



The Cairn



News from St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church in Dunbar

Letter from the Rector

Dear friends,

You may have seen the news last week that the Census results from 2022 confirm that, for the first time, more than half the Scottish population identify as having "no religion". In East Lothian the figure for these so-called "Nones" was 57.5%, with only 35% identifying as Christian.

The question that St Anne's, like most other churches, has to grapple with is how to respond to changing culture. The causes of the change are multifaceted: the decline of historical nominalism, the rise of secularisation, and the failure of churches to proclaim (and be!) Good News with joy and confidence ... all of these are part of the story.

If we want to rediscover what it means to be a healthy Christian community (one that reflects both the character of Jesus and the diversity of the human community), I believe we will need to

Inside IoM update



pg 5

Rector on the run!



pg 10

Pentecost wonder



pg 12

go back to basics. We need to figure out why it is that church matters to us: what is it that keeps us coming, and what would it look like to share that with others. We may need to reconsider how we can offer worship that is engaging and inspiring (and not only for us); to commit to growing loving interpersonal relationships; and to deepen our commitment to personal discipleship.

If we do these things, I am confident that the Holy Spirit will do the rest, to spur us into outreach and mission. A quick look at social media confirms that there's no lack of appetite in our local community and beyond for spiritual experiences, and that people continue to search for meaning, fullness of life, joy in the highs



and consolation in the lows of life. We know that Christianity offers all this and more.

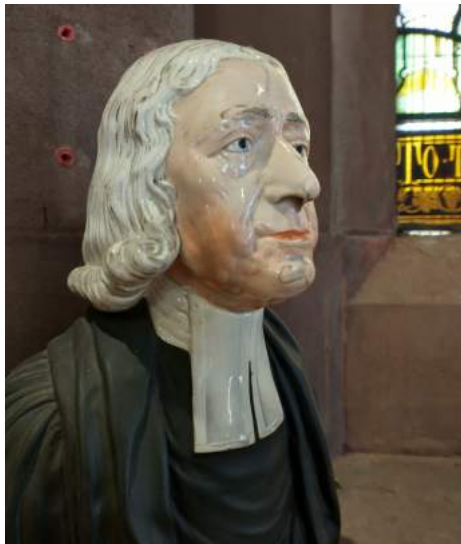
People are sometimes suspicious of the word "mission", but at its core it is both simple and wholesome. Mission is simply what we do whenever we join in with what God is already doing in the world - that is, with the work of reconciling the whole of creation to God. In the Anglican Communion, this work is described by five "Marks of Mission", namely:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The marks of mission take in a huge variety of areas of work. I wonder what you think God is already up to in the local community, that we might join in with, and which might help us to connect with those 57.5% of people who declared no religious affiliation in their census return? This is what we'll be exploring together over the coming months as we reflect on the next season. Please do be praying and talking to one another about what direction we might take.

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the text "With love,".



Methodist Corner

If you enjoy exploring the web on your computer, you are only a click away from accessing a whole load of useful information relating to faith.

Well, a little more than a click away, you will need to type in the following address <https://www.methodist.org.uk/>.

Over recent years, more and more has been added to the useful material available on the site. Accessing the "Resource Hub" opens up information on prayer, hymns, the lectionary and much

methodist.org.uk

Faith Action About For churches Church finder Safeguarding

The Methodist Church

We are called to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking Church

Discover Pray Connect

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news.

Discover a new way of life

more. Exploring the “Prayer Hub” gives us not only a prayer for today but also guidance on praying in those difficult times of life.

There are sections that look at social issues, at justice and the environment. There are even eco-tips for us to follow. As I write this, the May eco-tip is “say NO to mow”. You will have to check the website to see what the tip is for June.

There is even a section on the Methodist Modern Art collection that lets you browse through all the art work it includes. If modern art is not your thing, there are daily Bible studies available with the ability to feed-back your own thoughts into the process.

I could keep writing about the site but the best way forward is to type into your computer: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/>.

Enjoy exploring!

Rev'd Geoff Shutt

Letter from the Isle of Man

Dear friends,

As I write this, I can hear the drone of motorbikes in the distance. This is the busiest period of the year for the Isle of Man: T T fortnight. Our population will double as thousands of bikers come from all round the world to be part of what is a huge festival centred on races around the notorious TT circuit.

When I lived here previously, I was based in the south of the island some distance (relatively) away from the course. Whereas, here at Thie Dy Veia, if I were to continue on the road outside the house, I would, in a couple of miles, find myself on the course!

During these weeks many, many folk open up their homes to offer hospitality to visitors under a government scheme, Home Stay. Likewise, our retreat house is beginning to fill up with bikers who have chosen to stay with us. Some may be Christians who will appreciate staying in a prayerful place, others may just have chosen us for the accommodation and the location. All are welcome.

Our biker friends bring life into the house with their enthusiasm and excitement. Some have been coming for years and look forward to catching up with old friends, who share their passion for the sport.

I must admit that for several reasons, not least the danger element, I have, in the past, had very negative feelings about the TT, so I have been listening with interest to our guests as they tell their stories. One guy staying with us is a wheelchair-user in his sixties. He is in a wheelchair as a result of a motorbike accident when he was 17. Despite that, he is still passionate about bikes and racing! This morning he asked me to help him load his motorbike leathers and boots into his car because he is hoping he'll get to ride the specially adapted bike which is waiting for him here. He has had real challenges in life but he told me of his faith which has helped him overcome obstacles on the way.

It seems that the TT is like a huge club where (mostly men) get to bond over a shared interest, enjoy the engineering that goes into these high-performance machines, and experience the danger and risk that has been removed from our everyday lives.

Thie dy Vea means 'House of Life' in Manx. Life-giving is a two-way process, however. Last week, I was feeling a bit tired and



^^Our guest's specially adapted bike standing next to my car. He accesses the actual bike via the sidecar!

jaded but today, as I listened to the laughter at the breakfast table amongst guests who had only just met each other, I felt uplifted and energised by the life they bring into our house.

In our morning prayers we pray for our guests by name and we pray especially during TT fortnight for their safety! They know we do this and are grateful. Thank you to those of you who remember me in your prayers. It is such an encouragement because it is challenging at times. However, I remain convinced that I am where God wants me to be and it is a joy to be on this lovely island once more.

With love, Liz

Introduction to the New Testament Epistles - 2 Corinthians

A regular series by Stuart Ritchie

Near the end of 56AD, from the city of Philippi in north-east Greece, Paul wrote again to the Christians living in Corinth. He had learned that the church was struggling, and he felt he needed to take action to preserve the unity of that group of believers. The letter is full of personal comments as Paul reveals details about the persecution he had suffered.

More than any other New Testament book, 2 Corinthians (especially chapters 8 and 9) offers a great deal of personal insight into Paul's life. His strong commitment to caring for the needy is seen in these chapters. Paul commends the Macedonian churches, largely Gentile-Christians, who give generously to their Jewish-Christian brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. He exhorts Corinthian believers to respond similarly.

Christian giving is an important overall theme in chapters 8 and 9. We learn that the Macedonian Christians give generously according to, and sometimes beyond, their financial abilities. Impressively, we learn that their donations crossed racial and national boundaries.

The church at Corinth had been struggling with divisions and quarrels. However, for most believers the issues had been dealt with by the time Paul wrote 2 Corinthians. Most importantly, divisions in the church had largely been resolved.

The various letters of Paul, and especially the two letters to Corinth, shine a light on what went on inside the early churches.

We get an insight into Paul's care and concern for "his" churches. And we see quite clearly his heartbreaks and joys as shepherd of his flock.

Stuart Ritchie



Image: Amber Clay from Pixabay

The running rector!

If you've seen me out and about over the last couple of months, there's every chance I was red-faced and glistening ... and you may have wondered why.

The answer is that I'm in training to undertake a sponsored long-distance run - which will be my version of a summer holiday this year.

While my mum was ill last year, I read a book called *Running to Resurrection*, written by Franciscan Friar, Br Clark Berge, which described running as a form of meditation. During this time, I found running was a great way of tending my mental health as well as my prayer life. It's become an important practice for me.

This year I thought it might be good to take on a new running challenge, so in August I'll be participating in the Great Norse Run, part of a small team running coast to coast from north to south across Iceland. It involves running roughly a marathon a day for 10 days (with one rest day) traversing volcanic plateau on

isolated, exposed terrain and wild camping en route.

Never having run further than half marathon distance before, this is a



significant “stretch goal”. However, I’ve been training since January and my motivation is helped by supporting a good cause - a charitable organisation called Rock2Recovery. They offer mentoring to ex-blue light and armed forces personnel who have experienced damaging levels of stress at work. They work throughout the UK.

If you would like to sponsor me, you can do so here: <https://sportsgiving.co.uk/sponsorship/entry/1195249>. I’m self-funding the cost of the trip, so 100% of donations will go direct to Rock2Recovery. And whenever I think about giving up, I remember the support people have committed and it keeps me going!

If you see me running around Dunbar like a loonie in the next couple of months, give me a wave!

Diana



I wonder ... about Pentecost

On Monday 20th May the schools were out, and so a group of 10 children gathered with Val, Diana Greene and Liz Mitchell to wonder about Pentecost.

The session started with "come and see..." As they arrived we asked them to explore the church and find something interesting and then to take someone else to see it, who then told us what it was and why. This led us into storytelling about how the disciples were called to follow Jesus and learn from him. After cake and snacks (Thanks Judy and Jo!) we then heard and wondered about Pentecost and the disciples being sent out to tell Jesus' stories and of the time they had spent with him. Hama beads and party games followed.

While we were wondering about Pentecost, a question led me to comment that stories had been passed down from the disciples "then from person to person to person through all the generations and then to me, so that I could pass them on to you," and a little voice piped up: "and then we can tell them to our friends". Exactly that. I pray that it will be so.

Val Hale





What's in a Surname?

In an attempt to sort and classify a vast collection of documents my mother left, I embarked on construction of a family tree; my interest was less in tracing relatives than in creating a scaffold on which to locate photographs, certificates and other items.

In doing so it's become clear that spelling of surnames is very variable, as literacy was unreliable and infrequent (Stubbings, Stubbins, Stubings, Stubins, etc.). More surprisingly, I found that one rather suspect ancestor appears to have upped sticks and left a village in Northamptonshire with his wife and five children with the surname Nichols, only to pass the whole family off as being called Robinson on settling in West Yorkshire. I try not to imagine what crime had been committed to necessitate this! There were three more children and all went through school as Robinsons, only reverting to their legal names when they married!

Surnames have therefore been intriguing me in recent months, and my explorations of graveyards in Iceland this week (I really know how to have a good time on holiday!) have offered further complications for consideration:

Icelandic folk take the name



of their father (generally, but sometimes mother) as their surname. For example, Olaf Godfrikson is Olaf son of Godfrik; Berta Godfrikdottir would be Olaf's sister and Godfrik's daughter. This applies even if they have different mothers. The patriarchy triumphs!

Neither would change their name at all on marriage, so gravestones relating to couples feature two very different names.

Thus it follows that surnames change in every generation in Iceland: Olaf's children would have the surnames Olafson or Olafdottir, and Berta's children would almost certainly be named for their father. How [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) deals with this I cannot imagine!

But it left me pondering the value we place on surnames: do they reveal our parentage in the way that some folk double-barrel their surnames or just one parent's name? Do women's surnames need to reveal their marital situation or former marital situation because more women now choose to keep their own name regardless? In what circumstances might we want to change our surname completely? And does that matter?

And into these ponderings I recalled the statement Archbishop Justin Welby published on learning that his mother's husband at the time of his birth was not his biological father . He wrote:

"I know that I find who I am in Jesus Christ, not in genetics, and my identity in him never changes"

To that end, perhaps an alteration for us all to "Godchild" would make a unifying and levelling change.

Anne Harvey

Weeds or weedkiller?

When is a weed not a weed?

"When it is not in the wrong place" was one answer given in a fascinating hour-long meeting at St. Anne's Church on the 11th May. The discussion was led by Emma Bush who works with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and Shona McIntosh, Green councillor for Musselburgh. Twenty people came, including some children. Emma spoke of the need for nature-based solutions, noting that the loss of plants leads to fewer insects and birds and overall much less biodiversity.

Glyphosate may be legal but how safe is it? Its widespread use in agriculture, where it is used to control 'weeds' in fallow periods between crops, is destructive of biodiversity. Edinburgh Council are phasing out its use, and Shona spoke of the need for East



Lothian to follow, with no spray zones were possible: children's play areas and the school estate could be made glyphosate-free.

We stressed the need for pressure from the community on councillors to take action. This is not a question of money - rather of changing well-entrenched ways of working which assume that weeds are always wrong and can only be controlled through the use of pesticides.

David Mumford

A local reason to use your vote

From a local fishing family, Isabel Cowe was not only instrumental in raising funds for the first lifeboat at St Abbs, but was also a strong supporter of the cause of Votes for Women. At the age of 44, she was one of only a handful of Suffragists who marched and cycled all the way from Edinburgh to London for a rally in 1912, collecting signatures for the petition to Parliament as she went through towns and villages. After her death in 1931, the local community erected a sundial to her memory in the grounds of The Haven in St Abbs (which she owned at the time of her death). It still stands on the path from St Vedas to St Abbs.

Noreen Thompson

Editor's note: A UK general election is being held on Thursday 4th July. Let us remember those who fought for our suffrage, think and pray on casting our own votes, and pray for God's guidance for our elected representatives. Register to vote by 18th June at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

Buildings Group Report

Guttering update - we have inspected the rust discolouration on sections of the guttering. Traditional Roofing & Building (TRB) who painted them have agreed that they will attempt to make good/repaint them, but cannot guarantee that the problem will be solved. The gutters are made of cast iron, and will always be affected by weathering, especially in our Dunbar weather conditions. There is still 20+ years life in the gutters.

Halo heaters update - our discussions on these are paused while we await the outcome of the wider discussion on the future use of St Anne's (meeting on 3rd June).

Bench update - an area on the west side of the tower has now been prepared for the bench in memory of Jaimeleah. A new bench is being designed and made by the Ridge. The design will be approved by us.

PAT testing - we have arranged for testing to be done in the next month.

David Robins



Noticeboard

Inspire Women's Group



~ conversations ~ company ~ cuppas ~

*Inspire's final meeting for the session
will be a walk and a meal at
Shapla Tandoori on Thursday 6 June.*

*For more information and to book a
place, please contact Chrissie Black
(07799 607163).*

All women welcome





An open, inclusive, café space to get together and talk, share a simple lunch, and take climate action

Second Wednesday of the month 12.30-14.00 - next meeting
June 14th - St Annes Church

Everyone welcome - join the conversation and get involved!

Free - donations welcome.

More info - Mark: 07914 602123 or mark@sustainingdunbar.org

Join us for the

June

soup lunch

Sunday 30th June, after
the morning service

SAVE THE DATE

SEA SUNDAY

July 14th

Guest preacher Rev'd Tim Tunley will share about his work with the Mission to Seafarers -

not to be missed!

Readings and Rotas

Sunday June 2nd - Proper 9

Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-17; Mark 2:
23 - 3:6

Readings: Alison

Intercessions: Noreen

Chalice: Noreen

Organ: Diana

Sunday June 9th - All- age service with Baptism

TBC

Readings: Rosemary

Intercessions: Sharon

Chalice: Sharon

Organ: Diana

Sunday June 16th - End of Civic Week

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17;

Mark 4: 26-34

Readings: Alasdair

Intercessions: Stuart

Chalice: Stuart

Organ: Brian

Sunday June 23rd - Methodist Service for Refugee Week

TBC

Readings: Caitriona

Intercessions: Geoff

Chalice: Geoff

Organ: Brian

Sunday June 30th - Proper 13

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-end; Mark 5:
21-43

Readings: David R

Intercessions: Gill W

Chalice: Noreen

Organ: Brian

Services at St. Anne's

Sunday

10.30am - Holy Communion

Young Church 9th and 23rd June

Thursday

10.30am - Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

12.00pm - Prayers at the Peace Pole



Rector: Rev'd Diana Hall

St Anne's House, 1 Westgate EH42 1JL

Tel: 07970 105725 - Email: rector.stannesdunbar@gmail.com

The Rector's rest day is Monday

Useful Contacts

Vestry Secretary Pam Shields: secretary@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Treasurer Rab Shields: treasurer@stannesdunbar.org.uk

PVG Coordinator Rev'd Geoff Shutt: safeshutt@btinternet.com /
07485 238663

Young Church Val Hale: youngchurch@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Event Bookings David Robins: events@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Organ Enquiries Brian Dale: organist@stannesdunbar.org.uk

Magazine Editor Alex Davey: ahdavey@gmail.com

Please send contributions by the last Sunday of the month.

Pastoral Care Team

Rev'd Diana Hall 07970 105 725

Sharon Morgan 01368 864 582

Rev'd Anne Harvey 07860 181880

Find us on 

www.stannesdunbar.org.uk

St. Anne's Scottish Episcopal & Methodist Church, Dunbar is a Scottish Charity, SC010950, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)