Lessons**

To help you prepare for or reflect further on a service,  
here are the readings for the coming season

<b>9 December</b> 10.30 am	Advent 2	Malachi 3: 1-4 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 31: 1-6
<b>23 December</b> 11.15 am	Advent 4	Micah 5: 2-5a Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
<b>24 December</b> 11.30 pm	Christmas Eve	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16 Acts 13: 16-26 Luke 1: 67-79
<b>25 December</b> 11.15 am	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 [15-20]
<b>30 December</b> 11.15 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 14-end

<b>January 6</b> 11.15 am	The Epiphany	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12
<b>January 13</b> 11.15 am	Baptism of Christ 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
<b>January 20</b> 11.15 am	Epiphany 3	Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11
<b>January 27</b> 11.15 am	Epiphany 4	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-20

You can always find the details of lessons on our website at  
[www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk](http://www.stmarychurchaberfoyle.org.uk)



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**St Andrew's & St Mary's**



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**Church Services**

<b>St. Andrew's</b> <b>Leny Road, Callander</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b> <b>Main Street, Aberfoyle</b>
<b>Holy Communion</b> Every Sunday, 10.00am  <i>1st Sunday in the month:                  Holy Communion according to                  Book of Common Prayer (BCP)</i>  <b>Midweek service in church</b>  <b>BCP Holy Communion</b> every Wednesday, 10.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b> Every Sunday, 11.15am  <b>Balfroon BCP Holy Communion</b> 3rd Sunday in the month, 8.00am St. Anthony's RC Church, Balfroon  <b>Killearn Holy Communion</b> 1st Wednesday in the month, 11.30am Killearn Kirk Session Room

**Christmas Services**

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> 10.00 Holy Communion Callander (said) 18.30 Carol Service Callander	<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> 08.00 Holy Communion Balfroon 15.00 Carol Service Aberfoyle
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> 10.00 Holy Communion Callander	<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> 11.15 Holy Communion Aberfoyle
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve</b> 23.30 Midnight Service Aberfoyle
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b> 10.00 Holy Communion Callander	<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b> 08.00 Holy Communion Balfroon 11.15 Holy Communion Aberfoyle



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**Jesus' birth**

Just imagine if Jesus was born today  
 Surrounded by busy nurses,  
 No manger full of hay.

Imagine three wise men on camels,  
 "You can't park here", they said.  
 There's a field down the road by the farm house,  
 and a pub where you might get a bed",

"And where have you come from?", they asked them  
 And groaned when they mentioned the East,  
 "We'll have to get immigration on this,  
 they're surely illegal at least".

Then Joseph turned up from his workshop,  
 Was told he couldn't see Mary or child,  
 It all requires to be peaceful, they said  
 And you don't look either meek or mild.

Joseph had left his donkey outside,  
 Illegally parked I expect  
 They don't know who they've got here  
 There's no understanding, no respect.

Can't they hear the angels singing,  
 Or see the bright star in the sky  
 Don't they know they've expelled three wise men  
 Let the Son of Man pass by.

So in the night, Joseph and Mary,  
 Wrapped their son up real cosy and warm,  
 And crept all unknown from the place  
 Where the son of Man was born.

Imagine if that wasn't the story,  
 But big headlines, reporters, TV tears  
 Would the story of the birth of Jesus  
 Still be told after two thousand years?



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### St Mary's Library

Don't forget that St Mary's now has a very extensive and wonderful library of books and other articles. This is in the Church Room.

This should be resource for study and research and has a good range of material about Christianity and Christian living.

We recommend a browse and even (dare we suggest ) a borrow!

But please don't be like one of the 'Borrowers' ..... Just make a note in the book provided when you take something out.

And don't forget to bring it back !

Our Editors recommend books by Karen Armstrong and Steven Chalke, to cite but two examples.

Please make use of this facility all of which has been donated generously by members of the congregation.



You may have noticed a change in style for this edition of the magazine. This is because Karen Gaskell, who for very many years has produced the magazine, has relinquished this role. Your new editors do not have her expertise !..

Our heartfelt thanks go to Karen for all her hard work over many years. We have enjoyed the fruits of her labours. Thank you Karen.



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### From the Rector

#### A background to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols

IN 1912 A Cleric, Eric Milner-White, returned to Kings College Cambridge as its chaplain.

When war broke out in 1914 Milner-White enlisted as a chaplain to the Forces serving first on the Western Front and later in Italy. His war service gave food for thought and revulsion in equal measure. Milner-White was struck by the ignorance of Christian faith amongst the troops. He was stunned by instances of sacrilegious behaviours and the lengthening causality numbers.

An Armistice was declared on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Many of the servicemen who survived were maimed in mind or body. Some would pass the remainder of their days hobbling the streets selling boxes of matches. Others returned from the battlefield unscathed only to fall victim of a world-wide flu epidemic that swept the land. The nation was understandably in emotional turmoil for some time.

By then, Milner-White had left the Forces and returned to Kings College as Dean of the College Chapel. He resolved to mark his first Christmas in the post by composing an act of worship "that might bring the Good News anew to the heart of the nation". To this end he adapted a form of service used earlier in another Cathedral. The service then as now consisted of readings alternating with carols. The words of the Bidding Prayer are a reminder of the meaning and purpose of the service 'Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by the Holy Child'

In view of Milner-White's desire that the service should reach a wide audience, it was fortunate that the fledgling British Broadcasting Corporation should show interest in the service. It was first broadcast live in 1928. But the early 1930's improvements in wireless technology allowed it to be broadcast in World Service airwaves to millions overseas. One

Condt p 4



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### From the Rector (condt) Recipe Corner

listener later recalled his delight upon hearing the service while marooned in a tent at the foot of  
Condt from p 3

Everest, and another in the searing heat of the desert.

Thus the Service of Lessons and Carols survives to this day and is also televised. Milner-White intended it only to provide a basic framework for others to adapt as necessary. Thus services vary both as to readings and music, though there are some fixed points not least the final reading taken from the opening words to St. John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God". Thereafter the gospel writer explains the meaning of Christ's birth ".....the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world ..... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". The reading brings a dramatic conclusion to the service, for which the congregation customarily stands

Ed: A longer version of this article is available

#### PALMA HAM SALAD

**This is by far the most versatile starter/supper dish I know. Serve with fresh crusty/garlic bread. Artfully arrange any of the following on a large platter.**

- A few rocket leaves as a base
- Crinkled up Parma ham, salami, cured beef (Bresaola)etc.
- Fine wedges of skinned melon - cut wedges first and then slither round the flesh
- Halved hard boiled eggs or peeled quail's eggs
- Chopped red or spring onions
- Chunks of mango or any fruit
- Asparagus spears
- Anything else that inspires you, but if you're making in advance not avocado which is overpowered by the other flavours anyway.
- Finally crumble over some cubes of blue cheese
- Just before serving drizzle with vinaigrette enlivened by extra mustard and sugar.

From Juliet Edmonstone



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### Westminster

lent. We were taken close up to the High Altar and to the chapels beyond. Kings and Queens have been significant benefactors of the Abbey, beginning with King Edgar (reigned 959-75) who gave the original monastic community at Westminster substantial lands covering most of what is now the West End of London. Almost a hundred years later King Edward (later Edward the Confessor) established his palace - later to become the Houses of Parliament - close to this monastic community and built for it a large stone church which became his own burial place - just behind the High Altar and surrounded by the tombs of 17 other monarchs. In the mid-thirteenth century Henry III rebuilt the Confessor's church, providing the Gothic building we have today. Henry's own burial here in 1272 established Westminster as the principal royal burial place for the next 500 years. Richard II, Henry V, Henry VII and Elizabeth I were all influential in shaping the Abbey's history.

What a fascinating day I had, steeped in history. All on the day that we were to find out who is to become the next Archbishop of Canterbury - The Rt Rev Justin Welby, the Bishop of Durham. He is the son of a long standing member of our prayer group - Lady Williams of Elvel - Jane Williams - who in her youth was one of Winston Churchill's private secretaries. The Archbishop of course continues the link as it is he who crowns the Monarch who is head of the Church and State .

By Susan Forsyth





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### Westminster

As most of you know I attend a regular Prayer Group with other Peeresses of the House of Lords. We met on Wednesday 8th November in The River Room of the House of Lords and our guest speaker was the Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall. He was installed as the 38th Dean of Westminster on 2 December 2006. The Dean oversees the spiritual life of the Collegiate Church of St Peter Westminster, better known as Westminster Abbey, and gives leadership to the Abbey community, which includes 200 staff and 400 volunteers. Since the Abbey is a Royal Peculiar, the Dean is responsible to the Sovereign alone. He talked to us about the very strong links between Parliament and Westminster Abbey and between State and Crown. The Dean takes a keen interest in Education and historical matters and was previously the Chief Education Officer of the Church of England overseeing 5,000 schools. He also chairs the Governors of Westminster School and Westminster Abbey Choir School which has 30 pupils from the ages of 8-13, and who are the Abbey choristers.

Later that day I was involved in the organisation of a Charity Reception in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey to raise funds for the Westminster Medical School Research Trust of which I am a committee member. This most splendid room, with its magnificent ceiling and tapestries is not open to the public so we were very privileged to be able to use it as guests of the Dean.

This medieval house of the Abbots of Westminster was known as Cheyneygates, and its principal room is the Jerusalem Chamber and adjoins Westminster Abbey. The room was added by Nicholas Litlyngton, Abbot of Westminster 1362-86. In front of the fireplace in this room took place what is perhaps the best known event in the room's history: the death of King Henry IV. In 1413 the King was planning to go to the Holy Land, and when praying at St Edward's Shrine (Edward the Confessor) in the Abbey he was taken ill, apparently with a stroke. He was brought to the Abbot's house and laid by the fire where he recovered consciousness. King Henry asked where he was and was told 'Jerusalem'. The chronicle relates that the King realised he was going to die because it had been prophesied that he would die in Jerusalem.

Following our Reception we were shown round the Abbey by The Reverend Andrew Tremlett, who has also been one of our recent speakers, and is Rector of St Margaret's Church which stands beside Westminster Abbey close to the Houses of Parliament and is commonly called 'the parish church of the House of Commons'. Canon Tremlett is also one of the Dean of Westminster's Canons, is on the Chapter of the Abbey and closely involved with work in the Abbey. He gave us a fascinating tour of the Abbey which was most beautifully lit and perfectly si-



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### This is 1986 and you have just missed Christmas

**So you thought there were still 39 shopping days left till Christmas. Not so. If we measure Christmas Day by Christ's birthday you've missed it already.** Almost certainly he was born sometime in September and the year was 7 BC rather than 1 AD. So this is really 1986. This new date for Christmas is authoritatively suggested by astronomer Dr David Hughes of Sheffield University in an intriguing work of historical detection "The Star of Bethlehem Mystery" (Dent £7.95).- boldly subtitled "The Truth about one of the greatest phenomena ever witnessed by man". Dr Hughes's detailed astronomical research reveals that the "miracle Star" in the East seen by the three wise men was not really a star at all. It was a bright object caused by a triple conjunction of the planets Saturn and Jupiter in the constellation of Pisces – a conjunction rare enough to be considered unusual.

Those who argue that the star was a variety of comet supernova or fireball ignore the description that it was long-lasting, long enough for the wise men or Magi to journey from their own country to Bethlehem.

The Magi were not kings - nor are they described as such by Matthew, the only gospel to mention the birthday star. In fact the Magi were a class of priest trained in astrology. The new English Bible calls them astrologers. Modern archaeology supports Dr Hughes's theory. An inscription unearthed in Turkey records the likely date of the tax gathering for which Mary and Joseph left Nazareth as around 7 BC.

Another pointer is that Herod, in whose reign Christ was undoubtedly born, is now known to have died in 4 BC. December 25 was chosen as the date for Christmas because it coincided with the pagan feasts of winter. But astronomical evidence points firmly to September. "The choice of the specific date is really stretching the evidence too much, but if one day has to be selected I think we would be safest to say that Jesus was Born in evening of Tuesday, September 15, 7BC," says Dr Hughes. I'll go along with that even if it does mean there are minus 45 shopping days -to Christmas.

*Ed: Published in an unnamed newspaper in 1979 by Peter Grosvenor. Adjust dates for today for yourself. With thanks to Billie Bates for finding this article*



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### A Christmas Carol Puzzle

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled us. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

**The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.**

*Two turtle doves were the Old and new Testaments.*

*Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.*

*The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*

*The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.*

*The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.*

*Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.*

*The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.*

*Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.*

*The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments*

*The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples*

*The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed So there is your history for today.*

*Now you know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.*



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### A letter about Women Bishops

To the Acting Editors, Trossachs and Strathendrick Churches' Newsletter.

We are experiencing a sad episode in the life of Anglicanism.

The failure of the Church of England's General Synod on 20<sup>th</sup> November to pass the measure enabling women priests to be consecrated as bishops has left many of us emotionally and spiritually drained. Our Episcopal Church of Scotland is governed independently, and thankfully has already negotiated this particular hurdle. Even so, as Richard reminded us recently, we are intimately related to the much larger CofE – our Big Sister church, so to speak.

If we are saddened and drained by what happened last week, how much more so must the majority (nearly 75%) of the synod members be, to witness months and months of carefully drafted legislation – designed to take account of the “consciences” of those who cannot accept a female as a bishop – wasted by a minority determined to spoil the measure, in spite of the safeguards put in place for them?

As Christians we are exhorted to spread Good News. How now do we proceed to spread, by our words and our deeds, the Gospel of a loving God to the world outside our church, when a misogynistic discrimination sits at the very centre of Anglicanism, at least as it is constituted in England?

Much of the sadness comes about for us because of the value we place on the Anglican Church and its world-wide communion. But whilst we love and appreciate that inclusive aspect, we must not ignore the ‘shadow’ side: the possibility that we have become complacent about areas that must accept radical change. We need to redouble our determination that the church should become a living example to the world of compassion, a model of liberation from oppression. As things stand at the moment, it is often the structures and institutions *outside* the church, those of the secular world, that can demonstrate these standards to us – the supposedly religious. Yours etc

John and Ruth Champness, Callander, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012.



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### St Mary's Desperately seeks .....

#### Secretary to the Vestry

David Thompson has extended his term again. We may have found someone who will take the minutes at our meetings. But we still need a volunteer to take over this role

#### Treasurer

Nick Cooke must be the longest serving Treasure of all time. He desperately wants to retire. Please can you help ?

#### Vestry Members

Several members retire at this AGM having served their 4 year term. Subject to approval we hope to be joined by Alistair and James Gardner. Anne Winther and Susan Forsyth have kindly agreed to serve for another two years.

#### Other roles

Can any one help with the Website ?

We need an editor for this magazine.?

Can anyone help with garden work ?

#### To paraphrase a great man

**ASK NOT WHAT YOUR CHURCH CAN DO FOR YOU,  
ASK WHAT YOU.....**



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### News from St Andrews

#### Dry Rot

As must be common knowledge by now, St. Andrews has been invaded by dry rot, which first became apparent during an organ-tuning visit in late 2011. This wretched fungus, though scarcely able to survive as a natural species outdoors anywhere in the world, readily spreads in the shelter afforded by man-made structures as long as there's wood to feed on (and destroy), some dampness (not too much, not too little) and stagnant air. It is now evident that St. Andrews has unwittingly satisfied these conditions for some time, out of sight in various dark corners, the problem finally coming to light last year.

It was difficult getting the Restoration Project underway with the appropriate alacrity. We needed to get some understanding of the extent of the problem and the source of the damp. We also needed to engage contractors to quote for guaranteed eradication. Most importantly we needed to know how we were going to pay for the work. It all took more months than we would have liked. Meanwhile summer arrived, and with it the warmer weather which gave the fungus renewed impetus. Arriving at an understanding with the diocese about what money we could be allowed to spend, from our Rectory Fund lodged with them, proved a painfully slow process. We hoped to have the work done for about £25,000, half of this cost attributable to the contractor's work and half being Willis's charge for dismantling and reassembly of the organ. In the meantime we appealed to several potentially sympathetic charities, and raised a few thousand pounds from members of the congregation. Over £1,000 was also realised at the recent St. Andrews Christmas Fair.

Finally, in August, we appointed a contractor, Apex Property Services, to tackle the infestation. In consultation with them, we began to understand the possible roots of the problem. It is highly likely that, after building work completed a few years earlier, there were fungal spores remaining and focal spots favourable for a new fungal outbreak: uncleared rubble in the solum (under-floor) area beneath the organ; an old basement boiler-house that connected with the vestry under-floor but which had been left sealed up; and finally we had a possible source of damp from poorly-sealed roof guttering.

With the organ dismantled in early September, work initially proceeded well, with Sunday and Wednesday worship taking place in the church room (itself not im-



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### St Andrew's Dry Rot condit

plicated in the remedial work). However, a major obstacle to completion occurred in mid-October with the discovery of another source of dry rot, this time behind the plaster on the upper north wall of the vestry. At the time of writing we have just received revised costings from the contractor (involving now some renovation to vestry roof-timbers) which will add something like ten thousand pounds to our earlier estimated bill. (But I suppose we have saved a few pounds on church heating over the weeks?)



Whilst we had hoped to have our church back for Christmas, it is clear now that that cannot happen, though we hope and pray that work on eradication can at last continue (after some weeks of inactivity awaiting quotations for the additional, roofing etc., work). We plan to hold our usual Carol Service: almost certainly this will be in the church hall.



John Champness, 28.11.2012



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### St Andrew's Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was held in the Kirk Hall in November, and after a somewhat rather slow start, was well attended by the folks of Callander in addition to visitors to the town. Once again a variety of stalls were assembled ranging from the ever popular tombola to Christmas gifts, bric a brac, and a super cake stall. The visitors enjoyed a wonderful selection of cakes with their teas and coffees in addition to light refreshments freshly prepared by the very hardworking ladies in the kitchen.

The cake stall was very popular selling both cakes and homemade produce and a variety of gifts were available from the gift stall.



It was great to see one of our regular church hall groups, the cubs, attending again and their stall was full of lovely Christmas wreaths and goodies made by the cubs themselves.

The very tempting food hampers were among the raffle prizes to be won

We exceeded last year's total amount with just under £1200 being raised towards our funds. As ever we thank all involved for their very hard work in preparing for the day, and especially to Evelyn for co-ordinating the event. And, of course, a huge thank you to all the visitors who came along to help make this year's Christmas Fair such a fantastic success.



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